COVID-19: Government Support Measures for the UK Seafood Industry

May 18, 2020
Version III
Introduction

This document sets out the government financial support packages available for the UK seafood industry. Some of these measures are seafood specific and others are generic.

We’ve collated this information to help UK seafood businesses understand what support they may be eligible to access, based on their business type and location.

All information is drawn from what has been made available from the relevant government, department or public body. If you have any questions on any of the schemes listed please contact the relevant organisation.

We’ll try to keep this information as up to date as possible, but schemes can change and develop. Please continue to check the Seafish website for updates.

If you are aware of any inaccuracies please let us know by emailing economics@seafish.co.uk.

For other sources of support and advice for seafood businesses and updates on the impact of coronavirus visit https://www.seafish.org/article/coronavirus-updates-for-the-seafood-industry.

Click on a business type below to see the full list of measures available.

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- Aquaculture: Support measures that may be available
- Food service sector, including Fish & Chip shops: Support measures that may be available
- Fishmongers: Support measures that may be available
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Catching sector: Support measures that may be available

Click on a measure or measure category to learn more.

Employee-related support measures
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· Coronavirus job retention scheme

Financing
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· Future Fund

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· VAT deferral

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Small processors: Support measures that may be available

*Click on a measure or measure category to learn more.*

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- Future Fund
- Scotland: Seafood Business Resilience Fund

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**Self-employed**
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Click on a measure or measure category to learn more.

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Aquaculture: Support measures that may be available

Click on a measure or measure category to learn more.

Employee-related support measures
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- England: Small business grant scheme
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- Scotland: Pivotal Enterprise Resilience Fund
- Wales: Fisheries grant fund
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Payment relief and deferral
- VAT deferral

Self-employed
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- Income tax deferral for self-employed
Food service sector, including Fish & Chip shops: Support measures that may be available

Click on a measure or measure category to learn more.

Employee-related support measures
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Click on a measure or measure category to learn more.

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Self-employed
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Traders (importers/exporters): Support measures that may be available

*Click on a measure or measure category to learn more.*

**Employee-related support measures**
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**Payment relief and deferral**
- VAT deferral

**Self-employed**
- Income support scheme for self-employed
- Income tax deferral for self-employed
Employee-related support measures

Statutory sick pay relief package (SMEs)

Last updated Tuesday 19 May 2020

Description
The Coronavirus Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) Rebate Scheme will repay employers the current rate of SSP that they pay to current or former employees for periods of sickness starting on or after 13 March 2020.

Eligibility
UK-based business with fewer than 250 employees on 28 February 2020.

Requirements
You can use the scheme as an employer if:
- you’re claiming for an employee who’s eligible for sick pay due to coronavirus
- you have a PAYE payroll scheme that was created and started on or before 28 February 2020
- you had fewer than 250 employees on 28 February 2020

SSP is available for eligible individuals diagnosed with COVID-19 and those who are unable to work because they are self-isolating in line with Government advice.

This includes individuals who are caring for people self-isolating in the same household and therefore have been advised to quarantine as a household.

The scheme covers all types of employment contracts.

You must keep records of all the statutory sick payments that you want to claim from HMRC, including:
- the reason why an employee could not work
- each period when an employee could not work, including start and end dates
- the SSP qualifying days when an employee could not work
- National Insurance numbers of all employees who have been paid SSP

You’ll have to keep these records for at least 3 years following your claim.

Support available
The refund will cover up to 2 weeks’ SSP per employee. The eligible period started on 13 March 2020 and SSP is payable from day 1 instead of the usual day 4.
Employees will not need to provide a GP fit note but those with symptoms can obtain an “isolation note” by visiting NHS 111 online and those living with someone that has symptoms can get a note from the NHS website.

How to apply
The online service to reclaim Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) will be available from 26 May 2020.

To use the online service you will need the Government Gateway user ID you got when you registered for PAYE Online. If you did not register online you will need to enrol for the PAYE Online service. For more information, please visit Gov.uk.

Government/department responsible
HMRC

Home nation
All

Applicability to seafood sector
☒ Catching sector
☒ Aquaculture
☒ Processing sector (SME)
☐ Processing sector (large companies)
☒ Food service sector, including Fish & Chip shops
☒ Fishmongers
☒ Traders (Importers/Exporters)
Coronavirus job retention scheme
Last updated Tuesday 19 May 2020

Description
All UK employers can access support to continue paying part of their employees’ salary for those who would otherwise have been laid off during this crisis.

Eligibility
All UK employers that meet the criteria below.

Requirements
To access the scheme, affected employees will have to be designated as “furloughed” (on a leave of absence) for at least three consecutive weeks.

Businesses will have to submit information to HMRC about employees that have been furloughed and their earnings.

Companies can only claim for furloughed employees that were on PAYE payroll on or before 28 February 2020 and have a UK bank account.

Employees can be on any type of employment contract, including full-time, part-time, agency, flexible or zero-hour contracts. Foreign nationals are eligible to be furloughed. The grant can also be claimed for agency workers if they are paid via PAYE.

Support available
HMRC will reimburse up to 80% of furloughed workers wage costs, up to £2,500 per month plus the associated Employer National Insurance contributions and minimum automatic enrolment employer pension contributions on that wage.

Note that changing the status of employees is subject to existing employment and may be subject to negotiation, depending on the employment contract.

The government has announced that the scheme will be extended beyond the initial three months.

How to apply
For more information and to apply, please visit Gov.uk.

Government/department responsible
HMRC
Covid-19 Seafood Industry Support Measures
Version III

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- Traders (Importers/Exporters)
Financing

Bounce back loan

Last updated Monday 18 May 2020

Description
This scheme will help small and medium-sized businesses affected by COVID-19 to apply for loans of up to £50,000.

Eligibility
You can apply for a loan if your business:

- is based in the UK
- was established before 1 March 2020
- has been adversely impacted by the coronavirus

If your business was classed as a business in difficulty on 31 December 2019 you’ll need to confirm that you’re complying with additional state aid restrictions.

Requirements
You cannot apply if you’ve already claimed under the Coronavirus business interruption loan scheme.

If you’ve already received a loan of up to £50,000 under the Coronavirus business interruption loan scheme and would like to transfer it into the Bounce back loan scheme, you can arrange this with your lender until November 4, 2020.

Support available
The Bounce Back Loan scheme will help small and medium-sized businesses to borrow between £2,000 and £50,000.

The government will guarantee 100% of the loan and there won’t be any fees or interest to pay for the first 12 months.

Loan terms will be up to 6 years. No repayments will be due during the first 12 months. The government will work with lenders to agree a low rate of interest for the remaining period of the loan.

The scheme will be delivered through a network of accredited lenders.

How to apply
The scheme opened on May 4, 2020.
For more details and to apply, please visit Gov.uk.

**Government/department responsible**
UK government

**Home nation**
All

**Applicability to seafood sector**
☐ Catching sector
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☒ Traders (Importers/Exporters)
Coronavirus business interruption loan scheme

Last updated Wednesday 20 May 2020

Description
Supports SMEs by providing access to working capital (including loans, overdrafts, invoice finance and asset finance) of up to £5 million in value for up to six years.

Eligibility
Open to UK-based businesses with a turnover of no more than £45 million per year. Businesses must not have been classed as a ‘business in difficulty’ on 31 December 2019, if applying to borrow £30,000 or more.

Requirements
You must have a borrowing proposal which the lender would consider liable if it were not for the COVID-19 pandemic and which the lender believes will enable you to trade out of any short to medium term difficulty.

The scheme has been extended so that all viable small businesses affected by COVID-19, and not just those unable to secure regular commercial financing, will now be eligible to enable all long-term viable businesses experiencing difficulties as a result of the coronavirus outbreak to access finance.

The scheme is available to sole traders and freelancers as long as the business activity is operated through a business account. See also British Business Bank’s Quick Eligibility Checklist for SMEs.

Businesses also have to meet British Business Bank eligibility criteria.

Support available
The government will pay to cover the first 12 months of interest payments and any lender-levied fees, so smaller businesses will not face any upfront costs and will benefit from lower initial repayments.

This support is classed as “State aid” which means that the Government’s COVID-19 support to the sector must comply with the EU State aid Temporary Framework.

For the fisheries & aquaculture sector this means support per applicant is capped at €120,000. Only the loan interest and fees would count towards this aid ceiling, not the total loan value.

You will be asked what, if any, of the €120k COVID-19 Temporary Framework aid
ceiling you have already been in receipt of (in relation to other COVID-19 support schemes).

Whatever you have used will be deducted from the €120k ceiling and will therefore reduce what further support you can receive under the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan scheme.

The government will provide lenders with a guarantee of 80% on each loan (subject to a per-lender cap on claims) to give lenders further confidence in continuing to provide finance to SMEs.

The loan can be used for a range of business finance facilities, including:
- Term loans (repayment up to six years)
- Overdrafts (repayment up to three years)
- Asset finance (repayment up to six years)
- Invoice finance (repayment up to three years)

This scheme is being delivered through commercial lenders, backed by the British Business Bank. To apply, speak to your bank or one of the 40 accredited finance providers as soon as possible to discuss your business plan.

If you have an existing loan with monthly repayments, you may want to ask for a repayment holiday to help with cash flow.

The scheme is expected to run for an initial period of six months, with no capacity limit on the scheme.

**How to apply**
For more details on the scheme and step-by-step information to apply, please visit the British Business Bank’s [website](#).

**Government/department responsible**
British Business Bank

**Home nation**
All

**Applicability to seafood sector**
- Catching sector
- Aquaculture
- Processing sector (SME)
- Processing sector (large companies)
Fishmongers
Food service sector, including Fish & Chip shops
Traders (Importers/Exporters)
Coronavirus large business interruption loan scheme

Last updated Wednesday 20 May 2020

Description
This scheme will help large businesses affected by COVID-19 to access loans of up to £50 million. This scheme allows lenders to support businesses that were viable before the coronavirus outbreak but now face significant cash flow difficulties that would otherwise make their business unviable in the short term.

Eligibility
Businesses with UK-based activity and an annual turnover of between £45 million and £500 million and which are unable to secure regular commercial financing.

Requirements
You must have a borrowing proposal that the lender would consider viable if it were not for the COVID-19 pandemic and which the lender believes will enable you to trade out of any short to medium term difficulty. Your business must not have received a facility under the Bank of England’s COVID-19 Corporate Financing Facility

Support available
The scheme is available through a series of accredited lenders, which are listed on the British Business Bank website.

All viable businesses with turnover of more than £45 million per year can apply for up to £25 million of finance. Firms with a turnover of more than £250 million can apply for up to £50 million of finance.

The government will provide lenders with an 80% guarantee on individual loans for businesses that would be otherwise unable to access the finance they need, giving lenders confidence to lend to many more businesses.

Facilities backed by a guarantee under CLBILS, including short term loans, overdrafts, invoice finance and asset finance, will be offered at commercial rates of interest.

Businesses are encouraged to apply via the lender’s websites in the first instance as telephone lines are likely to be busy and branches may have limited capacity to handle enquiries.
How to apply
The scheme is open. For more details on the scheme and guidance for applying, please visit Gov.uk and the British Business Bank’s website.

Government/department responsible
British Business Bank.

Home nation
All

Applicability to seafood sector
☐ Catching sector
☒ Aquaculture
☐ Processing sector (SME)
☒ Processing sector (large companies)
☐ Fishmongers
☐ Food service sector, including Fish & Chip shops
☒ Traders (Importers/Exporters)
COVID-19 Corporate Financing Facility

Last updated Wednesday 20 May 2020

Description
Under the COVID-19 Corporate Financing Facility, the Bank of England will buy short term debt from larger companies.

Eligibility
All non-financial companies that can demonstrate they were in sound financial health prior to the shock. The clearest way to demonstrate this test is to have, or acquire, a rating.

For such firms, investment grade means a short-term rating of A3/P3/F3/R3 or above, or a long-term rating of BBB-/Baa3/BBB-/BBB low or above by at least one of the major credit ratings agencies: S&P, Moody’s, Fitch or DBRS Morningstar.

If your business does not have a public investment grade rating there are other options which you can discuss with the Bank of England by contacting CCFFeligibleissuers@bankofengland.co.uk.

Requirements
Companies - and their financial subsidiaries - that make a material contribution to the UK economy are able to participate in the facility.

In practice, businesses making a material contribution to the UK economy would include:
- UK incorporated companies, including those with foreign-incorporated parents that have a genuine business in the UK;
- companies with significant employment in the UK;
- firms with their headquarters in the UK.

Company revenue generated in the UK, number of UK customers served and number of operating sites in the UK will also be considered in the application process.

The facility is open to firms that can demonstrate they were in sound financial health prior to the shock. The clearest way to demonstrate sound financial health is to have, or acquire, a rating from a credit rating agency.

All non-financial companies that meet the eligibility criteria as set out above can use the facility.
Support available
The facility is designed to support liquidity among larger firms, helping them to bridge coronavirus disruption to their cash flows through the purchase of short-term debt in the form of commercial paper.

Commercial paper is an unsecured, short-term debt instrument issued by a company. The Facility will purchase sterling-denominated commercial paper, with the following characteristics:

- Maturity of one week to twelve months
- Where available, a credit rating of A-3 / P-3 / F-3 / R3 from at least one of: Standard & Poor’s, Moody’s, or Fitch and DBRS Morningstar as at 1 March 2020.
- Issued directly into Euroclear and/or Clearstream
- Governed by English law and subject to the jurisdiction of the English courts

Commercial paper with non-standard features such as extendibility or subordination, will not be accepted.

The Bank will purchase commercial paper subject to individual issuer limits. These limits will reflect a range of factors, including an issuer’s credit rating.

An indicative guide to the maximum limit pre-approved by HM Treasury for issuers at different ratings is set out in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Initial issuer limit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A1/P1/F1/R1</td>
<td>Up to £1bn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A2/P2/F2/R2</td>
<td>Up to £600m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A3/P3/F3/R3</td>
<td>Up to £300m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Facility will operate for at least 12 months, and for as long as steps are needed to relieve cash flow pressures on firms that make a material contribution to the UK economy.

How to apply
See more on the Bank of England’s website.

Government/department responsible
UK government

Home nation
All
Applicability to seafood sector
☐ Catching sector
☒ Aquaculture
☐ Processing sector (SME)
☒ Processing sector (large companies)
☐ Fishmongers
☐ Food service sector, including Fish & Chip shops
☒ Traders (Importers/Exporters)
Future Fund

Last updated Wednesday 20 May 2020

Description
This scheme will issue convertible loans between £125,000 to £5 million to innovative companies which are facing financing difficulties due to the coronavirus outbreak.

Eligibility
The scheme is available to UK-incorporated businesses that meet the requirements below.

Requirements
Your business is eligible if:
- it is UK-incorporated - if your business is part of a corporate group, only the parent company is eligible
- it has raised at least £250,000 in equity investment from third-party investors in the last 5 years
- none of its shares are traded on a regulated market, multilateral trading facility or other listing venue
- it was incorporated on or before 31 December 2019
- at least one of the following is true:
  - half or more employees are UK-based
  - half or more revenues are from UK sales

Support available
The Future Fund provides government loans to UK-based companies ranging from £125,000 to £5 million, subject to at least equal match funding from private investors.

These convertible loans may be an option for businesses that rely on equity investment and are unable to access other government business support programmes because they are either pre-revenue or pre-profit.

How to apply
For more information and to apply, please visit Gov.scot and the British Business Bank’s website.

Government/department responsible
British Business Bank

Home nation
Applicability to seafood sector
- Catching sector
- Aquaculture
- Processing sector (SME)
- Processing sector (large companies)
- Fishmongers
- Food service sector, including Fish & Chip shops
- Traders (Importers/Exporters)
Scotland: Seafood Business Resilience Fund

Last updated Wednesday 20 May 2020

NOW CLOSED FOR APPLICATIONS

Description
Grants and loans to businesses suffering severe hardship following the shutdown of international markets and the food service industry across the UK.

Eligibility
The fund is targeted initially at all Scottish seafood processors and seafood businesses including those involved in exporting live seafood and shellfish and, in doing so, undertake associated husbandry.

Requirements
Businesses will be required to apply for support and meet the relevant criteria. In the application businesses are required to supply:
- Evidence of fixed costs
- Evidence of earnings over the past three years
- Business bank details
- Evidence of identification
- Evidence of hardship/difficulty
- State aid information.

Support available
All Scottish seafood processors who meet the criteria can apply. A mix of grants, up to the revised state aid level of €120,000, and loans will be available.

The intervention is to support the fixed costs of operating the business and will cover costs for a three-month period. Specific support will be provided through grants.

The amount granted to an undertaking will be calculated on a case by case basis, based on the undertaking’s fixed costs, subject to a cap based on a percentage of the undertaking’s average earnings.

The average earnings will be calculated by reference to average annual earnings over a three-year period.

The maximum level of grant available for businesses with average annual earnings over a three-year period up to £1.5 million will not exceed 4% of those earnings.
The maximum level of grant for businesses with average annual earnings over a three-year period of over £1.5 million will not exceed 3% of those earnings, up to a maximum level of grant of £100k.

The grant will be paid as a lump sum by electronic bank transfer.

The Scottish Government notes that in the event of any new funding streams with the same outcome, businesses may be asked to repay all or some of this grant.

The grant must not be used for any of the following purposes:

- Payment towards staff wages
- Payment to primary producers (if the Grantee is active in processing and marketing of products)
- Payment to offset debt from a business that has permanently ceased trading
- The transfer of ownership of a business
- Winding up costs for a business that decides to permanently close.

**How to apply**
Closed on Monday 20 April. For more information, please visit [Gov.scot](http://Gov.scot).

**Government/department responsible**
Scottish government

**Home nation**
Scotland

**Applicability to seafood sector**
- ☐ Catching sector
- ☐ Aquaculture
- ☒ Processing sector (SME)
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- ☐ Fishmongers
- ☐ Food service sector, including Fish & Chip shops
- ☐ Traders (Importers/Exporters)
Grants for businesses

Fast Start Competition

Last updated Wednesday 20 May 2020

Description
Grants of up to £50,000 will be available to technology and research-focused businesses to develop new ways of working and help build resilience in industries such as delivery services, food manufacturing, retail and transport.

Eligibility
More information to follow.

Requirements
More information to follow.

Support available
Grants of up to £50,000.

How to apply
For more information, please visit Gov.uk.

Government/department responsible
Innovate UK

Home nation
All

Applicability to seafood sector
☒ Catching sector
☒ Aquaculture
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☒ Fishmongers
☒ Food service sector, including Fish & Chip shops
☒ Traders (Importers/Exporters)
England: Fisheries Response Fund (FRF) – Fishing

Last updated Monday 18 May 2020

Description
Grant funding to assist fishing businesses with fixed costs such as insurance, port costs and equipment hire.

Eligibility
Fishing businesses with vessels under 24m and which recorded sales of at least £10,000 in 2018-19.

Fishing vessel owners may continue to fish, and may also qualify to receive payment in addition to other government assistance, including the business loan scheme, self-employed income support scheme, and other benefits.

Requirements
The fund will be open to vessels up to and including 23.99m (overall length) with fishing licences registered in England who recorded sales of £10,000 or more during the period from 1 March 2019 to 23 March 2020, as recorded on sales notes supplied to Registered Buyers and Sellers.

The vessel must be registered with MCA and licenced to fish by the MMO.

Support available
Grants will be available to directly contribute towards fixed business costs and are calculated from the average business costs for the size of the vessel, as surveyed and published by Seafish in their 2018 economic report. The maximum payment will be £10,000 in total per vessel.

Eligible vessel owners will receive fund payments for up to three months, with initial payments paid to cover 2 months (April and May 2020).

Payments will be made directly into nominated business bank accounts. Fund payments may be extended to a third month, depending upon a review of industry and market conditions. Further updates will be given at the end of May.

Fund payment amounts will vary according to the overall length of the vessel, as detailed in the table below. The maximum payment from any aspect of the FRF will be £10,000 in total per vessel.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vessel length</th>
<th>Month 1: April 2020</th>
<th>Month: 2 May 2020</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 to 5.99m</td>
<td>£600</td>
<td>£600</td>
<td>£1,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 to 7.99m</td>
<td>£800</td>
<td>£800</td>
<td>£1,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 to 9.99m</td>
<td>£2,100</td>
<td>£2,100</td>
<td>£4,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 to 11.99m</td>
<td>£4,200</td>
<td>£4,200</td>
<td>£8,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 to 14.99m</td>
<td>£7,800*</td>
<td>£2,200*</td>
<td>£10,000*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 to 23.99m</td>
<td>£10,000*</td>
<td>£0*</td>
<td>£10,000*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The maximum amount payable in total is £10,000 per vessel.

The normal tax treatment is expected to be applied to grants provided under business support schemes launched in response to COVID-19. This means payments received under the Fisheries Response Fund should be reported to HMRC as a part of the business income in the tax return for the business.

**How to apply**

From 20 April 2020, registered fishing vessel owners will be contacted directly in stages – starting with the smaller vessels – by the MMO (who will administer the fund).

Contact will be made via email, which will include an application form, a privacy notice and declaration. The application form must be completed and returned to the MMO by email along with other required documents, including identification and banking information.

For more information, please visit [Gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk). A summary of frequently asked questions can also be found on [Gov.UK](https://www.gov.uk).

**Government/department responsible**

MMO

**Home nation**

England

**Applicability to seafood sector**

- ✗ Catching sector
- □ Aquaculture
- □ Processing sector (SME)
- □ Processing sector (large companies)
- □ Fishmongers
- □ Food service sector, including Fish & Chip shops
- □ Traders (Importers/Exporters)
England: Fisheries Response Fund (FRF) – Aquaculture

Last updated Wednesday 20 May 2020

**Description**
Grants of up to £10,000 per farm to assist aquaculture businesses with ongoing production costs.

The scheme is specifically for shellfish and trout farms in England that produce food for direct human consumption.

**Eligibility**
To qualify, eligible businesses must:

- Be an active shellfish or trout farm in 2018
- Be located in England and produce shellfish or trout for direct human consumption
- Have a Fish Health Inspectorate authorisation number for the business
- Have a Fish Health Inspectorate authorisation number for the farm
- Businesses may apply for or already be in receipt of government support already announced, provided they do not exceed the temporary state aid framework limit (see exclusions, below)

The fund **does not** apply to:

- Farms that only produce trout or other fish to restock lakes
- Shellfish hatcheries, or businesses involved in the supply of juvenile fish or juvenile shellfish for aquaculture, or purifying shellfish prior to consumption (depuration)
- Farms that supply ornamental fish, or research bodies
- Aquaculture businesses that have already benefitted from the Fund will not be paid twice for the same business activity
- Other aquaculture fish for human consumption such as tilapia, sturgeon or carp

Because the fishing industry is a sector that has benefitted from other state aid funding, this fund is subject to the temporary state aid framework, which may mean some projects and organisations may not be applicable.

This applies if your undertaking has received other forms of support provided under the temporary state aid framework including the: Fisheries Response Fund (FRF), the Domestic Seafood Support Scheme (DSSS), Small Business Grant Fund
(SBGF), Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CBILs), or Bounce Back Loans, and the total amount of benefits you have received from all schemes has exceeded €120,000 (around £105,000).

Note this includes the value of the fees and 12 months interest received from the CBILS or Bounce Back Loan, not the amount of the loan.

**Requirements**

Fund payment amounts are based upon average ongoing production costs per number of FTE employees, published in the latest available data from the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF) (2016) and increased to account for inflation.

Businesses will be categorised into funding bands, according to the number of full-time equivalent employees (FTE) as recorded in 2018.

Where businesses have farms that produce both trout for human consumption and restocking trout, the FTE band will be calculated in proportion to the production of their direct table trout output, based on 2018 data.

Businesses that opened or expanded their employee FTE number in 2019 should contact the MMO. These businesses will be required to provide verifiable evidence of production volumes and FTE employee numbers in 2019.

Where a business runs more than one farm, the recorded total number of FTE employees will be apportioned pro-rata across each farm.

**Support available**

Payments made under the fund are to assist active trout or shellfish farms with their ongoing production costs.

Eligible businesses will receive one payment covering two months, paid directly into the bank account nominated in each business’s application form. The normal tax treatment is expected to be applied, meaning any payments received under the Fisheries Response Fund should be reported to HMRC as a part of the business income in the tax return for the business. Fund payments may be extended to a third month, dependent upon a review of industry and market conditions.

Payments are set in bands based on validated Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) employee numbers, which provide an indication of the scale of the business. The tables below indicate the amount payable per band for each type of farm.
**SHELLFISH**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Band FTE</th>
<th>Month 1</th>
<th>Month 2</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 output / 0 FTE</td>
<td>£0</td>
<td>£0</td>
<td>£0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.01 – 0.49 FTE</td>
<td>£1,388</td>
<td>£1,388</td>
<td>£2,776</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.5 – 1.49 FTE</td>
<td>£2,776</td>
<td>£2,776</td>
<td>£5,552</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.50 – 2.49 FTE</td>
<td>£5,552</td>
<td>£4,448*</td>
<td>£10,000*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.50 – 3.49 FTE</td>
<td>£8,328</td>
<td>£1,672*</td>
<td>£10,000*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.5+ FTE</td>
<td>£10,000*</td>
<td>£0*</td>
<td>£10,000*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* The maximum amount per farm is £10,000 in total.

**TABLE TROUT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Band FTE</th>
<th>Month 1</th>
<th>Month 2</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 output / 0 FTE</td>
<td>£0</td>
<td>£0</td>
<td>£0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.01 – 0.49 FTE</td>
<td>£3,166</td>
<td>£3,166</td>
<td>£6,332</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.5 – 1.49 FTE</td>
<td>£6,332</td>
<td>£3,668*</td>
<td>£10,000*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.50+ FTE</td>
<td>£10,000*</td>
<td>0*</td>
<td>£10,000*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* The maximum amount per farm is £10,000 in total.

**How to apply**

Aquaculture businesses will be emailed directly by MMO if they are eligible from 6 May 2020. The email will contain an application form which should be completed, signed, and returned to MMO by email along with other required supporting documents, including identification and banking information, by 22 May 2020.

Eligible businesses will receive payment directly into their nominated business bank account. MMO aims to process payments within 24 hours of approval of the application form.

For more information, please visit [Gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk). To view a summary of frequently asked questions, please visit [Gov.UK](https://www.gov.uk).

**Government/department responsible**

MMO

**Home nation**

England

**Applicability to seafood sector**

- ☐ Catching sector
- ☒ Aquaculture
☐ Processing sector (SME)
☐ Processing sector (large companies)
☐ Fishmongers
☐ Food service sector, including Fish & Chip shops
☐ Traders (Importers/Exporters)
England: Domestic Seafood Supply Scheme

Last updated Wednesday 20 May 2020

NOW CLOSED FOR APPLICATIONS

Description
Grant funding for projects to help increase the supply of local seafood to domestic markets and increase consumption of locally caught seafood in the UK (whether live, freshly landed and/or processed in England).

Eligibility
Applications are invited from businesses in the fishing, aquaculture and seafood processing industries for projects that help the industry to adapt to domestic sale.

The grant can also be used to equip industry for local and regional distribution, for example with plants and equipment to help with local fish processing, or assets that can be shared at port such as storage and refrigerated vans.

Local seafood is defined as seafood landed in England and/or processed in England. This includes the use by English businesses of seafood landed into English ports by vessels or businesses that are not registered or owned in England.

The DSSS is a competitive process, with grants being awarded for projects to a maximum of £100,000. Applicants may apply for all or part of the total cost of the project.

Requirements
Applicants must put in a bid for their project. Match funding is not a requirement, but if applicants do have match funds, this will be taken into account (scoring more highly than non-match funded applications).

Businesses need to consider the temporary state aid framework. As the fishing industry is a sector that has benefitted from other state aid funding, this fund is subject to the temporary state aid framework, which may mean some projects and organisations will not be eligible.

This applies if the undertaking has received other forms of support provided under the temporary state aid framework including the Fisheries Response Fund (FRF), Bounce Back Loan Scheme and the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CBILs) and the total amount of benefits received from all schemes has exceeded €120,000 (around £105,000).
Note this includes the value of the fees and 12 months interest received from the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme, not the amount of the loan.

Project applications should meet any or all of the following key objectives:

- Facilitate new growth in markets through innovative regional distribution.
- Support the development of infrastructure to sell seafood landed into English ports, or seafood processed in England to domestic consumers.
- Help develop the infrastructure necessary for the catching and processing sectors to connect directly with consumers (e.g. either through online platforms or through facilitation on the ground).
- Have the potential to generate longer-term sustainable benefit to the seafood industry, creating supply chain resilience

Support available
Grant funding of up to £100,000 is available. To allow projects to progress at pace, applicants will receive 25% of the grant award in advance (any advance payments will be offset against future claim reimbursements).

All claims will require supporting invoices. All funding under the DSSS must be spent by 31st December 2020.

This is a competitive process, with applications assessed by a panel including industry representatives.

How to apply
The application deadline has passed.

Successful DSSS applicants will be notified by MMO via email on Friday 22 May, 2020.

For more information, please visit Gov.UK. If you need help with your application, you can send an email to fisheries_response_fund@marinemanagement.org.uk or phone 0208 0265539.

Government/department responsible
MMO

Home nation
England

Applicability to seafood sector
☐ Catching sector
Aquaculture
Processing sector (SME)
Processing sector (large companies)
Fishmongers
Food service sector, including Fish & Chip shops
Traders (Importers/Exporters)
England: Small business grant scheme
Last updated Wednesday 20 May 2020

Description
Local authorities will provide a one-off grant of £10,000 per property to eligible businesses in England.

Eligibility
Businesses based in England, occupying property and receiving small business rate relief or rural rate relief as of 11 March 2020.

Requirements
Local authorities will be able to support small businesses that already pay little or no business rates because of small business rate relief (SBRR), rural rate relief (RRR) and tapered relief.

State aid applies to this scheme. Under the State aid rules permitting De Minimis aid, applicants can receive up to €200,000 of aid within a three-year period.

Where this threshold has or would be reached by accepting the SBGF, a business can receive the £10,000 grant under the EU Commission’s new COVID-19 Temporary Framework, providing conditions are met.

Support available
The scheme will provide a one-off grant of £10,000 per property to eligible businesses to help meet their ongoing business costs.

Grant income received by a business is taxable. Only businesses which make an overall profit once grant income is included will be subject to tax.

How to apply
Your local authority will contact you if you are eligible.

Government/department responsible
Local authority

Home nation
England

Applicability to seafood sector
☒ Catching sector
- Aquaculture
- Processing sector (SME)
- Processing sector (large companies)
- Fishmongers
- Food service sector, including Fish & Chip shops
- Traders (Importers/Exporters)
Wales: Fisheries grant fund
Last updated Wednesday 20 May 2020

Description
Grant scheme of up to £10,000 to help cover the fixed costs associated with owning a fishing vessel.

Eligibility
All active seafood businesses with Welsh-licenced vessels under 40m in length that recorded sales, with registered buyers, of £10,000 or more in 2019. New entrants will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Requirements
The grant is open to all active seafood businesses with Welsh licenced vessels that recorded sales of £10,000 or more in 2019, subject to the following criteria:

- Recipients of the grant will be asked to indicate their intention to continue to fish for a minimum period of six months, unless there are mitigating circumstances which would prevent this.
- Recipients must not have been in financial difficulty on 31st December 2019.
- Recipients must not be eligible for funding from other COVID-19 financial support (for example the Economic Resilience Fund), that compensates for the same loss. This excludes the Self-employment Income Support Scheme - SEISS.

Support available
A one-off grant payment of up to £10,000 to assist businesses with fixed costs such as insurance, port costs and equipment hire.

Average fixed costs have been calculated over a defined period, based on information obtained and published by Seafish in the annual fleet economic report.

Payments will be determined by vessel size, in the categories shown in the table below. A payment will be available for eligible fishers equivalent to two months’ average fixed costs, with a maximum limit of £10,000 per vessel.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vessel length (m)</th>
<th>One-off grant payment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 - 10.00</td>
<td>£2,966</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.01 - 11.99</td>
<td>£8,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.00 - 40.00</td>
<td>£10,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How to apply
You can apply by accessing Rural Payments Wales (RPW) Online. You will need a Government Gateway account in order to access RPW Online.

For more information visit [Gov.Wales](https://gov.wales). For guidance on how to login or set up a Government Gateway account, please refer to the guidance available at [Gov.wales](https://gov.wales).

Applications close on [May 31, 2020](#). The payment process is expected to take approximately 10 working days from receipt of a complete online application form.

Government/department responsible
Welsh government

Home nation
Wales

Applicability to seafood sector
- ☒ Catching sector
- ☒ Aquaculture
- ☐ Processing sector (SME)
- ☐ Processing sector (large companies)
- ☐ Fishmongers
- ☐ Food service sector, including Fish & Chip shops
- ☐ Traders (Importers/Exporters)
Wales: COVID-19 grant for businesses
Last updated Monday 18 May 2020

Description
Grants of £10,000 for all businesses eligible for small business rates relief, and grants of £25,000 for retail, leisure and hospitality businesses.

Eligibility
The £10,000 grant is available for all businesses eligible for small business rates relief (SBRR) in Wales with a rateable value of £12,000 or less.

The grant of £25,000 is available for retail, leisure and hospitality businesses occupying properties with a rateable value of between £12,001 and £51,000.

This means businesses that occupy properties such as shops, restaurants, cafes, drinking establishments, cinemas, live music venues, hotels, guest and boarding premises and self-catering accommodation.

Requirements
Regarding the £10,000 grant, note that the multiple property restriction which applies to Small Business Rates Relief also applies to this grant.

Therefore, the same ratepayer may only receive the grant for a maximum of two properties in each local authority area.

These grants quality as state aid (de minimis aid). Businesses will need to declare this amount to any other support agencies that ask how much de minimis aid they have had.

Support available
A one-off grant payment of up to £10,000 to businesses that are eligible for small business rate relief and meet the criteria above.

A one-off grant payment of £25,000 for businesses in retail, leisure, and hospitality that meet the above criteria.

How to apply
Local authorities are administering these grants. To find out more, please visit Business Wales’ website where you can also find your local authority.

Government/department responsible
Local authorities

**Home nation**
Wales

**Applicability to seafood sector**
- Catching sector
- Aquaculture
- Processing sector (SME)
- Processing sector (large companies)
- Fishmongers
- Food service sector, including Fish & Chip shops
- Traders (Importers/Exporters)
Wales: Economic Resilience Fund

Last updated Wednesday 20 May 2020

FULLY SUBSCRIBED AND PAUSED

Description
Support for businesses forced to temporarily cease trading – to go into “hibernation” – or which need cash-flow support to adapt to a remote way of working.

Eligibility
Microbusinesses and SMEs. Please find an eligibility checker on Business Wales’s website.

Requirements
The microbusiness grant can be claimed by businesses that meet the following criteria: they have between 1 and 9 employees; they operate in Wales and have employees in Wales; they are VAT registered or sector/business exempt from VAT with a turnover greater than £85k; have experienced a drop in turnover greater than 40% as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak (since 1 March 2020).

Supported businesses must aim to maintain employment for 12 months.

Businesses will need to provide evidence of a reduction in turnover as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak and VAT registration information showing business address.

The grant is available to microbusinesses that are not eligible for the Business Rate Grant or the Self-Employed Grant.

For SMEs, businesses must meet the following criteria:
- They are VAT registered or sector/business exempt from VAT with a turnover greater than £85k
- They are headquartered in Wales or have an operating address in Wales that has full decision-making autonomy
- They have experienced a drop in turnover greater than 60% since 1st March 2020
- Are able to demonstrate the business / organisation will be sustainable for at least 12 months with a sustainable business plan to trade out of crisis
- Are viable entities able to confirm some access to funding to cover costs and can demonstrate attempts (successful or otherwise) to secure funding from wider sources (for example a bank, HMRC, Development Bank of Wales, UK Government loan facilities such as the Business Interruption Scheme or
direct Bank of England support) before applying for this fund

- Are able to confirm that funding from any other Welsh Government non-repayable COVID-19 grant funding source is not being pursued
- Are able to demonstrate that without additional support the viability of the enterprise will be under threat including the number of jobs this support protects
- Undertake that for as long as the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme is in place, they will not make any future compulsory redundancies.

**Support available**
Small business grants are available to micro businesses that employ up to nine people, including sole traders with staff, and to SMEs (10-249 staff).

All eligible micro businesses can apply for a grant up to £10,000 from mid-April, while all eligible SME businesses can apply for a grant up to £100,000 from early April.

**How to apply**
The Economic Resilience Fund has been paused. In its first week the second phase of the Economic Resilience Fund received almost 9,000 requests for support.

Due to the scale of demand, Welsh Government increased the amount of funding for this phase to £300 million.

The Fund is now paused following the very large number of applications to give Welsh Government an opportunity to consider what further support businesses, charities and social enterprises need.

For more information, please visit the Welsh government’s Business Wales [website](#).

**Government/department responsible**
Welsh government

**Home nation**
Wales

**Applicability to seafood sector**
- ✔️ Catching sector
- ✔️ Aquaculture
- ✔️ Processing sector (SME)
- □ Processing sector (large companies)
- ✔️ Fishmongers
Food service sector, including Fish & Chip shops
Traders (Importers/Exporters)
Scotland: Sea Fisheries Hardship Fund for vessels under 12m

Last updated Monday 12 May 2020

Description
Grant scheme to support owners of fishing vessels under 12m in length and registered in Scotland.

Eligibility
All businesses with full time fishing vessels registered in Scotland of 12 metres length and under who have no other form of income to support them.

Requirements
Here full time refers to vessels with recorded landings values of £20,000 or more in 2019 according to sales notes submitted by buyers to Marine Scotland.

Monthly payments will be based on monthly average 2019 sales income. Wrasse vessels will not be included in this scheme.

Support available
An initial payment of 50% of two months' average earnings will be made to owners of all full time Scottish registered fishing vessels of 12 metres length and under and who have no other form of income to support them.

Initial payments will be capped at a maximum of £27,000 as the Scottish Government explores State Aid restrictions and how to pay owners of multiple vessels.

How to apply
For more and information, including details of how to apply, please visit Gov.Scot.

Government/department responsible
Scottish government

Home nation
Scotland

Applicability to seafood sector
☒ Catching sector
☐ Aquaculture
☐ Processing sector (SME)
☐ Processing sector (large companies)
☐ Fishmongers
☐ Food service sector, including Fish & Chip shops
☐ Traders (Importers/Exporters)
Scotland: Sea Fisheries Hardship Fund for vessels over 12m

Last updated Monday 18 May 2020

Description
The Scottish Government will provide capped payments to owners of eligible vessels over 12 metres and to businesses operating more than one vessel to help them meet fixed costs.

Eligibility
Owners of vessels over 12 metres landing shellfish and businesses operating more than one vessel in Scotland.

Requirements
The over 12 metre fleet support scheme is open to businesses operating active vessels over 12 metres in overall length that are registered and licensed in Scotland. The vessels must have made a minimum of £20,000 in landings in 2019.

Grants will be made on the basis of three months equivalent of recurring fixed costs, excluding elements such as mortgages, interest, depreciation, crew costs and fishing gear repairs.

The fixed costs are based on data gathered by Seafish as part of their Annual Fleet Economic Surveys.

Support available
The scheme provides payments of up to £21,370 per vessel for businesses with a vessel over 12 metres and up to £42,740 for businesses that operate more than one vessel.

Amounts will be graduated by fleet segment and length category, see below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vessel Category</th>
<th>Length</th>
<th>Grant Payment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nephrops trawlers</td>
<td>12-15 m</td>
<td>£8,340</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15-18 m</td>
<td>£11,070</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>18-24 m</td>
<td>£20,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Above 24 m</td>
<td>£20,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scallop dredgers</td>
<td>12-15 m</td>
<td>£10,620</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15-18 m</td>
<td>£12,460</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Vessel Category Support Measures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vessel Category</th>
<th>Length</th>
<th>Grant Payment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>18-24 m</td>
<td>£21,370</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Above 24 m</td>
<td>£21,370</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creelers</td>
<td>12-15 m</td>
<td>£6,380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15-18 m</td>
<td>£14,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>18-24 m</td>
<td>£18,410</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Above 24 m</td>
<td>£18,410</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**How to apply**

The Scottish Government has identified and has started contacting vessel owners who will be directly offered funding.

For more information, please visit [Gov.Scot](http://gov.scot). Queries can be emailed to: seafisheriesintervention@gov.scot.

**Government/department responsible**

Scottish government

**Home nation**

Scotland

**Applicability to seafood sector**

- ☒ Catching sector
- □ Aquaculture
- □ Processing sector (SME)
- □ Processing sector (large companies)
- □ Fishmongers
- □ Food service sector, including Fish & Chip shops
- □ Traders (Importers/Exporters)
Scotland: Aquaculture Hardship Fund

Last updated Monday 18 May 2020

Description
Hardship payments of up to £27,000 are being made available for full time shellfish growers and trout farmers in Scotland.

Eligibility
The fund is available to full time aquaculture businesses growing shellfish and trout that have suffered hardship due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Requirements
To apply for a grant under the aquaculture hardship fund, applicants are required to demonstrate that their business operates on a full time basis and that they have suffered hardship as a result of the Covid-19 outbreak.

Full time aquaculture businesses are defined as any authorised and active business that has recorded sales of aquaculture products either £15,000 (or more) for shellfish and £20,000 (or more) for trout in 2019.

Businesses are required to supply sale invoices and accounting information for 2019 and 2020 to support their application, along with their Aquaculture Production Business authorisation.

Support available
The first grant payment will cover two months and will equate to 50% of the average monthly gross revenue from sales of aquaculture products in 2019 for each business. The maximum payment is £27,000.

How to apply
For more information, please visit Gov.Scot.

Government/department responsible
Scottish government

Home nation
Scotland

Applicability to seafood sector
☐ Catching sector
☒ Aquaculture
☐ Processing sector (SME)
☐ Processing sector (large companies)
☐ Fishmongers
☐ Food service sector, including Fish & Chip shops
☐ Traders (Importers/Exporters)
Scotland: Pivotal Enterprise Resilience Fund

Last updated Monday 18 May 2020

NOW CLOSED FOR APPLICATIONS

Description
This grant is for businesses that can play a critical role in supporting Scotland’s recovery but need some immediate support. It might be to get back up and running or to maintain or diversify your current operations.

If you can maintain your productive capacity and support employment, then this fund is for you.

Eligibility
You are eligible if your company has up to 249 employees, you have been trading successfully before COVID-19, and you have less than €50 million turnover or balance sheet total of €43/£37.572 million, and meet the requirements below.

Requirements
In addition to the above eligibility requirements, you must be able to demonstrate that the funding will support your business to be viable. You were not in financial difficulty before 31 December 2019. You are a Fair Work employer or working towards becoming a Fair Work employer. You have a business bank account.

Businesses must be involved in or meet the following conditions:

- Can drive economic prosperity through wages, employment, exports, supply chain, etc.
- Be a supplier or potential supplier to NHS or other COVID-19 vital services
- A supplier to other essential businesses
- Can scale up or diversify due to COVID-19 opportunities
- Have a plan to continue to trade in the coming months, taking account of any hibernation or reduced operations as a result of Covid-19
- Can use the grant for working capital to help meet a cash flow gap or can be used to augment other funding from Government and other sources
- Can use the grant to contribute to cash flow items, e.g. rent, wages, directors’ salaries, heat, light and power, materials, transport, financing costs-VAT/HMRC, creditor payment

See additional requirements on Scot.gov.

Support available
Funds to get back up and running or to maintain or diversify your operation.

**How to apply**
This fund closed on Monday May 18. For more information, please visit [Gov.Scot](https://www.gov.scot).

**Government/department responsible**
Scottish government

**Home nations**
Scotland

**Applicability to seafood sector**
- ✔ Catching sector
- ✔ Aquaculture
- ✔ Processing sector (SME)
- □ Processing sector (large companies)
- ✔ Food service sector
- ✔ Fishmongers
- ✔ Traders (Importers/Exporters)
Northern Ireland: Support for fishing industry

Last updated Tuesday 19 May 2020

Description
Grant funding to assist Northern Ireland fishing businesses with their fixed costs.

Eligibility
Owners of active fishing vessels with an overall length of under 28 metres that are registered in Northern Ireland and meet the landings value criteria.

Requirements
This scheme is available to owners of Northern Ireland vessels that were active in the period March to May 2020, with annual fish landings of at least £10,000 in 2019.

Vessels of overall length 28m and over are not eligible.

Vessels must normally be active in the period March to May.

Vessels must be available to fish if there is a market for their product (i.e. this is not a “tie-up” scheme).

Support available
The assistance will be for three months with a maximum amount of total funding per ‘undertaking’ capped at around £104,000.

It will be delivered via monthly payments varying with vessel size as below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vessel overall length (metres)</th>
<th>Monthly payment (£)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-10</td>
<td>£1,050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.01-11.99</td>
<td>£1,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.00-14.99</td>
<td>£3,550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 and over</td>
<td>£4,550</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DAERA is aware that the EU intends to further amend the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund to give additional support to the fisheries and aquaculture sectors in response to COVID-19.

The details of these changes will be considered as they emerge, and industry will be
consulted.

**How to apply**
DAERA will inform vessel owners in due course about how to apply for the scheme and provide further details including appeals.

Please find more information on DAERA’s website.

**Government/department responsible**
DAERA

**Home nation**
Northern Ireland

**Applicability to seafood sector**
☑ Catching sector
☐ Aquaculture
☐ Processing sector (SME)
☐ Processing sector (large companies)
☐ Fishmongers
☐ Food service sector, including Fish & Chip shops
☐ Traders (Importers/Exporters)
Northern Ireland: Small business grant scheme

Last updated Wednesday 20 May 2020

NOW CLOSED FOR APPLICATIONS

Description
£10,000 grant available to Northern Ireland businesses eligible for the Small Business Rate Relief Scheme (SBRR).

Eligibility
The scheme is available to all small Northern Ireland businesses that are currently eligible for the Small Business Rate Relief Scheme.

Businesses must have a Net Annual Value of less than £15,000 in order to be eligible for Small Business Rates Relief.

See further requirements below.

Requirements
A one-off grant of £10,000 to businesses that are currently in receipt of Small Business Rate Relief (SBRR), subject to some exclusions.

- SBRR is automatically applied to business properties with a rateable value below £15,000, though some exclusions to SBRR apply.
- Vacant properties are not eligible
- MLA Constituency offices are not eligible

Businesses with three premises or fewer will only be eligible for one grant of £10,000 in total.

Businesses with more than three properties are not eligible.

Support available
A one-off grant of £10,000 for eligible businesses.

How to apply
Now closed for applications. For more information, please visit the Department for the Economy’s website and Northern Ireland’s Business Information website.

Government/department responsible
DAERA
Home nation
Northern Ireland

Applicability to seafood sector
☒ Catching sector
☒ Aquaculture
☒ Processing sector (SME)
☐ Processing sector (large companies)
☒ Fishmongers
☒ Food service sector, including Fish & Chip shops
☒ Traders (Importers/Exporters)
Payment relief and deferral

England: Business rates relief

Last updated Monday 18 May 2020

Description
Businesses in retail, hospitality and leisure sectors in England will not have to pay business rates for the 2020-2021 tax year.

Eligibility
Retail, hospitality and leisure businesses (shops; restaurants, cafés, bars or pubs; cinemas or live music venues; assembly or leisure properties e.g. sports clubs, gyms, spas; hospitality properties, e.g., hotels, guest houses or self-catering accommodation) in England.

Requirements
You pay business rates in England and meet the eligibility criteria above.

Support available
The business rate relief will apply to your business rates bills for the 2020-21 tax year.

Your local council may have to reissue your bill but will do this as soon as possible.

How to apply
Your local authority will contact you if you are eligible. To learn more, please visit Gov.uk, where you can also estimate your business rate relief using the business rates calculator.

Government/department responsible
Local authority

Home nation
England

Applicability to seafood sector
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VAT deferral
Last updated Monday 18 May 2020

Description
All UK businesses have the option to defer certain Valued Added Tax (VAT) payments until 2021.

Eligibility
All UK VAT-registered businesses.

Requirements
If you have VAT payments due between 20 March 2020 and 30 June 2020, you have the option to defer certain payments or pay as normal.

You can defer the following:
- Quarterly and monthly VAT returns’ payments for the periods ending in February, March and April 2020
- Payments on account due between 20 March 2020 and 30 June 2020
- Annual accounting advance payments due between 20 March 2020 and 30 June 2020

The deferral does not cover payments for VAT MOSS or import VAT.

HMRC will not charge interest or penalties on any amount deferred. VAT will have to be paid as normal after the deferral period ends.

The deferral period is due to end on March 31, 2021.

Support available
Deferral on certain VAT payments until March 31, 2021.

How to apply
You do not need to tell HMRC if you are deferring payment. You still need to submit your VAT returns to HMRC on time.

Find more about how to defer VAT payments on Gov.uk

Government/department responsible
HMRC

Home nation
Applicability to seafood sector
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Self-employed

Income support scheme for self-employed

Last updated Monday 11 May 2020

Description
You can claim a grant through the Self-employment Income Support Scheme if you are self-employed or a member of a partnership and have lost income due to coronavirus.

Eligibility
Self-employed who meet the trading profits criteria below.

Requirements
You are eligible if you’re a self-employed individual or a member of a partnership and you:

- have submitted your Income Tax Self Assessment tax return for the tax year 2018-19
- traded in the tax year 2019-20
- are trading when you apply, or would be if it weren’t for COVID-19
- intend to continue to trade in the tax year 2020-21
- have lost trading/partnership trading profits due to COVID-19

Your business could be adversely affected if, for example:

- You’re unable to work because you:
  - Are shielding
  - Are self-isolating
  - Are on sick leave because of COVID-19
  - Have caring responsibilities because of COVID-19
- You’ve had to scale down or temporarily stop trading because:
  - Your supply chain has been interrupted
  - You have fewer or no customers or clients
  - Your staff are unable to come in to work

Your self-employed trading profits must also be less than £50,000 and more than half of your income must come from self-employment. This must be true for either:

- The tax year 2018-19.
- The average of the tax years 2016-17, 2017-18, and 2018-19.

If you started trading between 2016 and 2019 HMRC will only use those years for which you filed a Self-Assessment tax return.
The grant will be 80% of your trading profit, divided by 12 to give a monthly amount and pay up to 80% of trading profits, or £2,500, whichever is lower.

You must have submitted your Income Tax Self-Assessment tax return for the tax year 2018-19 by 23 April 2020 to be eligible. Any changes made to submitted tax returns after March 26, 2020 will not be taken into account.

HMRC will use data on 2018-19 returns already submitted to identify those eligible and will risk assess any late returns filed before the 23 April 2020 deadline in the usual way.

**Support available**
This scheme will allow you to claim a taxable grant worth 80% of your trading profits up to a maximum of £2,500 per month for the next 3 months. This may be extended if needed.

HMRC will pay the grant directly into your bank account, in one instalment, by early June. The grant will be subject to Income tax and self-employed National Insurance.

**How to apply**
For more information, please visit [Gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk). You can use the [online tool](https://www.gov.uk) to find out if you are eligible to make a claim. Your tax agent or adviser can also use the online tool to check your eligibility on your behalf.

If you are eligible, HMRC will ask you for your contact details and will contact you when you can make a claim.

**Government/department responsible**
HMRC

**Home nation**
All

**Applicability to seafood sector**
- ☒ Catching sector
- ☒ Aquaculture
- ☒ Processing sector (SME)
- ☐ Processing sector (large companies)
- ☒ Fishmongers
- ☒ Food service sector, including Fish & Chip shops
- ☐ Traders (Importers/Exporters)
Income tax deferral for self-employed

Last updated Wednesday 20 May 2020

Description
Income tax deferral will be applied to all UK businesses. You’ll have until the end of the 2020-21 tax year to pay any Income Tax liability you accumulate.

All self-employed people in financial distress, and with outstanding tax liabilities, may be eligible to receive support with their tax affairs through HMRC’s Time To Pay service.

Eligibility
All self-employed people are eligible.

Those who are self-employed, pay tax to the UK government and have outstanding tax liabilities may also be eligible for additional help.

Requirements
For income tax deferral, you do not have to do anything now. Ensure any Income Tax liability is paid by the end of the 2020-21 tax year.

For other tax enquiries, arrangements are agreed on a case-by-case basis and are tailored to individual circumstances and liabilities.

Support available
Income tax deferral

How to apply
If you have missed a tax payment or you might miss your next payment due to COVID-19 please call HMRC’s dedicated helpline on 0800 024 1222.

If you’re worried about a future payment, call the above number nearer the time.

Government/department responsible
HMRC

Home nations
All

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