Sustainable Fisheries Scheme

Version: 26_01

Eligible Expenditure

If applicants wish to discuss if items in their project are eligible or not, please feel free to contact the Investment Services Manager, Tom Scanlon (tom.scanlon@bim.ie)

If applicants have any difficulty completing their application form, please contact our support team on grantshelpdesk@bim.ie.

Applicants are required to show how their planned investment aligns with at least one objective of the scheme.

Note that installation costs for any items below must be separately specified on quotes and invoices provided. Eligible expenditure for installation costs may be capped at a reasonable percentage of the cost of the item(s) being installed.
Where applicable, shipyard costs are capped at €5,000 grant aid across the full application.

Catch Handling/Quality/Traceability – Hold

Hold winch	First install or significant upgrade only
Grading systems	First install or significant upgrade only
Scales	First install or significant upgrade only
Hold refrigeration e.g. radiators, compressors, condensors	First install or significant upgrade only. If a new generator is needed as part of this type of project, the generator will be capped at €15,000.
Insulation and lining	First install or significant upgrade only
Cold Store	First install or significant upgrade only
Labelling Equipment	First install or significant upgrade only
Traceability Software	First install or significant upgrade only
Ice making equipment	First instal or installation to increase ice making capacity
RSW upgrades - to reduce chilling time, fish flow etc.	Significant upgrade only Structural, metal/pipe works/pumps etc are eligible Simply painting or lining/re-lining of tanks is ineligible
Vivier tank upgrades	Significant upgrade only Structural, metal/pipe works/pumps etc are eligible Simply painting or lining/re-lining of tanks is ineligible
Temperature monitoring and integration systems, including calibrated temperature gauges and probes	First install or significant upgrade only

Other innovative investments to improve fish handling/quality/traceability in the hold	Applications for any such items will be considered on a case by case basis to determine their eligibility

Hold: items which are NOT eligible and cannot be applied for (this list is not exhaustive)

- Fish boxes, including insulated bins
- On board packaging and storage equipment

Catch Handling/Quality/Traceability – Working Decks

Landing crane	First install or significant upgrade only
Fish hopper	First install or significant upgrade only
Fish washer(s)	First install or significant upgrade only
Fish pump	First install or significant upgrade only
Gutting machines	First install or significant upgrade only
Handling and grading bench	First install or significant upgrade only
Conveyors	First install or significant upgrade only
Fish pond boards (metal type to replace wood)	First install or significant upgrade only
Fish/prawn grading/handling systems	First install or significant upgrade only
Weighing scales	First install or significant upgrade only
Packing systems for frozen at sea	First install or significant upgrade only
Blast Freezer and associated equipment e.g. compressors, condensors, fans	First install or significant upgrade only. If a new generator is needed as part of this type of project, the generator will be capped at €15,000 grant aid.
Pipe work	To support other projects. The pipes must be plastic or stainless steel. The pricing must include all fixings. Please include an estimate of metres required.
Other innovative investments to improve fish handling/quality/traceability on working decks	Applications for any such items will be considered on a case by case basis to determine their eligibility

Working Decks: items which are NOT eligible and cannot be applied for (this list is not exhaustive):

- Fishing equipment that increases the catching power of the vessel
- Fishing equipment that can be used for targeting species for which the current quota/allocation is fully exploited or is subject to other catch restrictions
- Fish boxes, including insulated bins
- On board packaging and storage equipment (i.e carboard boxes, plastic wrapping, consumables etc.)
- Equipment to handle unwanted catches on board (e.g. dedicated fish bins or boxes)
- Lost gear retrieval equipment (e.g. creepers)
- Warps or ropes
- Nets, cod ends, pots etc.
- Net cleaners/flakers/stackers

Energy Efficiency

Fuel/energy monitoring systems	First install or significant upgrade only. Capped at €30,000 grant aid
Harbour set type	Capped at €15,000 grant aid to include all installation costs
Towed gear monitoring equipment (trawleye or equivalent type sensors)	First install capped at €25,000 grant aid; upgrade capped at €10,000 grant aid. Both caps to include all installation costs. Changing from e.g. a Scanmar system to a Marport system would not constitute a first install.
Water blasting and priming outside of hull below gunnels	Capped at €10,000 grant aid. This item requires an additional verification step of time-stamped photographs of the vessel out of the water having the work done. An invoice and proof of payment will not be sufficient evidence in itself; photographs will be mandatory at claim stage so please ensure these are captured during the works.

Energy Efficiency items which are NOT eligible and *cannot* be applied for (this list is not exhaustive):

- Auxiliary engines
- Fuel nozzles, triggers, fuel pumps, fuel purifiers, water separators, filters, fuel tanks, control systems, etc.
- Trawl warp monitoring systems
- Selective and/or energy efficient fishing gears
- Pair link systems

Improve Conditions on Board – Structural

Wheelhouse refurbishment	This excludes electrical items; skippers chairs are capped at €2,000 grant aid
Deck replacement	First install or significant upgrade only
Sampling rooms for pelagic vessels	First install or significant upgrade only
Anchor winches	First install or significant upgrade only
Other innovative investments to improve conditions on board – structural	Applications for any such items will be considered on a case by case basis to determine their eligibility

Structural items which are NOT eligible and *cannot* be applied for (this list is not exhaustive) Please note some items i.e. gangways/railings etc. are available in BIM's safety grant aid scheme :

- Gangways
- Railings
- Survey work and surveys
- Stability books

Improve Conditions on Board – Common Areas e.g. galley, cabin, toilet/wash areas

Tables	First install or significant upgrade only
Benches/Seating/Bunks	First install or significant upgrade only
Cupboards	First install or significant upgrade only
Toilets	First install or significant upgrade only
Sinks	First install or significant upgrade only
Showers	First install or significant upgrade only
Washrooms	First install or significant upgrade only
Insulation as part of works - modern fire retardant type only	First install or significant upgrade only
Cabin refurbishment type works	Significant upgrade only
Galley refurbishment works	Significant upgrade only
Air conditioning and ventilation	First install or significant upgrade only
Heating	First install or significant upgrade only
Oilskin storage/wet room	First install or significant upgrade only
Other innovative investments to improve conditions on board – common areas	Applications for any such items will be considered on a case by case basis to determine their eligibility

Common area items which are NOT eligible and *cannot* be applied for (this list is not exhaustive):

- Guides and manuals on the improvement of working conditions on board
- Cleaning equipment to keep sanitary conditions on board (e.g. power hoses, disinfection units, PPE, etc)
- Guides and manuals on the improvement of hygiene on board, including software tools (e.g. electronic HACCP systems)
- Working clothes & safety equipment (safety boots, eyes & breathing protection, helmets etc)
- Equipment for the collection and storage of litter

Improve Conditions on Board – Fresh Water Provision

FW tanks	Significant upgrade or installation to increase capacity
Fresh water maker	First install or significant upgrade only
Desalination/Reverse Osmosis systems	First install or significant upgrade only

Ineligible Expenditure

Any expenditure incurred before the date of the email sent to confirm the pre-project site visit is complete is ineligible.

The following operations or expenditure are not eligible for support per the EMFAF Regulation:

- Operations that increase the fishing capacity of a fishing vessel, unless otherwise provided for in Article 19 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1139.
- The acquisition of equipment that increases the ability of a fishing vessel to find fish;
- The transfer or reflagging of fishing vessels to third countries, including through the creation of joint ventures with partners of third countries.
- Exploratory fishing.

- The transfer of ownership of a business.
- Direct restocking, except explicitly provided for as a reintroduction measure or other conservation measures in a Union legal act or in the case of experimental restocking.
- The construction of new ports or new auction halls, with the exception of new landing sites.
- Investments on board fishing vessels necessary to comply with the requirements under Union law in force at the time (with the exception of vessel tracking and catch reporting systems) of submission of the application for support, including requirements under the Union's obligations in the context of RFMOs, unless otherwise provided for in Article 22.
- The replacement or modernisation of a main or ancillary engine of a fishing vessel, unless otherwise provided for in Article 18. This includes any form of combustion engine for the purposes of producing electricity.
- Expenditure for the purchase of land.
- Value Added Tax (Except in the case of public interest projects).
- Interest on debt, except in the form of an interest rate subsidy or guarantee fee subsidy.
- Goods purchased under Hire Purchase or Lease Purchase agreements.
- Second hand machinery, equipment, etc. and any associated installation costs.
- Intangible costs, such as cost of pre-financing and of arranging loans and interest, administrative costs, patents, invitations to tender etc.
- Repairs and maintenance work.
- Items normally written off within a year.
- Like-for-like replacement of equipment.
- Office equipment, including desktop computers, laptops and tablets.
- Statutory Costs and Equipment that does not exceed EU legislative requirements.

In addition, the following items are not eligible for support under this scheme. Note that this list is not exhaustive, and other items applied for may be deemed ineligible.

- Ultrasonic antifouling systems
- Auxiliary engines
- Fuel nozzles, triggers, fuel pumps, fuel purifiers, water separators, filters, fuel tanks, control systems, etc.
- Trawl warp monitoring systems
- Selective and/or energy efficient fishing gears
- Pair link systems
- Propellors
- Nylon panels (hull and other areas)
- Exhaust pipes and silencers
- Electronic items unless integral to the project e.g. wheelhouse display for cold store temps
- Stability books
- Survey work and surveys
- Net cleaners/flakers/stackers
- Auto pilots
- Navigation lights
- Gangways
- Railings
- Safety systems and equipment
- Painting of vessels, including hygienic paint, anti-slip paint and rubber/nylon type mats. The only exception is the specific hull priming listed under the Energy Efficiency eligible items.
- Equipment that is based onshore or whose primary use is onshore
- Winches, net drums, powerblocks etc.

- Any item that simply meets a legislative requirement
- Fish boxes, including insulated bins
- Selective and/or energy efficient fishing gears
- Cleaning equipment to keep sanitary conditions on board (e.g. powerhoses, disinfection units, PPE, etc)
- Guides and manuals on the improvement of hygiene on board, including software tools (e.g. electronic HACCP systems)
- Working clothes & safety equipment (safety boots, eyes & breathing protection, helmets etc)
- Equipment for the collection and storage of litter
- Guides and manuals on the improvement of working conditions on board
- On board packaging and storage equipment (i.e. cardboard boxes, plastic wrapping, consumables, etc.)
- Equipment to handle unwanted catches on board (e.g. dedicated fish bins or boxes)
- Lost gear retrieval equipment (e.g. creepers)
- Warps or ropes
- Fishing equipment that increases the catching power of the vessel
- Fishing equipment that can be used for targeting species for which the current quota/allocation is fully exploited or is subject to other catch restrictions
- Nets, cod ends, pots etc.
- Plotters, GPS, radar, radio/TV/internet equipment
- AIS/radio beacon gear markers
- Fish aggregating devices

The list of ineligible items may be added to at any time.