

The application process

The Department considers each Fisheries Grant application received and issues a written decision, which sets out any terms and conditions. If the terms and conditions are accepted by the applicant, they have up to a year, from the date of approval to submit any quotes/receipts and claim the grant rebate. Please note the following points:

- A grant application must be submitted and approved by the Department before the intended purchase is made.
- Grant money is paid out retrospectively, therefore relevant receipts will be required.

Safety grants

Applications must be approved before any expenditure on the operation occurs. However, 'advanced expenditure' allows for equipment to be purchased after the submission of an application to the Department, but prior to approval. Safety equipment applications of less than £1,000 but greater than £200, provided the application is accompanied by at least one quote, will be considered by the Department as eligible for funding as advanced expenditure.

Please note, with the exception of safety grants, an application for grant assistance must be approved by DEFA before you make the purchase. Grants cannot be used for equipment or activities already undertaken.

Restrictions to note

The total amount of grant paid, payable or approved by DEFA under the scheme in any five-year period to an eligible person will not exceed £200,000.

Applications will not be accepted for off-island fisheries' sector activities; anything contrary to good business or environmental practice, or that which would appear contrary to DEFA policies and objectives; purchase of fishing vessels, engines or winches; purchase of fishing licences.

Purpose of Fisheries Grants

Fisheries Grants are available to support commercial fishermen and processors in developing sustainable and diversified fisheries, improving productivity, safety at sea, reducing reliance on imported seafood and to promote economic growth in the fisheries' sector. This is consistent with the aims of the Department's 'Future Fisheries Strategy'.

Since the Agriculture and Fisheries Grant Scheme was launched in 2016, grants have been used to purchase items such as safety flares, jiggers and nets to diversify into new fisheries.

For more details about the grant application process see the Fisheries Grant Guidelines, which is available with the Agriculture and Fisheries Grant Scheme Application Form, at www.gov.im/agandfishgrantscheme.

For paper copies please contact DEFA.

Under the Agriculture and Fisheries Grant Scheme grants are also offered for Food Business Development and Knowledge & Innovation. For more information contact DEFA on 685844.

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**Isle of Man
Government**

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Fisheries Grants

**Agriculture & Fisheries
Grant Scheme**

What can you apply for?

What you can apply for will depend on your business and the proposed improvement. Fisheries Grants are intended to develop the sector in the following ways:

1. To diversify current fishing activities.
2. To encourage local production for local consumption.
3. To buy or lease gear or equipment that improves sustainable fishing, improves environmental protection, and/or reduces bycatch.
4. To enable members of the fishing industry to gain new skills or undertaken training.
5. To improve safety at sea.

Who can apply?

Grant applications can be made by commercial fishermen, fishing vessel owners, fish processors, aquaculture businesses, recognised fishing industry bodies, such as the Manx Fish Producers' Organisation, and young fishermen, who are defined as those under the age of 40 at the time of submitting an application.

Making a claim

When an approved applicant wishes to claim their grant support, they are required to submit a 'claim for payment' form to the Department along with the original receipted invoices and a summary description.

The following provides examples of purchases or activities that **grants could be used towards**:

- Gear to explore other fishing opportunities e.g. nets, jiggers, pots and creels.
- Purchase diving/fishing equipment to diversify business opportunities.
- Project support costs for science, research or monitoring.
- Project support for new aquaculture trials.
- Training visits to and from the Island.
- Travel to review aquaculture production.
- Fitting of guards on machinery.
- Life-saving aids and training in their use.
- Navigational chart and electronic training.
- Training for VHS radio certificate.
- RNLI approved equipment.
- Safety manuals.

For some grants, conditions will apply. For details see Appendix 1 the Fisheries Grants Guidelines for Applicants at www.gov.im/agandfishgrantsheme or for paper copies phone DEFA on 685857.

Making an application

The *Agriculture and Fisheries Grants Scheme Application Form* and the *Fisheries Grants Guidelines for Applicants* are available online at www.gov.im/agandfishgrantscheme or paper copies are available from DEFA's offices in St John's.

Appendix 1 of the *Fisheries Grants Guidelines for Applicants* gives more detail about the types of grants available and any conditions.

The percentage rate of available grant support also varies. Below is a breakdown of the available proportion under each category:

Grant Towards	% rate of available grant
Safety at sea	40
New skills/ training	30
Import substitution	40
Sustainable fishing	40
Diversifying from current fishing activity	80

To make a grant application under the scheme, the total expenditure must be at least £1,000, or if making an application for safety equipment the spend must be at least £200.

If you would like advice about making an application, please contact the Department.