

EMFF Operational Programme 2014-2020

Inshore Fisheries Conservation Scheme



Secure and Sustainable Futures in Inshore Fisheries



Introduction

Ireland's inshore fisheries sector faces a number of challenges that hinder its sustainable development to its full potential, supporting vibrant coastal communities through providing secure employment to those directly involved and maximising the value derived from that catch retained in the community through adding value where possible. These challenges include the management of stocks and environmental impact of fishing them and overcoming the challenge of small scale in maximising value. Ireland's inshore fleet typically involves vessels under 12m in length fishing with 12 nautical miles of the coast however the majority of these fall under the CFP definition of 'Small Scale Coastal Fisheries' (SSCF) as they are under 12m in length and do not fish with towed gear.

There are wide gaps in representation for those involved in the exploitation of non-quota stocks in Ireland's inshore waters. The lack of organisation and representation means many inshore fishermen are not involved in policy making (fisheries or otherwise) and only become involved on a local level as individuals or small groups such as the lobster v-notching co-ops. It is hoped that the recent establishment of the Inshore Fisheries Forums will provide an opportunity for industry and state actors to remedy this historic lack of a participative structure for the industry and develop appropriate management plans that takes into account the resources and concerns of all users of the inshore space.

Environmental issues, particularly those regarding inshore fisheries in Natura 2000 sites are increasingly coming to the fore. Fortunately the majority of fisheries and gears operated by the Irish inshore fleet and particularly the SSCF fleet operating static gear have minimal environmental impact. Hitherto discussions on how to mitigate the impact of such fisheries have necessitated engagement with groups of local fishermen who are often, through no fault of their own, poorly organised and represented. Experience to date has demonstrated well designed fisheries plans which better manage the fishery can address environmental concerns without unduly impacting the operation of a fishery, indeed they can be the driver for enhanced management. As with inshore fisheries management it is hoped that the Inshore Fisheries Forums initiative will provide an appropriate consultative structure to progress these issues.

The vast majority of the Irish inshore fleet operate from piers and harbours other than the main Fishery Harbour Centres and large County Council operated piers which serve as home ports for the great majority of the inshore fleet. These piers and harbours are necessarily widely dispersed to access widely dispersed stocks using vessels with a limited radius of action due to their size and speed. This fragmentation means that access to essential services such as ice provision, should a vessel be fishing whitefish or mackerel, can be restricted. Small ice plants capable of producing sufficient ice for a number of small vessels are now increasingly affordable and the establishment of appropriate cooperative structures could allow the installation of such ice plants. Such initiatives could improve the market for an increasingly rare commodity, quality, properly iced, day boat fish as line caught fish such as mackerel or Pollack are particularly prized. Co-operation between fishermen is also a solution to finding a market outlet for lower value species such as brown crab landed as a bycatch as processors are too remote from the landing point and the volumes too small for it to be worthwhile for the buyer to go around the piers to purchase it.

Prices for catches such as lobster have fallen in real terms in recent years and this has increased the pressure to fish to maintain income levels and has resulted in an increasingly capitalised industry with high expenditure on large volumes of gear. This has left many operators vulnerable to rises in fuel and bait costs. While the pressures on fuel prices have moderated in recent times bait costs remain stubbornly high. Despite these pressures there is the potential to mitigate their effect. An increased public awareness of 'local' food sourcing has seen an increasing number of inshore fishermen engage in direct sales and in some instances small scale processing, particularly of crab. The establishment of long term holding facilities to store lobsters until prices rise for the Christmas market peak with increased co-operation between fishermen could also help. The impending introduction of the obligation to land under the revised CFP may provide a potential source of lower cost bait as there will always be some level of bycatch and as this will now have to be landed but not for human consumption. Bait could provide a cost effective route for dealing with this material.

The Inshore Fisheries Conservation Scheme seeks to provide a dedicated funding stream to support the inshore fisheries sector in dealing with challenges such as those set out above. The Scheme will provide specific supports to the inshore fishing sector to support the implementation of the Action Plan for Small Scale Coastal Fisheries and of measures developed by the National Inshore Fisheries Forum. The scheme will support measures for

enhanced management and conservation of inshore stocks, including v-notching of lobster, more selective fishing gear and the preparation and implementation of management plans for inshore stocks. While the Scheme will be open to projects involving all inshore fishing vessels under 12m in length, enhanced grant aid rates will be available to those vessels defined as SSCF as provided for in the EMFF.

Legal Basis

The legal basis for the scheme is articles 26, 27, 28, 29, 37, 38, 39, 40, 42, 43 and 44 of the European Maritime & Fisheries Fund, specifically Union Priority 1, Sustainable Development of Fisheries.

The EMFF Certifying Body (CB) is the Finance Division, Dept of Agriculture, Food & the Marine.

The Managing Authority (MA) is the Marine Programmes Division, Dept of Agriculture, Food and Marine.

The Intermediate Body (IB) is Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM).

Eligible Activities

Measures to implement actions identified in the SSCF Action Plan, including but not limited to:

- Development and deployment of more selective gear and methods. Specific supports and brochures may be developed for defined measures.
- Preparation, implementation and monitoring of management plans for Inshore Fisheries.
- Studies and trials
- Stock conservation measures, including V-notching for which there will be a dedicated support and brochure.
- Infrastructural Improvement.

Specifically the Scheme will provide support under the following headings:

Innovation

In order to stimulate innovation in inshore fisheries, the Scheme may support projects aimed at developing or introducing new or substantially improved products and equipment, new or improved processes and techniques, and new or improved management and organisation systems.

Advisory services

In order to improve the overall performance and competitiveness of inshore fisheries operators and to promote sustainable fisheries, the Scheme may support:

- (a) feasibility studies and advisory services that assess the viability of projects potentially eligible for support under this Scheme;
- (b) the provision of professional advice on environmental sustainability, with a focus on limiting and, where possible, eliminating the negative impact of fishing activities on marine ecosystems;
- (c) the provision of professional advice on business and marketing strategies.

Partnerships between scientists and fishermen

In order to foster the transfer of knowledge between scientists and inshore fishermen, the Scheme may support the creation of networks, partnership agreements or associations between one or more independent scientific bodies and fishermen, or one or more organisations of fishermen, in which technical bodies may participate. In addition the activities carried out under these partnerships including data collection and management activities, studies, pilot projects, dissemination of knowledge and research results, seminars and best practices may also be supported. BIM will directly support the classification of bivalve fishery areas where these have been prioritised by the Inshore Management Group.

Facilitating better representation of the inshore sector

In order to foster better representation of the inshore sector at a national level the Scheme may support initiatives through the Implementing Body (BIM), in particular the facilitation of the National and Regional Inshore Fisheries Forums.

Support for the design and implementation of conservation measures and regional cooperation

In order to ensure the efficient design and implementation of conservation measures under Articles 7, 8 and 11 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 and regional cooperation under Article 18 of that Regulation, the Scheme may support the design, development and monitoring of technical and administrative means necessary for the development and implementation of conservation measures and regionalisation and stakeholder participation and cooperation between Member States in designing and implementing these.

Limitation of the impact of fishing on the marine environment and adaptation of fishing to the protection of species

In order to reduce the impact of inshore fishing on the marine environment, to foster the gradual elimination of discards and to facilitate the transition to a sustainable exploitation of living marine biological resources in accordance with the reformed CFP, the Scheme may support investments:

- (a) in equipment improving size selectivity or species selectivity of fishing gear;
- (b) on board or in equipment that eliminates discards by avoiding and reducing unwanted catches of commercial stocks, or that deals with unwanted catches to be landed in accordance with the reformed CFP;
- (c) in equipment that limits and, where possible, eliminates the physical and biological impacts of fishing on the ecosystem or the sea bed;
- (d) in equipment that protects gear and catches from mammals and birds protected under the Habitats and Birds Directive.

Innovation linked to the conservation of marine biological resources

In order to contribute to the gradual elimination of discards and by-catches and to facilitate the transition to exploitation of living marine biological resources in accordance with the reformed CFP, and to reduce the impact of fishing on the marine environment and the impact of protected predators, the Scheme may support operations led by the Implementing Body (BIM) aimed at developing or introducing new technical or organisational knowledge that reduces the impact of fishing activities on the environment, including improved fishing techniques and gear selectivity, or aimed at achieving a more sustainable use of marine biological resources and coexistence with protected predators.

Protection and restoration of marine biodiversity and ecosystems

In order to protect and restore marine biodiversity and ecosystems in the framework of sustainable fishing activities, with the participation, where relevant, of fishermen, the Scheme may support the following operations as defined by Regulation 2015/531:

- (a) the construction, installation or modernisation of static or movable facilities intended to protect and enhance marine fauna and flora, including their scientific preparation and evaluation;
- (b) contributions to the better management or conservation of marine biological resources;
- (c) the preparation, including studies, drawing-up, monitoring and updating of protection and management plans for fishery-related activities relating to NATURA 2000 sites and spatial protected areas referred to in the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) and relating to other special habitats;
- (d) the management, restoration and monitoring of NATURA 2000 sites;
- (e) the management, restoration and monitoring of marine protected areas with a view to the implementation of the spatial protection measures referred to in the MSFD;
- (f) increasing environmental awareness, involving fishermen, with regard to the protection and restoration of marine biodiversity;
- (g) the participation in other actions aimed at maintaining and enhancing biodiversity and ecosystem services, such as the restoration of specific marine and coastal habitats in support of sustainable fish stocks, including their scientific preparation and evaluation.

Added value, product quality and use of unwanted catches

In order to improve the added value or quality of the fish caught, the EMFF may support investments that add value to fishery products, in particular by allowing fishermen to carry out the processing, marketing and direct sale of their own catches and innovative investments on board that improve the quality of the fishery products.

Operative and Commencement Dates for the Scheme

The operative data of this scheme is 1st January 2016.

The commencement date is the date of acknowledgement of receipt of an application.

Work undertaken or expenditure incurred prior to the commencement date, shall be deemed ineligible for grant aid.

Project Approval

Projects concerning v-notching and on-board investments will be selected by BIM on the basis of the application meeting the mandatory criteria of the call for proposals, and subject to budget. Following evaluation by an Investment Committee, all other projects will be finally approved or rejected by a Project Approvals Board appointed for that purpose.

Procedure for Dealing with Appeals

Award decisions may be appealed to BIM, who will provide a written explanation for award decisions, in consultation with the chair of the Projects Approvals Board. Following receipt of that explanation, appellants may request that an appeal be considered by the Projects Approvals Board. The Chair of the Board will, through BIM, provide to the appellant a written decision of the Board.

PROJECT APPLICATION

Mandatory Criteria

Fishing vessels supported under this Scheme must be of an overall length of less than 12 metres, registered on the Irish fishing vessel register, with appropriate authorisations for any fish species that may be the subject of the application.

Supports to fishing vessels will be prioritised towards SSCF vessels.

Project Selection

Projects concerning v-notching and on-board investments will be selected by BIM on the basis of the application meeting the mandatory criteria of the call for proposals, and subject to budget. The **Projects Approvals Board** will select all other industry, collective and public projects based on the following criteria:

1. Consistency of proposal with BIM call for projects (40 marks).
2. Scientific, Technical and Organisational capacity of promoters to implement the project (40 marks).
3. Value for money (20 marks).

Aid Intensity

Project Type	National & EU Funding	Required Project Funding
Public	100%	Not applicable
SSCF	Up to 80%	At least 20%
Non SSCF	Max 40%	At least 50%

The actual amount of grant awarded is at the discretion of the Projects Approvals Board, who may award a lesser grant amount to all or any individual project(s), having regard to funds available.

- Industry projects related to small scale coastal fisheries may be awarded a maximum of 80% of eligible costs or €50,000 per project, whichever is the lesser.
- Other industry projects may be awarded a maximum of 40% of eligible costs, or €50,000 per project, whichever is the lesser.
- Public projects may be awarded a maximum of 100% of eligible costs, or €100,000 per project, whichever is the lesser.

Terms and Conditions

In addition to the special requirements listed in the descriptions of the interventions possible under this scheme (See section *Description of Intervention*), the following apply in every case.

- 1) To qualify for grant aid the following terms and conditions must be met in all cases. Applications that fail to meet these criteria will be deemed ineligible and will not be considered further.
 - The Managing Authority for the scheme is the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine;
 - The Implementing Authority (Intermediate Body) for this scheme is Bord Iascaigh Mhara.
- 2) The date for eligibility for funding under the scheme is **1st January 2016**.
- 3) Funding for all projects under this scheme is subject to monies being available to BIM on a yearly basis throughout the Estimates process and the Board is not obliged to approve or pay grants beyond the budget that has been allocated to a project in a given year.
- 4) The timing of payments of grants is subject to the availability and demand for funds in the Programme and this may vary from time to time. Consequently, the Beneficiary should expect to raise adequate bridging finance for the grant pending its receipt.
- 5) The investment shall be carried out as specified in the application, the published documentation of the scheme, the letter of offer and these terms and conditions. If it should become necessary to modify any element of the project, affecting:
 - the legal status of the Beneficiary;
 - or the objectives of the project or its technical characteristics or the profitability;
 - or location of the project;
 - or the timescale for its implementation;
 - the omission or substitution of any of the approved work or equipment,then prior written approval must be obtained before any modifications can qualify for grant assistance.
- 6) Please note that approval is issued on the understanding that no grant aid has been paid, or will be paid by any other State agency towards the cost of the equipment or completed work included in a project.
- 7) Only applications submitted on the official application form will be considered for grant approval.
- 8) Acknowledgement of an application does not constitute any form of entitlement to grant aid nor should the applicant constitute any assistance given by officers of BIM as an indication that grant aid will become available.
- 9) The commencement date of a project is the date shown in the letter of acknowledgement, issued by BIM, following receipt of an official application form.
- 10) Offers of grant aid automatically expire on the date shown in the letter of approval or otherwise advertised by the Intermediate Body.

No minimum level of expenditure applies to this measure however a maximum level may apply in respect of individual items and the application as a whole.
- 11) The implementing authority reserves the right to alter or amend the conditions of a scheme or to suspend a scheme or to substitute a scheme for a different scheme.
- 12) The Beneficiary of grant aid should be aware that the grant awards may be made public by the Agency or Government Department.
- 13) The Beneficiary shall indemnify and keep indemnified BIM against all costs, loss damage and expenses sustained by them and against any claims that may be brought by any partner, employee, agent, sub-

contractor or any kind or other party arising out of a project whether by reason or on account of breach, default, neglect, non-performance or non-observance by the Beneficiary or the partners of any of them of the terms and conditions of the scheme and/or BIM Agreement or otherwise.

- 14) The Beneficiary shall obtain and comply with the conditions of all necessary statutory authorisations, consents, permissions and licences required under existing EU and national legislation and shall submit evidence of having received same.
- 15) The grant approval is made and grant paid in accordance with relevant regulations and operating procedures.
- 16) Compliance with Government Regulations on tax clearance procedures is mandatory. These regulations require the tax compliance of the Beneficiary of the grant, as well as contractors and subcontractors engaged on the project.
 - A current Tax Clearance Certificate from the Revenue Commissioners in your name, valid at the time of payment of the grant, will be required for grants on excess of €10,000 or a combination of grants exceeding €10,000 within any 12-month period;
 - In the case of grant aid less than €10,000 within any 12-month period, the grantee will be required to complete a tax compliance declaration.
- 17) Both the lead applicant and any project partner must comply with the provisions of the Data Collection Regulation at the time of grant payment.
 - In the case of grant aid of €10,000 or more within any 12 month period, the grantee is required to produce a completed economic assessment form (available from BIM) certified by their accountant;
 - In the case of grant aid less than €10,000 within any 12-month period, the grantee is required to complete an economic assessment declaration.
- 18) The applicant will, if required, demonstrate to the satisfaction of the implementing authority its legal identity.
- 19) The applicant will, if required, demonstrate financial viability (at an organisation or individual level as appropriate).
- 20) The applicant will, if required, provide evidence that they are able to manage and carry out the project in a satisfactory manner.
- 21) The applicant is encouraged to provide detailed information on the cost-effectiveness and value for money of the project proposed. Applicants should note that the cost effectiveness and value for money will be assessed in every case during the selection process.
- 22) Unless otherwise agreed in advance, products which become commercially important solely as a result of EU/ Exchequer funded project remain the property of BIM until such time as an agreement is reached with the grantee and other interested parties.
- 23) How BIM will use your information:
 - Information including PPSNs and other tax numbers used in the processing of this grant application will also be used in the processing of BIM's end of year returns and disclosed to Revenue as set out in the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies (Department of Finance 2009).
- 24) Freedom of Information:
 - BIM will not release any information received as part of this application except as maybe required by law, including the Freedom of Information Act, 1997. In the event of an FOI request, the client will be given reasonable advance notice in order to contest such disclosure.

In-eligible costs

- 25) Expenditure incurred prior to an acknowledgement of receipt of an application by BIM, pursuant to each public call for projects, shall be deemed ineligible.
- 26) VAT is not eligible for grant aid unless the grantee can show that he/she is unable to recover it.
- 27) Cash payments are not eligible for grant aid.
- 28) The Beneficiary's own labour costs are not eligible for grant assistance.
- 29) Costs associated with the second-hand equipment.
- 30) Costs associated with direct employment.
- 31) Cost of Housing.
- 32) Service and maintenance contracts.
- 33) Second hand buildings, plant, machinery, equipment, boats, etc. and any associated installation costs.
- 34) Work carried out directly or indirectly by the applicant or by a company, in which the applicant has an interest, will not be eligible for grant aid.
- 35) Repairs and maintenance work as well as the replacement of existing equipment and machinery, except where the replacement involves the purchase of equipment and machinery of another type which is therefore different either in terms of the technology employed or its absolute or hourly capacity. The purchase of new equipment must represent an improvement for the beneficiary and in this context new machinery with a lower capacity is not excluded, provided the new equipment is better suited to the beneficiary's needs.
- 36) Provisional work not directly linked to the implementation of a project except where it makes possible a reduction in overall project cost.
- 37) Landscaping, other embellishment works, except those specifically required as a condition of planning and recreational equipment costs.
- 38) Goods purchased under leasing agreements.
- 39) The purchase of material which is normally written off within a year.
- 40) Goods purchased under Hire Purchase agreements.
- 41) Purchase of vehicles for passenger transport is ineligible as are vehicles required for market distribution.
- 42) Consultancy costs not directly related to the planning, preparation and execution of the project, including costs of management consultancy.
- 43) Where a proposal includes any action with the potential to impact a Natura 2000 site special procedures may apply. In these cases the Independent Expert Evaluation Committee will assess the project's strategy for carrying out the project consistent with NATURA legislation.

Procurement

44) Procurement policy and practice (for goods or services supplied as part of this project) must in line with the public sector procurement Directive 2014/24/EU (22 February 2014) and conform to certain core principles and National Guidelines. In every case procurement must be:

- Accountable;
- Competitive;
- Non-discriminatory and provide for equality of treatment;
- Fair and transparent;
- Conducted with probity and integrity.

45) The requisite procurement procedures for the various spending thresholds are set out in the table below:

		Category 1	Category 2	Category 3
Spend Type	Eligible Expenditure	Public (BIM) Projects	Private Project (0% to 49% Grant Aid)	Private Project (≥50% Grant Aid)
All – Works, Supplies & Services	<€5000	1 Quote	1 Quote	2 Quotes
	€5000 to €24,999	3 Quotes	3 Quotes	3 Quotes
Supplies & Services	€25,000 to €209,000	Government E-tender	3 Quotes	3 Quotes or Government E-tender
	≥ €209,000	Government E-tender AND EU OJEU	3 Quotes	Government E-tender AND EU OJEU
Works	€25,000 to €5,225,000	Government E-tender	3 Quotes	3 Quotes or Government E-tender
	≥ €5,225,000	Government E-tender AND EU OJEU	3 Quotes	Government E-tender AND EU OJEU

46) The following regulations should also be adhered to:

- DIRECTIVE 2014/24/EU OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 26 February 2014;
- National Public Procurement Guidelines;
- Circular 10/14.

47) The investment must be carried out as specified in the published documentation of the scheme, the letter of offer and these Terms & Conditions. If it should become necessary to modify any element of the project, which would affect any of the following:

- the legal status of the Grantee;
- the objectives of the project or its technical characteristics;
- the location of the project;
- the timescale for its implementation;
- the omission or substitution of any of the approved work or equipment,

then, prior written approval must be obtained from BIM before any such modifications can qualify for grant assistance.

48) Buildings, Plant, Machinery and Equipment.

- Contracts for construction of buildings and the supply of plant, machinery and equipment shall be entered into on a competitive basis consistent with Public Procurement Rules;
- Only buildings, plant, machinery and equipment purchased NEW shall be regarded as qualifying for grant aid unless specified in letter of offer;
- Plans and specifications shall be furnished to BIM before the commencement of buildings works and the Company will have due regard to any points raised by BIM in connection therewith;
- The beneficiary will make satisfactory provision, while building works are under construction, for having them insured against loss or damage through fire, explosion, storm or flood and a copy of the insurance certificate to be sent to BIM for examination;
- The beneficiary must produce proof that any third party contractors engaged by him must have a current tax clearance certificate.

49) The beneficiary will keep any building, plant, machinery and equipment in connection with which the grant is made, insured against loss or damage through fire, storm or flood and the BIM's interest will be noted on the policy of insurance. If there be such damage or loss, the entire insurance compensation received by the grantee shall be used to restore the property so damaged or lost, unless agreed with BIM. The beneficiary will make arrangements with its underwriters that BIM will be informed of any failure to renew the policy of insurance.

Publicity and Reporting Requirements:

- 50) The contribution of the Irish Exchequer and EMFF 2014-2020, will be acknowledged in all brochures, promotional material, press releases, publicity activity, advertisements, signage, reports, letters, etc by use of appropriate logo and text reference.
- 51) Beneficiaries are advised that acceptance of funding constitutes an acceptance to comply with section 2.2 of Annex XII of Commission Regulation 1303/2013 and with Articles 4 and 5 of Commission Implementing Regulation 821/2014.
- 52) Beneficiaries are advised that acceptance of funding constitutes an acceptance of inclusion in a list of operations which will be published in accordance with Article 119(2) of 508/2014.
- 53) Officers of BIM, the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine, or the European Commission or their agents, must be allowed access to all reports, manuals and official documentation including financial and other records arising out of such an activity for the purpose of assessing the progress of the investment.
- 54) Progress on implementation of the investment will be monitored on an on-going basis and for this purpose progress reports and any other information relating to the project must be furnished promptly to BIM, whenever requested.
- 55) Access shall be allowed to the Beneficiary's premises at all reasonable times for the purposes of assessing the progress of the investment and examining the financial and other records relating to it.
- 56) Projects grant-aided under the European Maritime Fisheries Fund are deemed to be for the "public good" and as such it is intended that the results be widely disseminated within the seafood industry through appropriate means (including industry publications etc.). The Beneficiary shall be responsible for ensuring that the work carried out and any report, or other publications arising shall not infringe the intellectual property rights, including copyright, of any third party's rights. "This report does not necessarily reflect the views of BIM and in no way anticipates any future opinion of BIM" and shall acknowledge the assistance of the European Maritime Fisheries Fund, EU Structural and Investment Funds Programme 2014-2020 and BIM in the form of the relevant logos.

Making a Claim

Payments of grants under this scheme will only be made when all the following general and any special conditions attributed to the project (letter of offer) have been fulfilled.

- The timing of payments of grants is subject to the availability of funds and this may vary from time to time. Consequently the beneficiary should raise adequate funds for the grant pending its receipt.
 - During the course of processing the claim BIM may raise some queries with you or your accountant. It is in your interest to respond as quickly as possible.
- 57) Work on the project must be completed and a fully documented claim must be submitted by the date specified in the conditions of the letter of offer, failing which the approved grant may be de-committed.
- 58) The beneficiary must maintain a separate accounting system or an adequate accounting code for all transactions relating to the investment to be aided and must make this and all supporting documents available as and when required for examination by officers of Bord Iascaigh Mhara, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food or the EU Commission.
- 59) Applicants should note that in the event of approval they will be required to submit proof of payment such as copy paid cheques (retrieved from the bank) or bank statements, or copy bank drafts, or credit card statements, or inter-bank documentation.
- 60) Applicants should note that any outstanding charges, in respect of the lead applicant and any project partners due to BIM (Ice, Training Fees, etc.) must be discharged in full at the time of grant payment.

Procedures and conditions to be met in claiming payment of grant aid

- 61) Detailed original invoices, made out to the beneficiary, must be submitted to BIM in respect of all claims. These should show the name and address of the supplier, date, description of goods and services rendered, VAT registration number and rate of VAT. Invoices should be prepared by an independent third party.
- 62) The applicant must also submit any documentation deemed necessary by BIM to process the claim.
- 63) Expenditure approved for grant aid must be vouched and certified by the beneficiary's auditors as having been incurred and payments made.
- The beneficiary will be required to supply an auditor's certificate from a registered auditor for payment claims for expenditure amounts specified in scheme brochure and/or the letter of offer. Audit fees are not eligible for grant assistance.
- 64) Claims will be paid approximately 8 weeks after receipt of all necessary documentation and provided any outstanding queries are resolved.
- 65) Exchequer/EU grants may be paid in a maximum of 2 instalments.
- 66) In accordance with Article 140 of the Common Provisions Regulation (EC) 1303/2013, final beneficiaries will ensure that all supporting documents regarding expenditure, verification checks, certification and audits on operations for which total eligible expenditure is less than €1,000,000.00 are kept available for the EU Commission and Court of Auditors for a period of three years from 31 December following the submission of the accounts in which the expenditure of the operation is included.
- In the case of operations over €1,000,000.00 all supporting documentation shall be kept for a 2 year period from 31 December following the submission of accounts in which the final expenditure of the completed operation is included.
- 67) The Beneficiary shall not dispose of equipment or buildings, in respect of which grant-aid has been paid, within a period of ten years from the date of payment of the final aid instalment without prior written authorisation. The retention period maybe scheme specific and relevant scheme brochure should also be referred to.

68) With regard to any capital items, the beneficiary agrees with BIM that within a 10 year period from the date of final grant aid payment that:

- should the beneficiary commit any breach of the terms of the agreement;
- should there be a charge in the basis of the undertaking which would obviate in whole or in part the purpose for which the grant was made;
- should the beneficiary, without the prior consent of BIM, sell, transfer, alienate or otherwise dispose of the grant aided facilities;
- if an order is made or an effective resolution is passed for the winding up of the company;
- if a receiver is appointed over the property of the company;
- if an execution is levied or served on any property of the company;
- if there is a change of ownership or control of the company without the prior consent of BIM,

then 'the beneficiary shall forfeit and repay to BIM so much of the said grant-in-aid in the proportion to which the unexpired portion of the term of 10 years bears to the full term of 10 years at the date of the happening or event giving rise to such repayment and such monies shall be recoverable by BIM from the beneficiary as a simple debt contract. Payment of sums to be reimbursed shall be made by the end of the second month following that of issuing the order of recovery and any delay in effecting repayment shall give rise to the charging of interest on account of late payments'.

69) Relevant BIM personnel will carry out a site inspection when a claim is submitted to ensure that the level of work carried out is in line with expenditure incurred.

70) If required, upon completion of work, a report must be issued and supplied to BIM containing details of the project and the outcome. Information contained in the report may be used and made available to the industry at large as BIM sees fit. If the Beneficiary does not wish to have this information made available to the industry for a specified period of time, then BIM should be immediately consulted with a view to arriving at a suitable arrangement.

Revoking of a Grant

71) Grant aid may be revoked or repayment of the aid may be required or the amount reduced if any of the following should occur:

- The project/work is not completed by the date specified in Schedule 1 (the 'Final Date').
- The grantee abandons the project or modifies the work without prior authorisation.
- The grant aid is not used for the purpose for which it was intended.
- The project financed by the aid is not properly carried out or irregularities in relation to the aid occur.
- An order is made, or an effective resolution is passed, for the winding up of the grantee's business.
- A Receiver is appointed over any of the property of the Beneficiary or a distress or execution is levied or served upon any of the property of the Beneficiary and is not paid off within 30 days.
- This offer of grant aid will be automatically revoked if you fail to submit to BIM by the date specified in the letter or offer, a claim for payment of the grant supported by all outstanding documentation.

Inshore Fisheries Conservation Scheme – General Application Form

APPLICANT (Individual or Lead if collective)	
Sole Trader (Running your own business, self employed). Please tick if YES <input type="checkbox"/>	Tax Clearance Cert No:
Company. Please tick if YES <input type="checkbox"/>	Registration No:
If YES please enter name here:	
Are you registered for VAT. Please tick if YES <input type="checkbox"/>	VAT No:

DETAILS of APPLICANT (Individual or Lead if collective)	
Name of the Collective (If applicable):	Fishermen's co-operatives <input type="checkbox"/>
Lead Applicant: First Name (legal entity responsible for Collective):	Producer Organisations <input type="checkbox"/>
Last Name:	Organisation of fishermen <input type="checkbox"/>
Address 1:	One or more above <input type="checkbox"/>
Address 2:	A recognised grouping <input type="checkbox"/>
Address 3:	Tel No:
City, Town:	Mobile No:
County:	Email:

VESSEL DETAILS. Please complete if you are applying as an individual vessel owner.	
Vessel Name:	Polyvalent Potting <input type="checkbox"/>
Community Fleet Registration No:	Polyvalent <input type="checkbox"/>
External Registration Number:	Specific <input type="checkbox"/>
Home Port:	Number of Crew
Vessel Size (LOA):	
Construction Year:	

SMALL SCALE COASTAL FISHERIES DECLARATION Please complete if you are applying as an individual vessel owner.
<p>This declaration must be completed by operators of Small Scale Coastal vessels that qualifying for the higher rate of grant aid.</p> <p>To qualify, the applicant's vessel(s) must be involved in 'small scale coastal fishing' - Article 3 (14) Regulation 508/2014.</p> <p>Fishing carried out by licensed & registered fishing vessels on an overall length of less than 12 metres not using towed gear listed in Annex 1, Table 3 of Regulation 26/2004.</p>

Declaration	
I hereby declare that the above vessel(s) is involved in 'small scale coastal fishing'.	
Signature:	Date: / /20

FINANCIAL SUMMARY	
Current Items	Amount €
	Total Current

Capital Items	Amount €
	Total Capital
	Total Cost: €
	Grant Rate: €
	Total Grant: €
	Private Funding: €

I hereby declare that the information supplied in this application is true and accurate

Signature of applicant:	Date:
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Note: Procurement policy and practice (for goods or services contracts including recruitment of project personnel, supplied as part of this project, must be in line with the public sector procurement Directive 2014/24/EU and conform to certain core principles and National Guidelines. Please refer to brochure for further guidelines.

Section A: General Assessment

To include:

1. Background & relevance

2. Clarity of Objectives

3. Adequacy of Methods

4. Outcomes Anticipated

5. Key Performance Indicator

Section B: Project Management

To include:

1. Composition of the project team

2. Evidence of clear management structure

3. Co-ordinators experience managing similar projects

4. Allocation of tasks and responsibilities amongst project team

5. Data and information plan and dissemination strategy for results

Section C: Consistency of Objectives

To include: 1.
Relevance of the project

2. Appropriateness

3. Innovation

4. Benefit

5. Impacts

Section D: Investment Potential & Value for Money

To include:

1. Scale: a full cost breakdown of the proposal

2. Cost Effectiveness

3. Value for Money

4. Downstream Benefit

5. Cost Benefit

Shellfish Discard & Live Return Reduction Application Form

APPLICANT DETAILS:	
Name of Applicant:	
Address of Applicant:	
Vessel Name:	
Vessel Size (LOA):	EU Vessel Registration No:
County:	Tel No:
Fax No:	Mobile No:
Email Address:	
Tax Clearance Certificate No:	

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:	
Total Investment Cost (Ex Vat):	€
Total Grant Aid Sought:	€

Signature:	Date:
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For Office Use Only	Nuts Region:
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List of Eligible Items:

Eligible Items	Capped Maximum Item Cost €	No. of Items*	Total Cost €
Escape Gaps	0.60		
Biodegradable/ nite life pot closures	0.50		
Biodegradable pot mesh panels	0.50		
Total Amount:			
Grant Rate:			
Grant Payable:			

* Maximum number of items based on vessel size as below:

Size	No. of items
Less than 6m	200
6m to 8.99m	350
9m to 11.99m	500
12m to 15m	700

