

AFGS FISHERIES GRANT

2023/24 Report



Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture
Fisheries Division
April 2024



Summary

The AFGS Fisheries Grant budget was fully committed for the 2023/24 financial year by 21 Sep 2023.

The scheme was effectively utilised for a range of provisions to support the Island's the seafood sector, including –

- diversification into new fisheries as a result of post-Brexit quota allocations,
- sustainable fisheries initiatives, including the continuation of the industry-led high-resolution scallop stock surveys, which informed total allowable catch and spatial management measures for the 2023 queen scallop and 2023/24 king scallop fisheries;
- safety and training courses for eligible persons working in the catching sector.

Seven applications were received in 2023/24, with total eligible costs totalling £229,072.53. All applications that were assessed resulted in grant assistance being under the scheme, totalling £194,800.23.

The total amount of grant assistance claimed from applications received in 2023/24 was £157,403.41.

The Department accrued £34,448.27 of committed expenditure to the 2024/25 financial year.

Budget

The AFGS Fisheries Grant was established 01 April 2023 with a revenue budget of £42,000 for the 2023/24 financial year.

A total of £11,033.98 was accrued from the 2022/23 financial year, all of which was in respect of one application received on 24 March 2023.

In order to assist industry in capitalising on new fishing opportunities allocated to the Isle of Man by the UK Government, gained as a result of the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement, the Department made a decision to provide a budget uplift of £150,000 through internal revenue budget reallocation.

The additional £150,000 was ring-fenced for applications submitted to the Department to diversify into the north Irish sea herring fishery, including catching, handling, and processing provisions.

Applications for herring diversification grants were required to demonstrate the support of the Manx Fish Producers Organisation because the herring quota was co-managed by that organisation.

Given the importance of diversification from a Departmental perspective, and the risk of UK Government distributing allocations scheduled to be made to the Isle of Man between 2024-2026 to other sectors of the British fleet if the quota were not utilised, the Department approved grant rates to cover 100% of eligible costs.

The total budget, including accruals and in-year budget uplifts, was £203,033.98

Expenditure

Ref	Type	Eligible costs	Grant offer	Claim/Payment
2022/23 (Accrued) Expenditure				
F059	DIVERSIFICATION	£13,792.47	£11,033.98	£10,958.97
2023/24 Expenditure				
F060	SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES	£53,520.80	£21,408.32	£18,690.40
F061	DIVERSIFICATION (HERRING)	£53,731.00	£53,731.00	£53,516.54
F062	SAFETY/TRAINING	£12,500.00	£12,500.00	£3,585.00
F063	DIVERSIFICATION (HERRING)	£38,492.25	£38,492.25	£38,492.25
F064	DIVERSIFICATION (HERRING)	£20,200.55	£20,200.55	£19,484.38
F065	DIVERSIFICATION (HERRING)	£40,487.93	£40,487.93	£19,448.00
F066	DIVERSIFICATION	£10,140.00	£7,980.18	£4,186.84

Notes

* denotes where whole or part of the claim/payment is pending and committed expenditure been accrued to the 2024/25 financial year.

^a denotes applicants that are recognised industry bodies for the purpose of the AFGS