



## **Aquaculture Business Vessel Fuel Support Scheme**

### **Guidelines for Applicants**



Riailas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland



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## Introduction

These Guidelines for Applicants for the Aquaculture Business Vessel Fuel Support Scheme provide guidance on the application process and assessment criteria.

Applicants should also read the following documents which can be found on the scheme page of [www.bim.ie](http://www.bim.ie)

The Scheme Description which lays out the background to the scheme, who can apply, what is funded, and the amounts granted.

## Call Basis 2026

The call for applications will open on 24 June 2026 and close at 5pm on 8 July 2026. Late applications will not be accepted.

Each applicant can submit only one application.

All applications will be processed after the submission deadline. Where the total value of eligible applications exceeds the funding available, payments may be capped to ensure that the overall scheme budget is not exceeded.

If an application is rejected, an appeal can be made. However, anyone considering doing so is strongly advised to review [BIM's Appeals Policy](#). Failing eligibility checks is not a valid grounds for appeal.

## Eligible Beneficiaries - Who can apply for this Scheme

- The scheme is open to aquaculture producers who have a statutory consent to engage in aquaculture at sea below the low water mean mark, and any necessary consent under the Foreshore Acts, for one of the following species:
  - Salmon
  - Rope-grown seaweed
  - Rope-grown mussels
- Those who are awaiting a determination of an aquaculture **license renewal** made under Section 10 of Fisheries Amendment Act 1997 **will** be eligible under this scheme.
- All applicants must be tax compliant at time of payment.
- All applicants must be in financial good standing with BIM.

## Eligible and Ineligible Expenditure

### Eligible expenditure

Fuel costs:

- From VAT-registered or equivalent suppliers;
- only related to aquaculture vessels/barges which are *not* on the Irish Register of Fishing Boats;

- invoiced between 1<sup>st</sup> March and 31<sup>st</sup> July 2025; and
- paid for by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025.

No fuel purchased on or before 28 February 2025 will be eligible. For clarity, please note that if an invoice dated before 1<sup>st</sup> March was paid in March, it will not be eligible. The invoices must be dated within the range stated above. The payment can be later than the date range above but must be before 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025 e.g. invoiced in June and paid in August.

We accept cash payments for fuel where applicable — [click here](#) to see the documents required to support your claim.

## Ineligible Expenditure

Any expenditure other than that defined above. For clarity:

- fuel costs related to any other part of the aquaculture operation e.g. tractors, vans, lorries, etc, are not eligible; and
- fuel costs related to any aquaculture vessel which is on the Irish Register of Fishing Boats are not eligible.

## Amounts Granted

Beneficiary Type	Aid Intensity Rate
All	Up to a maximum € 0.40 cents per litre

In the event the total of all eligible applications exceeds the budget available, the maximum payment per application entity and/ or the rate per litre may need to be adjusted downward or capped.

## Submission Deadline

The Scheme will be open for applications from **24 June 2026** and the deadline for submission of applications is **8 July 2026 until 5 PM**.

All applications are to be made through BIM's grants management system

## Application Process

This flow shows the steps involved in getting from application preparation to receiving a Letter of Offer and payment.



- The applicant prepares their application in BIM's online grants management system.
- When the application is submitted, an acknowledgement email is automatically sent.
- This is the date of acknowledgement.
- BIM carries out a series of eligibility checks, to ensure that all required information has been provided and shows compliance with Scheme rules.
- If eligibility checks are passed, a Letter of Offer will be issued.
- Once the Letter of Offer is accepted, a small number of pre-payment checks are carried out.
- The payment is issued.

## When will you hear from us

When you submit your application, you will receive an automated email acknowledging receipt. If you do not receive this email, it is because the application has not been successfully submitted. Please check your spam folder in case the acknowledgement of receipt has been directed there. Please note that an acknowledgement of receipt email is not a confirmation of grant aid. At this point the application is being processed only. Your application will be assigned a unique reference number, and you will be notified of this in the acknowledgement email. The unique reference number should be used in any subsequent correspondence or enquiry with BIM.

Some applicants may have their form returned if it is incorrect/incomplete. If information is found to be missing, or if further clarifications are required, the application will be returned to the applicant, and a short and fixed deadline will be provided by which the application must be resubmitted. Failure to meet this deadline or resubmitting the application without providing all the information requested, will result in the application being closed.

## Standard Eligibility Checks

BIM will check the evidence provided by the applicant to ensure that all eligibility criteria set out are met including BIM Good Standing Check, and that all required documentation has been provided.

Aid may be only granted under this scheme as from the notification of the Commission's State Aid decision approving the measure.

## Approval

Per standard BIM procedures

## Offer Stage

Applicants may accept the offer 10 days after it has issued. While we encourage applicants to respond after 10 days, the offer must be accepted within 28 days of the issue date.

## Payments

Commencing in August

## Appeals

Per standard policy, with the exception that the number of days allowed for an appeal is 10 days.

## Contact Details

Requests for further information/clarifications should be addressed, by **email**, to the contact details below. Where appropriate, responses to requests for further information/clarifications will be made available to all interested parties via [grantshelpdesk@bim.ie](mailto:grantshelpdesk@bim.ie)

CONTACT DETAILS
Bord Iascaigh Mhara Dún Laoghaire Co. Dublin Email: <a href="mailto:grantshelpdesk@bim.ie">grantshelpdesk@bim.ie</a>

A dedicated feedback email address has been established to collect input from applicants on their experience of the grant's application process, and we would very much welcome your feedback, please contact us at [grantsfeedback@bim.ie](mailto:grantsfeedback@bim.ie)