

NDP 2007-2013 – European Fisheries Fund
Sea Fisheries Development Programme
Marine Environment Protection Measure

SEAFOOD ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT & CERTIFICATION GRANT AID SCHEME

(Environmental Management Systems)



Introduction

The Seafood Environmental Management & Certification Grant Aid Scheme is provided under the Marine Environment Protection Measure of the National Development Plan 2007–2013, and co-funded through the European Fisheries Fund. The scheme is introduced pursuant to Articles 25.6 and 25.7, 26.4, 37 and 38 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1198 of 2006 and the detailed rules of the European Fisheries Fund, its implementing regulation, and other relevant regulations apply in every case.

This scheme provides financial assistance to recognised groups of fishing vessel owners/operators and organisations acting on their behalf that together form a collective (hereafter referred to as ‘the group’), recognised by the implementing authority, to undertake measures of common interest in the area of Seafood Environmental Management Systems & Seafood Certification that have a broader scope than measures normally undertaken by private enterprises.

- Part A of this scheme concerns financial assistance to the collective at an operational level, and is provided under Article 37 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1198 of 2006. Part A does not include financial payment to individual operators.
- Part B of this scheme concerns financial assistance to fishing vessel owners (operators) and is provided under Articles 25.2, 25.6 and 25.7 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1198 of 2006.

Background

Increasingly both providers and consumers of seafood are demanding that it is sourced from responsibly managed wild fisheries. This is becoming a key driver in moving the fishing industry towards more responsible fishing practices, the adoption of which is attested by independent third party certification agencies. A variety of certification standards exist that aim to reassure the consumer as to the choice they are making when purchasing seafood. Accordingly, appropriate standards provide an opportunity for the Irish fishing industry to not just reassure but also demonstrate their

commitment to responsible fishing practices and to thereby retain and build market share.

- This scheme provides a framework of support for the Irish Seafood Industry intent on achieving internationally accredited, third party audited, standards for wild capture fisheries and operators.

Sound environment management and responsible fishing are the bed-rock of any certification scheme and Bord Iascaigh Mhara, in close collaboration with the fishing industry, has developed a Seafood Environmental Management System (SEMS) tailored specifically for Irish fishing vessels. This is an applied model of a more traditional EMS and is designed to drive continual improvement in environmental and responsible fishing practices. The practical model developed by BIM can be adapted to fit the priorities and characteristics of vessels operating in any fishery or fisheries. We believe that our SEMS is a vital stepping stone for fishermen on the road to achieving certification or accreditation, including progression to BIM’s own Stewardship Standard and, thereafter, our Quality Seafood Programme (QSP).

- This scheme will assist fishermen in meeting the requirements of a Seafood EMS, through a combination of mentoring, training and peer review as well as providing grant aid for the provision of items required under the Code of Practice of a recognised SEMS to improve fish quality and responsible fishing practices.

Terms & Conditions

Applicants should please note that terms and conditions will apply to all applications. These will include, but may not be limited to, the following:

General

- 1) The managing authority for the scheme is the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (DAFF).

The implementing authority for the scheme is Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM).

- 2) The operative date for this scheme is 1st January 2010. Only expenditure incurred after this date is eligible under the scheme.
- 3) This scheme is open to recognised groups of fishing vessel owners/operators and organisations acting on their behalf that together form a collective (hereafter referred to as 'the group'), recognised by the implementing authority, to undertake measures of common interest in the area of Seafood Environmental Management Systems & Seafood Certification that have a broader scope than measures normally undertaken by private enterprises.

A Group Application is one made by a qualifying organisation on behalf of two or more qualifying vessel owners.

For the purposes of this scheme, qualifying organisations include registered co-operatives, producer organisations, associations, other organisations with legal identity and recognised by the implementing authority, and, in certain circumstances (see below) private companies.

In the case of an application made by a private company acting on behalf of producers, the company must demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the implementing authority, that it is working on behalf of the collective and that it, the company, is not the primary beneficiary of the assistance. The implementing authority shall determine the above on the basis of the following considerations:

- Collective versus individual interest,
- Collective versus individual beneficiary,
- Access to the results of the operation versus private ownership and control,
- Financial participation.

In the event that this scheme is over subscribed, the implementing authority reserves the right to prioritise applications taking into account the following criteria:

- The volume of landings from a fishery included in an application in relation to the overall landings from that fishery. Applications covering larger volumes will be given priority.
 - Where more than one application is received in respect of landings from the same fishery, priority will be given to the application covering the larger volume; or to a revised application covering the different groups.
 - Priority will be given to applications from different fisheries over a second or subsequent application covering landings from the same fishery.
 - Applications from Groups with a previous history of participation in EMS or Quality schemes will be given priority over other applications without such a history, except that new Group applications will be prioritised in areas where they have not previously existed
 - The ability of the Group to carry out the proposed programme.
- 4) Only applications submitted on the official application form will be considered for grant approval.

Acknowledgement of an application does not constitute any form of entitlement to any form of grant aid whatsoever nor should the applicant constitute any assistance given by officers of BIM as a form of indication that grant aid will become available.
 - 5) The implementing authority reserves the right to alter or amend the conditions of this scheme and or to suspend the scheme or to substitute the scheme for a different scheme. In every case payment of grant aid is contingent on the availability of finance to BIM.
 - 6) Under no circumstances will operations be financed where such aid leads, either directly or indirectly, to increased fishing effort or increases the ability of the vessel to catch fish.

Support will not, under any circumstances, cover costs related to exploratory fishing.

- 7) No minimum level of expenditure applies to this scheme however a maximum level applies in respect of individual items and the application as a whole.

Part A of the scheme concerns financial assistance to the collective as a whole at an operational level, and is provided under Article 37 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1198 of 2006. It does not include financial payment to individual vessel operators.

Grant aid, under Part A, is divided into 6 sections (A1 to A6 respectively) with the total grant aid calculated as follows:

Part A

A1 Management, Overheads & Implementation Costs.

An amount not greater than €20,000, per collective, calculated from A1(a) and A1(b) below:

A1(a)

An amount, up to €10,000 per collective, based on the number of participating vessels. Grant aid for this section is calculated as 100% of costs towards management time (time sheets to be supplied at time of claim) and overheads (detailed breakdown to be supplied at time of claim). The amount, per participating vessel, is:

Table A1(a): PARTICIPATING VESSEL LENGTH (LOA)	Per Vessel
Length greater than 24 metres	€500
Length equal to or greater than 18 & less than 24 metres	€350
Length equal to or greater than 15 & less than 18 metres	€250
Length less than 15 metres	€100

Examples

A collective with 20 vessels, all greater than 24 metres LOA, will qualify for $20 * €500 = €10,000$.

A collective with 21 vessels, all greater than 24 metres LOA, will be capped at €10,000.

A collective with 10 vessels, all greater than 24 metres LOA, and 10 vessels, equal to or greater than 18 metres and less than 24 metres, will qualify for $(10 * €500) + (10 * €350) = €5,000 + €3,500 = €8,500$

A1(b)

Plus €500 per participating vessel up to a maximum of €10,000 per collective. Grant aid for this section is calculated as 60% of receipted costs for specified actions carried out by the collective.

Qualifying actions are:

Table A1(b): MANAGEMENT ACTIONS	Grant Aid
Implementation Planning	60% of costs up to a maximum grant of €500 per vessel
Priority Action Plan(s)	
Local and Regional Workshops	
Management Upskilling	
Communication and Media Upskilling	
Publicity costs	

Example

A collective with 20 vessels may claim up to $20 * €500 = €10,000$. Thus the collective spend €16,666 on qualifying actions and claim grant aid at 60% on this total.

Note: whereas more than one application may be made in respect of a participating vessel under the terms of this scheme, in the case of any vessel partaking in more than one collective, Management, Overheads & Implementation Costs will be calculated at 50% of the aid shown above for a second and subsequent application.

Group applications will receive the grant aid (towards Management, Overheads & Implementation Costs) according to the following schedule:

- 25% of total grant aid on acceptance (by the implementing authority) of the implementation plan.
- 25% of total approved grant aid on verified completion of the approved Seafood EMS. (This amount will be reduced, pro rata, for every vessel that fails to complete an approved SEMS).
- 50% of total approved grant aid, on verified completion of the vessel certification phase or in the case of a fishery certification (A6) when the fishery has been certified. (This amount will be reduced, pro rata, for every vessel that fails to complete the approved certification).

A2 SEMS Implementation costs:

40% of the total, receipted, eligible costs up to a maximum of €250 per participating vessel.

Note: fees, calculated at the rate shown above, may be claimed, for a second or subsequent certification (either as part of this or any other applications).

A3 Vessel Certification costs:

40% of the total, receipted, eligible costs up to a maximum of €500 per participating vessel.

Note: fees, calculated at the rate shown above, may be claimed, for a second or subsequent certification (either as part of this or any other applications).

A4 Chain of Custody Certification costs:

60% of the total, receipted, eligible costs up to a maximum of €750 per application. These costs are only available to participating registered co-operatives and, in certain cases (see clause 3), private companies.

Note: fees, calculated at the rate shown above, may be claimed, for a second or subsequent certification (either as part of this or any other applications).

A5 Facility upgrade costs:

An onshore facility that successfully completes an SEMS may claim 30% grant aid on the items shown in section B, while an onshore facility that successfully completes a certification process may claim a *further* 30% grant aid on the items shown in section B. **Note:** whereas more than one application may be made in respect of an onshore facility under the terms of this scheme, the maximum cumulative grant aid available in any three year period (up to the date of approval) is the lesser of 60% of the total eligible costs (in this or any previous application within the 3-year cycle) or €15,000.

These costs are only available to participating registered co-operatives and, in certain cases, private companies (see clause 3).

Note: In general private companies do not qualify, in their own right, as collectives in the meaning of Article 37 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1198 of 2006 hence they cannot be grant aided in respect of items in Table B. If however, a company can demonstrate on the basis of its collective versus individual interest and/or its collective versus individual beneficiaries, then, with the approval of the implementing authority, grant aid under part B may be available.

A6 Fishery Certification costs:

40% of the total, receipted, eligible costs up to a maximum of €500 per participating vessel.

Note: fees, calculated at the rate shown above, may be claimed, for a second or subsequent certification (either as part of this or any other applications).

Part A

Table A2: SEMS IMPLEMENTATION	Grant Aid
Purchase of SEMS manual	40% of costs up to a maximum grant of €250 per vessel
Vessel mentoring & development of SEMS	
Other upskilling materials	

Table A3: VESSEL CERTIFICATION(S)	Grant Aid
Pre audit and Audit Costs	40% of costs up to a maximum grant of €500 per vessel
Application & Certification Fees	

Table A4: CHAIN OF CUSTODY (ONSHORE) CERTIFICATION	Grant Aid
Pre audit and Audit Costs	60% of costs up to a maximum grant of €750
Application & Certification Fees	

Table A5: ONSHORE FACILITY UPGRADE	Grant Aid
See Tables B1–B3 for eligible items	60% of costs up to a maximum grant of €15,000

Table A6: FISHERY CERTIFICATION	Grant Aid
Pre and Full Assessment	40% of costs up to a maximum grant of €500 per vessel

Part B

Table B1: QUALITY AND HYGIENE
Graders
Electronic HACCP systems
Live Storage containers
Ice machines
Insulated covers
Insulated fish bins
Refrigerated storage
Toilet and washing facilities
Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for food handlers
Storage space for PPE
Disinfection units for PPE and food handling equipment
Temperature monitoring system, including calibrated temperature gauges & probes
Provision of Calibrated Temperature Probes (Hand Held)
Gutting sluice
Stainless steel gutting table
Stainless Pound boards
Fish handling utensils (stainless steel knives, priest, ice shovels, deck brush etc)
Fish washing facilities
Ice-holding facilities
Power hoses
Rubber mats

Table B2: PROVENANCE
Weighing Scales
Packing Equipment
Labelling equipment
Traceability system
Radio frequency identification tags and readers

Table B3: RESPONSIBLE PRACTICES PARTICIPATING VESSELS & ONSHORE FACILITIES
Installation of Fuel/Energy Monitoring Equipment
Fuel Nozzles and Triggers
Installation of Water Monitoring Equipment
Water Nozzles and Triggers
Oil Sampling Kits
Oil Spill Kits
Receptacles for Waste Products
Biodegradable-waste disposal facilities
Compactors or Balers
Oil Filter Crusher
Chemical Spill Kits

Table B3: RESPONSIBLE PRACTICES PARTICIPATING VESSELS ONLY
Drip Pans and Splash Guards
Provision of Selective Codends
Provision of Square Mesh Panels
Provision of Separator Panels
Provision of Sorting Grids

Part B

Part B of the scheme concerns financial assistance to fishing vessel owners (operators) and is provided under Articles 25.2, 25.6 and 25.7 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1198 of 2006.

A vessel that successfully completes an SEMS may claim 20% grant aid on the items shown in section B, while a vessel that successfully completes the certification process (part A3 or A6) may claim a further 20% grant aid on the items shown in section B, but subject to the cumulative grant, per vessel, in respect of section B not exceeding the following limits:

Table B: PARTICIPATING VESSEL LENGTH (LOA)	Grant Aid Per Vessel
Length greater than 24 metres	€15,000
Length equal to or greater than 18 & less than 24 metres	€11,000
Length equal to or greater than 15 & less than 18 metres	€7,500
Length less than 15 metres	€3,000

Note: whereas more than one application may be made in respect of a participating vessel under the terms of this scheme, the maximum cumulative grant aid available in any three year period (up to the date of approval) is the lesser of 40% of the total eligible costs (in this or any previous application within the 3-year cycle) or the amounts shown above.

- 8) Aid towards the cost of annual recertification (A3, A4 and A6) will be allowed for a period of up to three years following the date of first approval but will be degressive (reduced) over these three years as follows: grant aid of not more than 40% (in the case of a vessel) or 60% (in the case of an onshore facility) of eligible costs in year 1 ; 30% - 45% in year 2; and 25% - 35% in year 3.

- 9) Where an application concerns fishing activities in sites designated under European Community legislation governing NATURA 2000, special procedures will apply.

- 10) Offers of grant aid automatically expire 24 months from the date of approval or on the 31st December 2013 whichever date comes sooner.

Applicant – Part A and B

- 11) An application must, in the first instance, be on behalf of a recognised groups of fishing vessel owners/operators and an organisation acting on their behalf that together form a collective, recognised by the implementing authority, to undertake measures of common interest in the area of Seafood Environmental Management Systems & Seafood Certification that have a broader scope than measures normally undertaken by private enterprises.

An application will, in the first instance, be made by the organisation acting on behalf of the collective – the Lead Applicant.

Details of all fishing vessel owners/operators participating in the collective (Participating Applicants) must be shown as part of the initial application.

Upon recognition of a collective under Part A of the scheme, applications from individual fishing vessel owners (Participating Applicants) in respect of Part B grant aid may be submitted.

Additional vessels may be included as part of a collective upon written application to and with the approval of the implementing authority.

12) Both the lead applicant and any participating applicant must comply with Department of Finance tax clearance procedures, as appropriate, at the time of grant payment¹.

In the case of grant aid of €10,000 or more within any 12-month period, the grantee will be required to produce a valid tax clearance certificate.

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.

13) Participating applicants must comply with the provisions of the Data Collection Regulation at the time of grant payment² under Part B.

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.

Applicant – Part B only

14) In respect of Part B, this scheme may contribute to the financing of equipment (detailed in the application form) but only in respect of fishing vessels of five years of age or more under the conditions of Article 25 of Regulation (EC) No 1198/2006 and in accordance with the provisions of Chapter III of Regulation (EC) 2371/2002.

15) The vessel must be registered in the polyvalent, beam trawl, specific or pelagic segments of the Irish Fishing Boat Register at the time of grant payment.

16) The vessel must be sound, sea-worthy and must otherwise comply with statutory life-saving, fire-fighting, radio and collision regulations.

17) The vessel must be participating in an ongoing and active manner in a collective recognised by the implementing authority, to undertake measures of common interest in the area of Seafood Environmental Management Systems & Seafood Certification.

18) Costs for grant aid purposes will only be considered in respect of eligible items listed on the application form.

19) In the case of Part B, payment is subject to the vessels ongoing and active participation in a collective recognised by the implementing authority, to undertake measures of common interest in the area of Seafood Environmental Management Systems & Seafood Certification.

20) 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 funding.

21) Other costs not eligible for grant aid:

- Costs associated with the hiring of equipment.
- Costs associated with second-hand equipment.
- Service and maintenance contracts.

22) Applicants should note that in the event of approval they will be required to submit proof of payment such as copy paid cheque's (retrieved from the bank)/bank statements, copy bank drafts, credit card statements, or inter bank documentation etc. Cash payments are not eligible for grant aid.

23) Applicants should note that any outstanding charges in respect of the applicant due to BIM (Ice, Training Fees, etc) must be discharged in full at the time of grant payment.

¹ F49/236/06. Department of Finance Circular 44/2006: Tax clearance procedures - grants, subsidies and similar type payments.

² Council Regulation 199 of 2008.

NOTES

This scheme is a Specific Call under the Environmental Management Systems Scheme of the Sea Fisheries Operational Programme. It is made in respect of specified items that involve capital or (in certain cases) current investment and applicants must limit their application to the items/areas specified in the application form.

Grant aid offered under this Specific Call may **not** exceed the fixed maximum amounts shown in this application form.

This scheme is advertised as an Open Call and no closing date for applications applies. The scheme remains open until such time as a closing date or suspension date is advertised or the 1st June 2013 whichever is sooner.

This scheme is non competitive and applications that meet all the criteria of the scheme will, in general, be approved by the implementing authority without reference to other applications under the same scheme but only in light of the funds available too, and designated by, the implementing authority for this scheme. As a consequence it may not be possible to approve all applications received in a given year; some projects may be approved for commencement in the year following the date of receipt.

Applicants seeking to undertake projects of a scale greater than that provided for in this scheme may apply under a General Call for projects under Axis 3 of the EFF when such a scheme is advertised. Prospective applicants should carefully note that with a General Call, applicants have no guarantee of success. In addition General Calls are:

- i) *Closed*. A closing date will apply to all applications.
- ii) *Competitive*. In a competitive call, applications have no guarantee of success but will be considered against other projects received under the call and on the basis of the published selection criteria; cost-effectiveness; value for money; and overall aims of the scheme and the policy objectives of the CFP and Government,
- iii) *Limited*. The total funds available to a General Call will, in every case, be limited to an amount pre-determined by the funds available too, and designated by, the intermediate body to the call.

Applicants should also note that where an application is made under a general call, the support available to individual vessel owners may not exceed (or be in addition to) the levels set out in this scheme (Part B). The scope of the project and the funds available to the collective undertaking the project may, however, exceed the limits set out herein (Part A).

How to Apply

Complete the attached application form and return to:

Bord Iascaigh Mhara
Fisheries Development Division
PO Box 12
Crofton Road
Dun Laoghaire
Co Dublin.

Forms are available from BIM Tel: 01 214 4100, Fax: 01 230 0564, E-mail: Christie@bim.ie
or from BIM local officers.

Forms can also be downloaded from the BIM website <http://www.bim.ie>



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