



Fishing and Aquaculture Registered Vessel Fuel Support Scheme

Guidelines for applicants



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine



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Introduction

These Guidelines for Applicants for Fishing and Aquaculture Registered Vessel Fuel Support Scheme provide guidance on the application process.

Applicants should also read the following documents which can be found on the Scheme page of www.bim.ie:

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

Call Basis

The call for applications will open on 21 May 2026 and close at 5pm on 12 June 2026. Late applications will not be accepted.

- Each applicant can submit only one application.
- An application can cover multiple vessels, noting that:
 - All vessels must be owned by the applicant (company or individual); and
 - Each vessel must qualify on its own track record.

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 [link]. Failing eligibility checks is not a valid grounds for appeal.

Eligible Beneficiaries - Who can apply for this Scheme

- Owners of fishing vessels:
- which must be registered on the Irish Register of Fishing Boats and Fishing Licence is in date on the closure date of the Scheme.
- and
- who must have been actively fishing from March to July in 2025, or March to July in 2024.
- For vessels less than 10m length overall (LOA) this will be validated by ensuring sales notes to the value of at least €400 have been registered with the SFPA in the months March to July 2025 inclusive.

- For vessels of 10m LOA or greater, this will be validated by ensuring logbooks registered with the SFPA show at least 12 days at sea in the months March to July 2025 inclusive.
- If an applicant fails the check based on 2025 data, 2024 will be checked. If they pass the checks on 2024 data, this check will be deemed passed. If they fail the checks on 2024 data, this check will be deemed failed, and the applicant will not be eligible.
- Please note that it is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the correct data is registered with the SFPA at the time of their application. If, on the first check, the SFPA data cannot confirm the required level of fishing activity, the application will be rejected.
- Please note that the DAFM will confirm that the vessel is registered on the Irish Register of Fishing Boats. and that the fishing licence is valid at the Scheme closing date. If, on the first check, the Licencing Authority (DAFM) cannot confirm the required vessel status, the application will be rejected.
- must be registered on the Irish Register of Fishing Boats and Fishing Licence is in date on the closure date of the Scheme.
- All applicants must be tax compliant at time of payment.
- All applicants must be in financial good standing with BIM.

Note that where a vessel owner has sold the vessel they had in 2024 / 2025 and acquired a new vessel:

- The fishing record of the new vessel may be used to qualify for the Scheme.
- Where the new vessel does not meet the requirements the record for their previous vessel may be used.
- The invoicing / payment documentation record submitted must have been incurred by the applicant and not the previous owner of the vessel.

Eligible and Ineligible Expenditure

Eligible expenditure

Fuel costs:

- From Republic of Ireland VAT-registered suppliers,
- Related to the commercial fishing operator
- invoiced between 1 March and 31 July 2025
 - (If the vessel was not actively fishing in 2025, the applicant may substitute with invoices dated 1 March to 31 July 2024.
 - Note that the applicant can only submit 2025 invoices *or* 2024 invoices and *not* a combination of both, even if multiple vessels are included in the application); and
- paid for by 31 December 2025

No fuel purchased on or before 28 February 2025 (or 29 February 2024 as appropriate) will be eligible.

For clarity, please note that if an invoice dated before 1 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 December 2025 e.g. invoiced in June and paid in August.

Note that eligible vessels of less than 6m LOA will receive a flat rate support and will not need to provide fuel receipts.

Ineligible Expenditure

Any expenditure other than that defined above.

Amounts Granted

Beneficiary Type	Aid Intensity Rate
Owners of vessels < 6m LOA	€ 350 flat rate
Owners of vessels 6m or greater LOA	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 call for applications will open on 21 May 2026 and close at 5pm on 12 June 2026. Late applications will not be accepted.

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 July and into 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

CONTACT DETAILS
Bord Iascaigh Mhara Dún Laoghaire Co. Dublin Email: grantshelpdesk@bim.ie