



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

# UK Seafood Fund

Common Language Group: Current challenges and  
future opportunities for seafood

13 September 2022



# Science and Innovation (£24 million)

## Fisheries Industry Science Partnerships (FISP)

The FISP scheme will improve and share knowledge of fisheries and aquaculture by funding data collection and research to support sustainable fisheries management. All projects must be a collaboration between the fishing and seafood industry and research organisations.

### **You are eligible if you are:**

- A sole trader who owns or operates a UK fishing boat
- An organisation engaged in commercial or recreational fishing, processing or marine aquaculture in the UK
- A research organisation

[UK Seafood Fund: Fisheries Industry Science Partnerships scheme - GOV.UK \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/publishing.service.gov.uk)

### **Contracts available:**

- up to £150,000 a year
- from £150,000 to £500,000 a year

**Final Round Planned for November 2022**

# Science and Innovation (£24 million)

## Seafood Innovation Fund (SIF)

The UK Seafood Innovation Fund supports the UK's fishing, aquaculture and seafood industries to deliver cutting-edge technology and innovation. By supporting ambitious projects with a long-term view, the fund aims to kick-start a step-change in the productivity and sustainability of UK seafood into the future.

### **Am I eligible?**

The fund is open to all organisations who have an innovative idea meeting the objectives of the fund. The idea must benefit the sustainability and productivity of the seafood industry in the UK.

[Seafood Innovation Fund website](#)

**Final Round Planned for September 2022 – Uncapped Funding**

# Infrastructure: Overview

- This scheme will invest at least £65 million to fund projects that build capability across the UK seafood sector supply chain while also supporting the social and economic welfare of coastal communities and fisheries health and environmental sustainability through investment in:
- improved capability at ports, harbours, processing, and aquaculture facilities (Rounds 1 and 2)
- recreational sea fishing (Round 3)
- fleet modernisation (Round 4)

We will announce the projects awarded for Round 1 in September.

Round 2 will open at the end of September. It will fund land-based seafood infrastructure.

Later in the year, we will open rounds to fund recreational fishing and fleet modernisation. These rounds are currently under development, we will seek views from industry on our proposals.

[UK Seafood Fund: Infrastructure Scheme GOV.UK](#)

# Who can apply for Round 2?

**You can apply for funding if you are involved in fishing, processing or aquaculture and are:**

- an organisation, business or charity
- a trade association
- a public body or local authority (including trust ports, local authority ports and public bodies, using funds for environmental improvements and fisheries management)
- an officially recognised producer organisation
- a consortium member
- a private trust and foundation

# Changes from Round 1

Projects in this second funding round will have until March 2025 to complete. This is a year's extension from the projects in the first call.

We have extended the time for applicants to submit tenders from 8 weeks to 16 weeks.

We are considering reducing the minimum threshold for projects to £150,000.

# Round 2: Match funding

Organisation/business type	Maximum contribution from UKSF
Producer Organisations	75%
Fisherman's Associations	75%
Public Bodies and public charities	75%
Private Small and Medium Enterprises	50%
Private non-SMEs	30%
Private foundations and trusts	50%

# Round 2: Assessment criteria

	Assessment criteria	Weighting
	Meets scheme objectives	
1	Strengthening the supply chain. Projects that address capacity bottlenecks in the current system through infrastructure improvements will be prioritised.	15%
2	Value for money. Projects that demonstrate the best value for money while meeting planned objectives will be prioritised. This will be assessed through the application's breakdown of how funding will be spent	40%
3	Deliverability of proposal, effectively and in proposed timescale. Projects with the necessary skills, experience and capacity will be prioritised. This includes planning for sufficient staff time, considering relevant milestones and risk, and having access to all necessary equipment and non-staff resources.	15%
4	Fisheries health and environmental sustainability of the industry and contributing to the UK's Net Zero objectives through projects such as increasing electrification and using sustainable energy sources.	15%
5	Social and economic sustainability. Projects that support and develop coastal communities by creating wealth in these areas will be prioritised. This will be assessed using a mix of the index of social and economic sustainability factors, and deprivation in the targeted region.	15%



# Skills and Training

Funding is available for the Skills and Training scheme to upskill the existing workforce, as well as attract new entrants and improve workforce retention. The scheme will do this by funding projects that benefit the industry's current and future training needs.

There is up to £10 million in the Skills and Training Scheme to fund training projects. This money will be split to allocate:

- £5 million for training courses and specialist equipment (Round 1)
- £5 million for training centres and facilities (Round 2)

[UK Seafood Fund: Skills and Training Scheme - GOV.UK](#)

# Skills and Training

**Round 1 of the Skills and Training Scheme is now open for applications until midday, 12<sup>th</sup> October 2022.**

- Round 1 will fund training projects that propose new, relevant courses, or revision to existing courses/qualifications, as well as providing specialist training equipment.
- You can apply for a minimum of £10,000 and up to £250,000 per project (match funding rates apply).
- Defra is administering the Scheme in collaboration with **Seafish**.

**Round 2** of the Skills and Training Scheme is currently in its early market engagement phase. The round will be opening later in the year.

- We are looking to fund projects that will extend and enhance the availability of training that the UK seafood industry needs to satisfy its current and future skills needs.
- We are engaging with industry and the devolved administrations (DAs) to understand if this might include building new training centres, modernising current facilities and/or creating mobile training units.

**Within the assessment for the Scheme, applicants will need to evidence gap in training provision and identify industry need and support for their project.**

# Skills and Training

## Am I eligible?

The funding is available those able to provide training projects to the seafood industry, including the catching, processing aquaculture and recreational angling sectors, and are one of the following:

- an organisation, business or charity
- a trade association
- a public body or local authority
- an officially recognised producer organisation
- a private trust and foundation

Queries about Round 2 can be directed to the Skills and Training mailbox:  
[uksfskillsandtraining@defra.gov.uk](mailto:uksfskillsandtraining@defra.gov.uk)