National Barrier Mitigation Programme

Barrier Mitigation Fund

Scheme Guidance

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1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this Document

The purpose of this document is to outline the scheme guidance regarding the administration and operation of a Barrier Mitigation Fund for disbursement of funding to IFI and/or 3rd parties and to outline the constituents of the Barrier Mitigation grant scheme to be administered by IFI, Barrier Mitigation Division (BMD).

1.2 Inland Fisheries Ireland

Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) was established on 1st July 2010 by the Inland Fisheries Act 2010. Reporting to the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC), IFI is the state agency whose principal function is to protect, manage and conserve Ireland's fisheries and sea angling resources.

Under the Inland Fisheries Act 2010, Section 7(2) the general functions of IFI are to:

- Promote, support, facilitate and advise the Minister on the conservation, protection, management, marketing, development and improvement of Ireland's inland fisheries, including its sea angling resources.
- Develop and advise the Minister on policy and national strategies relating to inland fisheries and sea angling.
- Ensure implementation and delivery of policy and strategies developed under (b) as agreed with the Minister.

1.3 Aims of the Funding Scheme

In accordance with Section 7(3)(j) of the Inland Fisheries Act 2010, Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) facilitates the delivery of schemes, grants, and other financial facilities that require the disbursement of European Union and other funds, as authorised by the Minister with the consent of the Minister for Finance. To ensure accountability and transparency all grants (grant schemes) administered by IFI (funding going to IFI and/or other entities) are operated in line with Circular 13/2014 – Management of and Accountability for Grants for Exchequer Funds and taking cognisance and guidance from Chapter 5 – Management of Government Grants – C&AG.

1.4 Scheme Guidance Statement

IFI is positively disposed to the administration of grant schemes subject to alignment with IFI's remit and adequate resources to facilitate, operate and monitor the scheme.

IFI may operate grant schemes itself or in conjunction with other bodies/agencies where the scheme would deliver on IFI's remit.

Grant schemes administered by IFI will align to Circular 13/2014 – Management of and Accountability for Grants for Exchequer Funds.

1.5 Context of Funding

The Water Action Plan 2024 is Ireland's third River Basin Management Plan and it outlines the measures the Government and other sectors are taking to improve water quality in Ireland's groundwater, rivers, lakes, estuarine and coastal waters, and provide sustainable management of our water resources. Actions focused on improving water quality are set out in the plan. The establishment of this fund and the associated projects relate to the action 'Hymo 3: IFI will establish a restoration programme to mitigate the negative impact of past construction in or near rivers'. By establishing a funding and prioritisation mechanism IFI will be able to manage and focus efforts on restoring rivers thus improving the condition and status of degraded waterbodies.

The EU 2030 Biodiversity Strategy calls for greater efforts to restore freshwater ecosystems and the natural function of rivers. Besides calling for better implementation of existing legislation on freshwater, the Biodiversity Strategy sets the target to make at least 25,000 km of rivers free-flowing again by 2030, by removing primarily obsolete barriers and restoring floodplains and wetlands. This requirement has been translated into the Irish context via National Parks and Wildlife Services (NPWS), Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2030. Ireland's target of restored rivers is 300km, this is detailed in Action 2D21; extract is detailed below in Table 1 Extract from Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2030.

Target	Action number	Action	Partner(s)	Indicator
By 2030, 300km of rivers are restored to a free-flowing state	2D21	DHLGH, Inland Fisheries Ireland, OPW and other relevant bodies will explore the restoration of 300 km of rivers to a free flowing state	DHLGH, IFI, OPW and other relevant bodies	Km of rivers restored to a free-flowing state

Table 1 Extract from Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2030

The aim of the National Barrier Mitigation Programme (NBMP) is to improve river hydromorphology and connectivity in Irish catchments by strategically targeting barriers to fish passage and structures degrading river form, flow and function. This will be done through a targeted programme of measures and by progressing, funding and promoting barrier removal and mitigation programmes of opportunity. The work will also address requirements to improve waterbodies status under the Water Framework Directive (WFD) in terms of alleviating longitudinal fragmentation pressures on river channels. It will address conservation objectives in Special Areas of Conservation and for Habitats Directive Annex II and V listed fish species. Any mitigation work will be a benefit to the critically endangered European eel under Eel Regulation (1100/2007).

1.6 Scheme Objectives

The primary objective of the NBMP is to enhance longitudinal river connectivity and restore natural water flow by prioritising the removal or mitigation of man-made barriers to fish passage. The programme aims to support national biodiversity targets by financially incentivising (through grant funding) projects that improve hydromorphology and reduce fragmentation of aquatic habitats. These efforts align with Ireland's obligations under the EU

Biodiversity Strategy 2030 and the WFD. It is also established to ensure that the targets set out under Ireland's 'Biodiversity Action Plan 2024' and 'Water Action Plan 2024' can be achieved.

1.7 Management and Funding

The Barrier Mitigation Division is a new division setup within IFI with responsibility for the management and administration of the National Barrier Mitigation Programme. Funding for the programme has been secured from the Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage as part of the Water Quality Budget. The Barrier Mitigation Fund Scheme will be administered by IFI.

The target number of barriers to be mitigated to the end of 2027 is outlined below in Table 2 Barrier Mitigation Targets. For the purposes of this programme barriers are divided into three categories based on size. The measurement used to categorise the barrier is the width of the river channel at a point 100 metres upstream of the back of the structure.

Life of Fund	Small <10m	Medium 10-20m	Large >20m
Mitigation Target	**165**	**60**	**32**

Table 2 Barrier Mitigation Targets

2 Overview of Fund

2.1 Fund Management System (FMS)

IFI operates a Fund Management System (FMS) called SMARTSIMPLE. The process flow of how the scheme will operate through SMARTSIMPLE is shown below at Appendix A. The FMS has evolved since 2016 to reflect the necessary financial, environmental and general governance requirements of the Irish State. The FMS follows IFI's procurement thresholds and statutory requirements in terms of consents. The FMS allows for applications, uploads and communications with mapping, reporting and data storage facilities.

2.2 Fund Programme

It is anticipated that the Barrier Mitigation Fund will run until 2027. This is the first call off within the fund. The programme for this call is included in Appendix B.

2.3 Key Stakeholders

The key stakeholders involved in this grant procedure, and their respective roles and responsibilities are outlined in Table 3 Key Stakeholders & Responsibilities. It should be noted that the roles and responsibilities outlined below solely relate to those that pertain to the IFI Barrier Mitigation Grant Scheme and do not reflect the broader responsibilities of those personnel relating to the oversight/ management of public projects. Project Approval thresholds set out below are in compliance with IFI internal procurement protocol and are in alignment with the requirements of the Department of Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform Infrastructure Guidelines 2024 outlined in Appendix C.

The decision-making flow process for the fund evaluation and approvals is detailed in Figure 1 Fund Evaluation Decision Matrix.

2.4 Programme Branding and Funding Requirements

Applicants who receive funding, either wholly or partly, from the IFI Barrier Mitigation Fund shall acknowledge the source of funding in any media release, publications or social media posts.

The funding for the NBMP is provided by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage's Water Quality budget, in conjunction with the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications.

Key Stakeholders	Membership Composition	Role	Responsibilities	Approvals
National Barrier Mitigation Programme (NBMP)	• IFI Barrier Mitigation Division	• Sponsoring Agency Project Team	• Preparing Project Documentation • Propose projects and create business case • Manage and Deliver Project with the assistance of third party consultants and/or Contractors • Appoint Project Co-ordinators	Approval of claims and business cases for projects up to €100,000
External Oversight Group	• IFI Head of BMD • IFI Engineer Grade 1 • Senior External Representative	• To ensure effective governance, accountability, and strategic alignment.	• Ensure compliance with Infrastructure guidelines and Capital Works Management Framework. • Ensure project proposals align with strategic aim and delivers value for money	
Steering Group	• IFI CEO • IFI Executive Leadership Team (1 member) • IFI Head of Barrier Mitigation Division • Representative from DHLGH/DECC	• Decision Maker for Projects up to approval limit	• Review of Project Proposals and Business Cases • Propose projects and create business case	Approval of claims and business cases for projects up to €200,000
IFI Board	• IFI CEO • Other Appointed Members	• Decision Maker for Projects in excess of executives approval limits	• Sponsoring Agency	Approval of larger Capital Works projects in excess of €200,000
Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage	• DHLGH Accounting Officer	• Approving Authority for all funding managed by the sponsoring agency.	• Sanctioning Authority • Approval of allocation of funding	Approval of NBMP funding.
Department of Environment, Climate and Communications	• DECC Accounting Officer	• Approving Authority for all funding managed by the sponsoring agency.	• Sanctioning Authority.	Oversight of IFI

Key Stakeholders	Membership Composition	Role	Responsibilities	Approvals
State Agency/State-owned Companies/Local Authority/IFI	• Senior Representative/ Engineer	• Propose and apply for project funding through NBMP funding process	• Prepare EOI and application forms for funding in association with IFI Project lead	N/A
Other Applicant	• Land/Structure Owner or Interest Group	• Propose and submit expression of interest.	• Prepare EOI • If successful IFI will complete the application and lead the project through project stages	N/A

Table 3 Key Stakeholders & Responsibilities

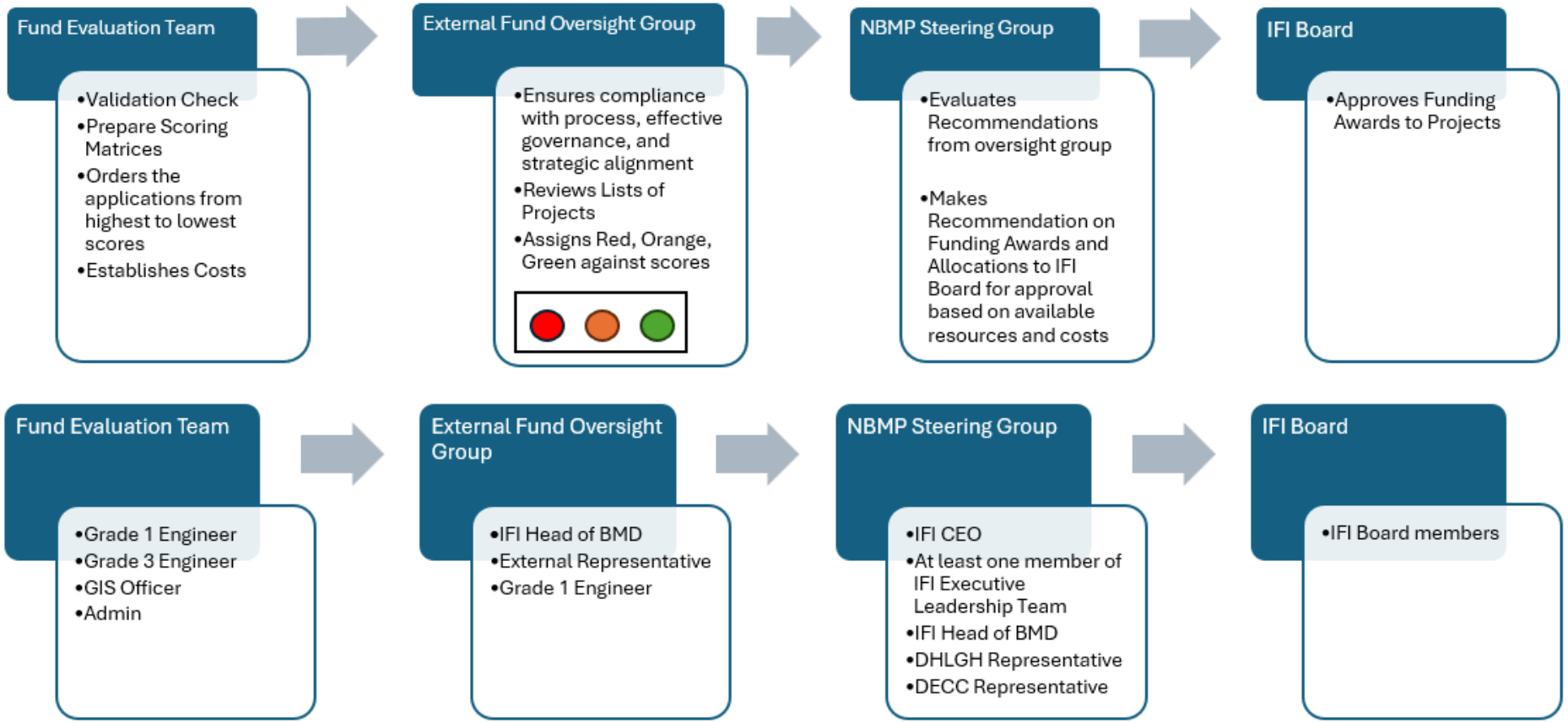


Figure 1 Fund Evaluation Decision Matrix

2.5 Funding Categories

Funding for projects will be divided into two Categories:

- Category 1: Planning Initial (to Include Statutory Processes)
- Category 2: Post Statutory Process and Implementation.

The Phases within each category align to the Public Spending Code and Capital Works Management Framework (CWMF) Project Management Guidance Notes GN 1.1.

Details of the Project Stages and Phases are detailed in Appendix A.

2.5.1 Category 1: Planning Initial (to include Statutory Process)

Category 1 covers the following phases of works:

- Phase 1: Feasibility Study & Option Selection
- Phase 2: Preliminary Design
- Phase 3: Statutory Process

Includes submission of Preliminary Business Case (Approval Gate 1), output from Phase 2.

2.5.2 Category 2: Post Statutory Process and Implementation.

Category 2 covers the following phases of works:

- Phase 4: Detailed Design
- Phase 5: Tender
- Phase 6: Construction
- Phase 7: Handover
- Phase 8: Review

Includes submission of Updated Business Case (Approval Gate 2), output from Phase 4 and Final Business Case (Approval Gate 3), output from Phase 5.

2.6 Total Funding Available

It is anticipated that up to €100,000,000 (inclusive of VAT) will be made available under the National Barrier Mitigation Programme until to the end of 2027 to deliver barrier mitigation projects. Funding will be distributed over a series of funding calls, with two calls anticipated per year, subject to the discretion of the Barrier Mitigation Programme Team.

Funding of up to 100% of Eligible Activity / Expenditure costs for projects that align with the scheme objectives, will be considered as part of the scheme. Details of Eligible Activity / Expenditure is set out in Section 2.7.3 Eligible Costs.

Upon completion of the assessment of applications and determination of funding per project, monies will be ring-fenced for the successful projects subject to satisfactory compliance with the terms and conditions of the fund. Funding will be allocated in order of project ranking, from highest scoring downwards, until all projects that meet the assessment thresholds have been awarded. The unsuccessful Applicants will be eligible to apply for future funding calls.

2.7 Eligibility

2.7.1 Funding Eligibility

To be eligible for grant funding the application must be lead by a State Agency, State-owned Company or Local Authority.

In order to facilitate applications from other interest groups or individuals who may wish to initiate a project, discussions can be held with a NBMP team member via email barriers@fisheriesireland.ie prior to submitting an Expression of Interest (EOI). If the EOI is successful, the project will be taken forward to the next stage of the application process with IFI as the lead agency.

This stage may be managed by a dedicated IFI/NBMP representative. It may be the case that the application requests management by the NBMP team, i.e. funding for Capital Works and Project Management.

Applicants must ensure that no physical works associated with the proposed barrier removal or mitigation project have commenced prior to applying for the grant. If Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) determines that the project has already commenced, there will be no scope for retrospective claims for funding relating to costs previously incurred prior to launch of this funding call on 14/05/25. Applications for funding must relate only to proposed barrier mitigation works, and full approval and a funding agreement must be in place before any works are undertaken.

2.7.2 Eligible Barriers

The fund aims to improve connectivity within fragmented river systems. Applicants should endeavour to ensure the necessary consents or access agreements are in place to facilitate assessment and/or construction works. Suitable projects that will be considered for mitigation or removal are outlined below:

- Any permanent or temporary artificial/manmade structure that poses an obstacle to the passage of diadromous fish such as Atlantic salmon, sea trout, lamprey, and European eel.

- Examples of such structures include bridges, culverts, dams, fords, sluices, weirs, or any other instream barriers that hinder fish migration.

- The funding operators are especially interested in structures that are redundant. i.e. abandoned or no longer serve their original intended purpose.

2.7.3 Eligible Costs

For these purposes, “Eligible Costs” means the cost of the design and scheme development, construction/demolition, installation of mitigation measures, improvement or alteration of a barrier, namely:

Costs associated with a category one application:

- Consultancy and professional fees for feasibility studies and option selection;

- Costs associated with preliminary environmental assessments, investigations and surveys;
- Engineering assessments and hydrological studies related to barrier mitigation;
- The local authority charges incurred in relation to obtaining any necessary development consent e.g.,
    - Local Authority fees for an application for the development consent
- Stakeholder engagement and public consultation costs;
- Costs related to the preparation and submission of the Preliminary Business Case (Approval Gate 1);
- Any necessary technical investigations or assessments required for option selection and statutory approval.

Costs associated with a category two application include those outlined below:

- The costs associated with the detailed design development, preparation of tender documents and evaluation of a tender process for delivery of the works.
- The costs of construction/installation of, or upgrades to, structural and hydraulic components required for mitigation or removal of the barrier;
- The costs of enhancement measures associated with barrier mitigation;
- The cost associated with providing site access to the works area and development of a site compound;
- Charges incurred in relation to development consent e.g.,
    - Local Authority Development Contributions
- Costs of installation of mitigation structures or solutions.

Eligible costs are only those to the extent outlined above and not including any excluded costs. Excluded costs are:

- any costs incurred on or before the date of entry of the Grant Letter;
- any costs incurred in connection with making an Application to the fund;
- any cost incurred in connection with the operation or maintenance of a barrier mitigation;
- any professional fees incurred in connection with an Application, the Funding Process or a Grant Letter or any matter contemplated by any of them;
- any cost incurred in connection with the provision of credit;
- any other costs not specifically identified as an Eligible Cost;
- any other costs associated with the hiring of staff, salaries, wages, pensions, or related employment expenses; and
- any costs recouped/claimed from any other state sector sources such as local authorities under other schemes or programmes.

Each Application must specify certain cost information in relation to the Eligible Costs of the relevant barrier mitigation project, which is to be submitted in the 'Application Budget' section of the SMARTSIMPLE application process. A proforma budget cost sheet is available which must be completed in full. This includes:

- The Total Eligible Costs must be submitted by reference to the cost categories set out in the Application Budget - Cost Sheet. A total cost for each category is to be provided.
- The Requested Eligible Costs, being the amount of funding requested as being needed for the barrier mitigation project, must also be submitted by reference to the cost categories set out in the Cost Sheet. A total value for each of the cost categories is to be provided.(e.g. 50% match funding by agency/LA)

Each application's total figure for the Requested Eligible Costs (i.e., the sum of each of the cost categories) is the cost considered in the evaluation under section 5.2.1 Benchmarked Reference Costs

Eligible Costs funded under the Scheme will be funded up to a total of 100% of Total Eligible Costs, as submitted in the application budget cost sheet, though noting all Eligible Costs must be vouched.

Eligible Costs to be funded under this funding call are inclusive of VAT. For evaluation purposes costs will be evaluated against benchmarked values on a VAT exclusive basis.

Where VAT can be reclaimed by a grantee IFI will only pay the grant exclusive of VAT.

2.7.4 Other Criteria

Projects funded under the NBMP must address specific priority criteria, including ecological merit, socioeconomic value, and technical feasibility. Projects must:

- Demonstrate an increase in upstream and downstream channel connectivity;
- Result in the removal or significant mitigation of a barrier classified as an obstruction to fish passage under the National Barrier Programme assessment (IBAST, SNIFFER etc);
- Comply with, all regulatory requirements i.e. planning, environmental, Health and Safety and including any legislation introduced during the life of the fund.

The NBMP aims to prioritise barriers within catchments in line with objectives set out in section 1.6 Scheme Objectives. Fund eligibility requirements, including the detailed scoring framework and prioritisation matrix, are outlined in Section 4 EOI Assessment Criteria.

Note:

- Applications will be accepted through the online form via SMARTSIMPLE https://ifi.smartsimple.ie/ No other forms of application will be considered.

- Entities defined as ‘other Applicants’ as set out in Table 3 Key Stakeholders & Responsibilities are advised to discuss their project with a NBMP team member or email barriers@fisheriesireland.ie prior to submitting an EOI.
- IFI is subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 1997 and therefore has to consider any request made to it under that Act. Applicants who have applications that would be subject to any of the statutory exclusions under the Act will have to indicate this at the beginning of the application process, specifying under which exemption the content should be excluded. IFI will comply fully with the Data Protection (Amendment) Act 2003 and the EU Data Protection Directive 95/46/EC.

3 Funding Scheme Process

3.1 Fund Application Timelines

The indicative timelines for the funding application process are outlined below in Table 4 Indicative Funding Application Timelines (Gantt chart included in Appendix B). These timelines may vary depending on the volume of applications received. The stages of the application process are set out in detail in the following sections. The EOI process and criteria are set out in section 4 EOI Assessment Criteria. The details for the Application process and its evaluation which follows a successful EOI submission is set out in section 5 Application Process and Criteria for Award.

Task Name	Duration (working days)	Start	Finish
Fund Launch	3 days	Wed 14/05/25	Fri 16/05/25
Opening call EOI	13 days	Wed 14/05/25	Mon 02/06/25
Clarifications for EOI Ends	0 days	Fri 23/05/25	Fri 23/05/25
Screening/Additional Info	5 days	Mon 02/06/25	Fri 06/06/25
Evaluation of EOI	10 days	Mon 09/06/25	Fri 20/06/25
EOI Successful & Unsuccessful letters issued	5 days	Mon 23/06/25	Fri 27/06/25
Open for Application	13 days	Mon 30/06/25	Wed 16/07/25
Clarifications for Application Ends	0 days	Mon 14/07/25	Mon 14/07/25
Screening/Additional Info	3 days	Thu 17/07/25	Mon 21/07/25
Application Review	10 days	Tue 22/07/25	Mon 04/08/25
External Review	10 days	Tue 05/08/25	Mon 18/08/25
Steering group approval	8 days	Tue 19/08/25	Thu 28/08/25
IFI Board sign off	9 days	Fri 05/09/25	Wed 17/09/25
IFI Board meeting 17/09/25	0 days	Wed 17/09/25	Wed 17/09/25
Letters of offer and Funding Agreement	5 days	Thu 18/09/25	Wed 24/09/25

Table 4 Indicative Funding Application Timelines

3.2 Step by Step Guide

The following section details the steps that will take the Applicant through the different stages of the grant process, this is summarised below in Figure 2 Flowchart of Application Process. All relevant individuals within the Applicants' organisation, including directors/committee members should carefully read and understand these guidelines, the terms and conditions and the application form.

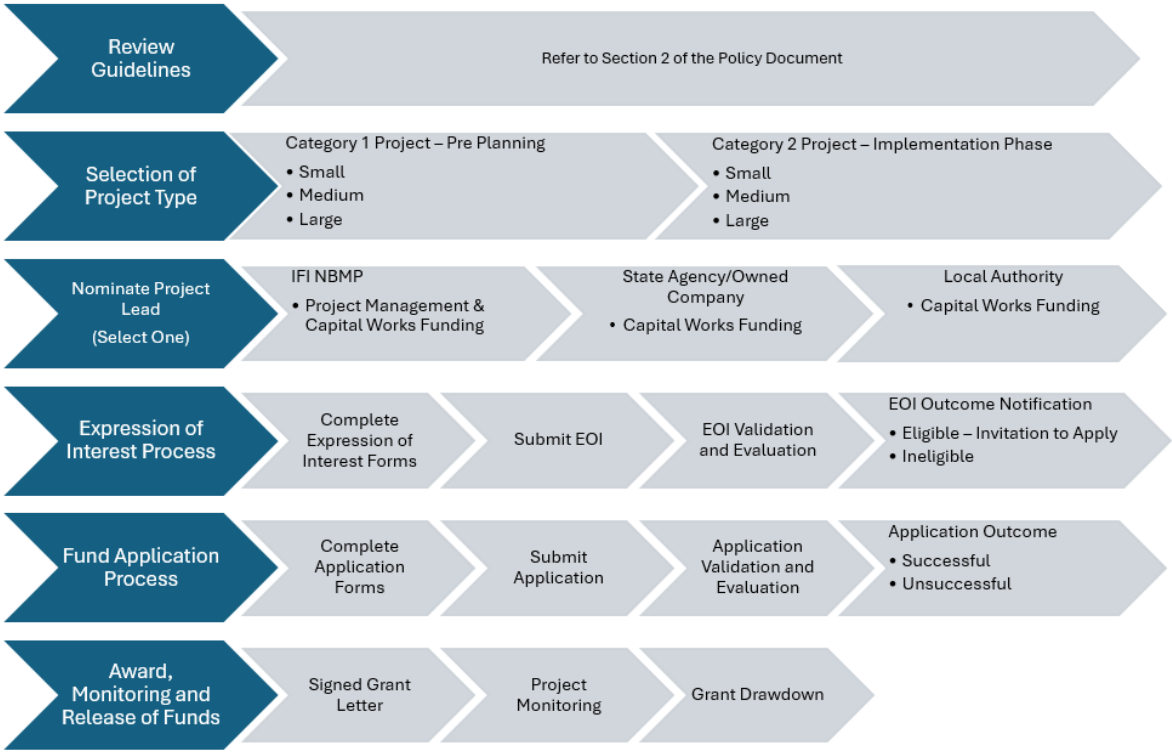


Figure 2 Flowchart of Application Process

Step 1: Guidelines

Applicants should carefully review these guidelines, along with all other associated documents related to the Barrier Mitigation Fund, to ensure that the project for which funding is sought aligns with the fund objectives and that all necessary information for the application is readily available.

Applications can be submitted by IFI, Local Authorities, state and semi-state bodies and other applicants. Where an application is sought from 'other applicants' contact should be made directly to the National Barrier Mitigation Team, following a successful EOI via the email Barriers@fisheriesireland.ie.

Figure 3 Flowchart Indicating Key Deliverables below outlines the process flow for the fund application and assessment process.

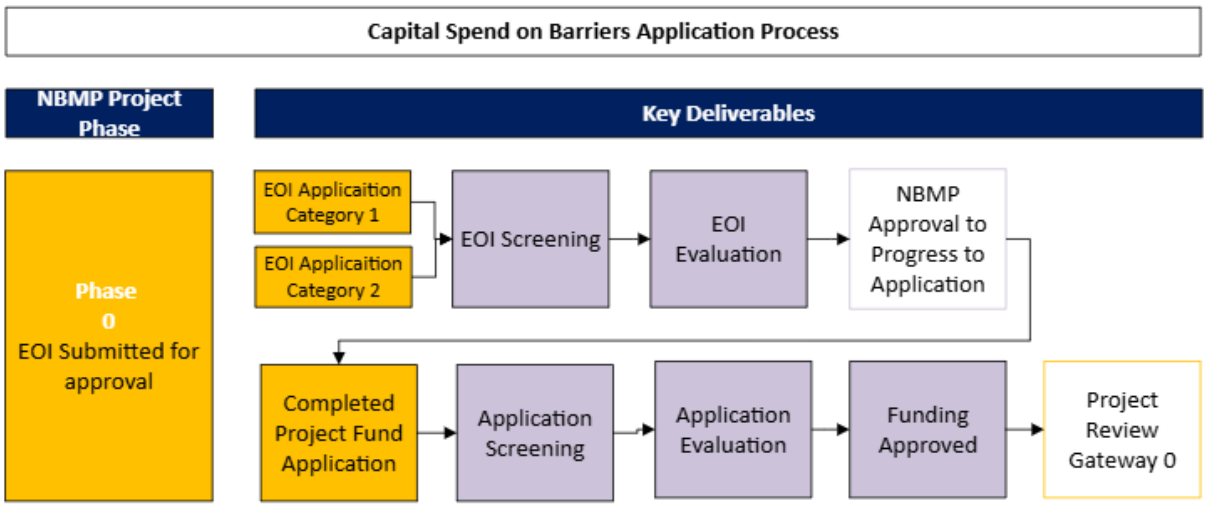


Figure 3 Flowchart Indicating Key Deliverables

Step 2: Select Funding Project Type
Funding is available for two categories of projects:

- Category 1 Project: Planning Initial.
- Category 2 Project: Planning Developed and Implementation.

For further details on each category, refer to Section 2.5 Funding Categories. Applicants must specify which category the funding is being sought under.

Step 3: Expressions of Interest (EOI)
The dates for the opening and closing of the EOI process are detailed in Table 4 Indicative Funding Application Timelines. Applications must be completed online through the Inland Fisheries Ireland funding web portal SMARTSIMPLE. https://ifi.smartsimple.ie/.

Registration through the portal is required for all fund applications. All project correspondence will then be administered via the SMARTSIMPLE application.

All questions contained in the application form must be answered on the web portal and Applicants should be familiar with all documents prior to preparing and completing the EOI. All information required should be available prior to commencing the online EOI application.

Specific geospatial and environmental information requested in the EOI application process can be found on the dedicated IFI open portal GIS webapp. https://opendata-ifigeo.hub.arcgis.com/

Step 4: Acknowledgement
Once an EOI has been successfully submitted, Applicants will receive an email confirming receipt of submission from the online application system. If an email confirming receipt of the submission is not received, the Applicant must review the submission to check and ensure it has been submitted correctly through the portal.

Step 5: Validation of Submissions
A check for validity of submissions will be undertaken prior to full evaluation of EOI. Those failing validation will be excluded from further evaluation.

Step 6: Evaluation of EOIs
The Fund Evaluation Team (FET) will evaluate the EOI against the criteria as detailed in Section 4.2 How EOIs will be Assessed

Step 7: Successful and Unsuccessful EOI submissions
Applicants will be invited in writing to progress to the next stage e.g. submission of an application for funding if their project is successful though the EOI process.

Ineligible Applicants will be notified in writing, and feedback can be provided upon request. Unsuccessful EOIs will not be excluded from future funding calls.

Step 8: Prepare and Submit Funding Application
Eligible EOI Applicants will be invited to complete a funding application via SMARTSIMPLE. Applicants can apply under the following categories, refer to Section 2.5:

- **Category One funding**: This will involve the recruitment of specialist consultants to develop the project for initial design and planning application including feasibility studies and initial project scoping.
- **Category Two funding:** Funding secured under category two is typically for projects that have already secured relevant consents and legislative compliance (e.g. planning permission, Section 50, or other consents as necessary or where a development is determined to be 'exempted development' as set out under Part 2 and Schedule 2 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2024 as amended). At this stage projects may require further detailed design to develop the plan and preparation for the tender process. Funding can be secured for specialist consultants and costs associated with construction works.

Step 9: Funding Application Review and Evaluation
Funding Applications will be initially screened centrally by the appointed FET to ensure the application has all required elements. Following any amendments the application will be evaluated to determine the funding value and development requirements.

Not all submissions that get through the EOI process will be guaranteed funding. The IFI NBMP team will have the final say in the assessment of any application. For example, a barrier may score highly but due to access/site ownership issues may not be a viable option. The decision on the non-inclusion of an application will be based on meeting scheme objectives, fund targets, likely success of project, resources, etc.

Step 10: Funding Approval
Applicants will be notified in writing with a conditional letter of offer and the funding agreement terms and conditions, this will set out the funding being made available for their scheme along with agreed development requirements.

The funding agreement will need to be signed by the Applicant/authorised person in an organisation or group and submitted to IFI prior to progressing with the project. Approval to proceed with the project and/or commence works will be issued by IFI to Applicants in writing following receipt of a signed agreement and any associated documentation.

Step 11: Monitoring and Progress

IFI will monitor progress and spend on the project throughout its lifecycle and may perform inspections at any stage, to ensure design, processes and works are undertaken to the satisfaction of Inland Fisheries Ireland and within the agreed timeframes and governance procedures.

Applicants shall, as soon as reasonably practical, notify the IFI fund team if for any reason there are delays or if changes to the project scope are anticipated. A decision will then be made on the action to be taken based on the information supplied. Requests for extension of time for the delivery of the project or additional funding required will be evaluated in line with good governance processes.

Step 12: Completion

The project must be completed within the agreed timeframe specified in the funding award confirmation and as set out in the project implementation plan as part of the application documentation (refer to sections 5.2.3 and 5.4.3 for details). All required documentation, consents, completion certificates, vouched records of spending, etc. as outlined in the funding agreement, must be submitted for approval before fund payments can be released. If the project is not likely to be completed within the timeframe the Applicant must immediately inform the IFI NBMP team with a reasoning for same. If it is found that lack of progress is due to the Applicant, funding may be withdrawn.

If stage payments are required, they must be detailed in the funding agreement. Additionally, all necessary documentation must be submitted prior to the release of each stage payment.

Step 13: Public Acknowledgement of IFI

Applicants will be required to acknowledge Inland Fisheries Ireland's or other funding support of the project; guidelines on how to do this will be enclosed with the funding agreement of offer.

4 EOI Assessment Criteria

4.1 General

Applications will be considered in light of how well they contribute to Inland Fisheries Ireland's protection and conservation role, the objectives of the National Barrier Mitigation Programme, and the potential for any project to contribute to addressing a specific need highlighted through this Fund evaluation criteria developed as part of the National Barrier Mitigation Programme.

NBMP Objectives:

- Improve river connectivity by removing barriers to fish passage.
- Where barrier removal is not possible, creation of a barrier mitigation or an alternative means of passage for fish.
- Improving habitat quantity and quality though re-establishing a less fragmented river system with more natural hydromorphological features

Inland Fisheries Ireland's commitment in the implementation of the National Barrier Mitigation Programme to:

- Prioritise projects which have the greatest potential to connect large areas of high value habitat which can be achieved in an efficient manner.
- Comply with all legislative requirements including those of the Water Framework Directive and Habitats Directive
- Use a partnership approach with other statutory and non-statutory bodies, agencies and organisations
- Ensure developments are sustainable and resilient.

4.2 How EOIs will be Assessed

To date over 6,500 barriers have been identified nationally. Click here for current dataset. Due to the large number of barriers that need to be addressed a prioritisation matrix is applied that will lead to a targeting of the most ecologically beneficial and efficient barriers to achieve the target number as identified in Table 2 Barrier Mitigation Targets.

Applications will likely be for single barriers for the most part. However, situations may arise where multiple barriers exist in a short stretch of river. In this case, it could be that they are grouped in terms of environmental surveys, assessments, etc. and the funding can by applied for in that way. It may be that once the initial stages are completed that the planning application or other consent required, will need to be separated for each barrier. This should be highlighted in the application so that a judgement can be taken on how it proceeds through the application process.

The information required to be completed via SMARTSIMPLE as part of the EOI stage is detailed in Table 5 and Table 6 below. This information will be used to assess the EOI. Scoring criteria is detailed in Section 4.3 Preliminary Ecological Criterion for Scoring of Barriers and Section 4.4 Implementation Criterion for Scoring of Barriers.

Applications will be ranked in accordance with the criteria and eligible projects will be invited to submit a full funding application request, further details on this process are set out in Section 5 Application Process and Criteria for Award. The scoring of projects involves scoring based

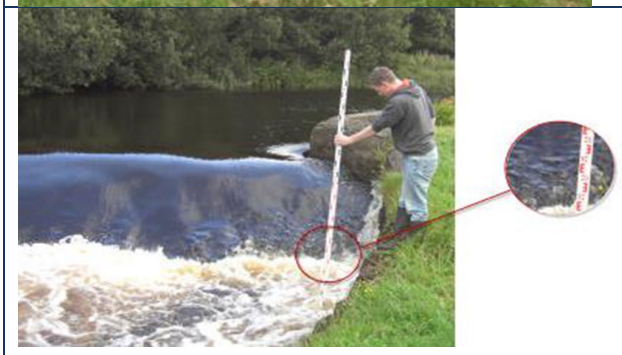
on preliminary ecological and implementation criteria. The average score across the preliminary ecological and implementation criteria are summed to determine the overall prioritisation score to enable the ranking of each barrier. The scoring of these projects will be conducted as part of the EOI assessment stage.

INFORMATION TO BE SUBMITTED BY ALL APPLICANTS	
Applicant Details	
Applicant Organisation name	
Applicant Contact name	
Applicant job title	
Email	
Phone	
Project Overview	
Project Name/Location	
Barrier Size	
Name of tributary or channel	
Townland	
County	
GPS co-ordinates of barrier (Google Maps Co-Ordinate e.g. 53.217411, -8.923954)	
What is the main issue that the structure presents to fish passage	
Upload photos of area to include drone/ ariel photographs if available	
Upload site location map (e.g. extract from Google Maps including road network)	
What is the primary purpose of your application? Max 250 words	

Table 5 Information Required for EOI on Smart Simple by all Applicants

Notes:

It is important in terms of evaluation for the NBMP to be able to contextualise the barrier. In that regard, below are good examples of photos to be uploaded.



INFORMATION TO BE SUBMITTED IF YOU ARE PART OF AN ORGANISATION	
Local Authority, State Agency, State Owned company	
HQ Address	
Partner Agencies and Stakeholders	
Organisation name 1	
Organisation name 2	
Detailed Project Information (if known)	
Background information to project to include any previous planning permission applications and previous objections	
Upload site location map. Map to include proposed point of access for site works. • Ownership of adjacent folios if known. • Proposed location of site compound for works and laydown area.	
Main River catchment	
WFD Waterbody Code	
Distance of barrier to the sea (km)	
Distance from barrier to the next barrier upstream (km)	
Width of channel upstream of barrier (m)	
Stage Funding Required Select Option Below	
Category 1: Planning Initial.	
Category 2: Planning Developed and Implementation.	

Table 6 Information Required for EOI on Smart Simple by if you are part of an organisation

Notes: it is considered that the information requested above should be accessible by most. If the information is unknown, then that can be input into the system whereupon one of the NBMP team may contact you for further information.

4.3 Preliminary Ecological Criterion for Scoring of Barriers

To set priorities and reduce inefficiencies a method of assessing and prioritising migration actions for fish passage was developed by the national Barriers Programme (NBP) utilising GIS processing and the existing Irish national barrier database. This method prioritises barriers to fish migration on a sub-catchment and catchment level. Identifying the in-stream structures where intervention will deliver the greatest benefits.

4.3.1 Scoring of the Six Preliminary Ecological Criterion

The Preliminary Ecological Criteria are listed below. Further information on how these are evaluated is outlined in Section 4.3.2.

1) Distance from sea
2) Barrier permeability
3) Importance to local fisheries
4) Water Quality
5) Hydromorphology Quality;
6) Conservation Designation;
7) Waterbodies under significant Hydromorphological pressure

Criterion one, four and five are scored using 5 levels. Aligning with the WFD compliant outputs of the EPA Q-Values and MQI Scores:

Status	Score
Bad	0.1
Poor	0.3
Moderate	0.4
Good	0.7
High	0.9

Table 7 Ecological Scoring Criterion 1, 4 & 5

Criterion two, scored using 4 levels based on the fish passability outputs from the I-BAST and SNIFFER fish passability assessments:

Status	Score
No Barrier	0.0
Low Impact Barrier (Moderate to Low Passability)	0.3
High Impact Barrier	0.6
Impassable Barrier	0.9

Table 8 Ecological Scoring Criterion 2

Criterion three, scored on the basis of the TEGOS designation for the previous year.

Status	Score
No	0.2
Open for Harvest	0.5
Catch and Release Only	0.7
Closed for Angling	0.9

Table 9 Ecological Scoring Criterion 3

Criterion six and seven, scored using 2 levels based on whether or not the barrier is inside or outside a designated area:

Status	Score
Outside Designated Area	0.2
Inside Designated Area	0.8

Table 10 Ecological Scoring Criterion 6 and 7

4.3.2 Preliminary Ecological Criterion Details

Ecological Criterion One: Distance from sea
Barrier distance (channel length km) from the tidal limit. Selected to elevate mitigation works to benefit anadromous fish species. This criterion will add focus on the mitigation of structures close to the tidal limit, impacting on Habitats directive listed species. Calculation is, Distance to tidal limit from the barrier (km). EPA River Network.
Method of Measurement: Kilometres, data categorised using 5 Natural Breaks (Jenks).
Scoring: >190 km (Score 0.1), 112 - 190 km (Score 0.3), 62 - 112 km (Score 0.4), 25 - 62 km (Score 0.7), < 26 km (Score 0.9)

Table 11 Ecological Criterion One

Ecological Criterion Two: Barrier permeability
Fish passability scores assigned to the structure utilising either the I-BAST (IFI - Barrier Assessment and Screening Tool) or SNIFFER (WFD111 Phase 2a Course resolution rapid-assessment methodology to assess obstacles to fish migration 2010) Assessments. Indicating the passability of the structure at its time of assessment, scores for Adult salmon and Lamprey *sp.* are utilised here. These two species represent the range of physical capacity for transversing barriers. Salmon are excellent jumpers and powerful swimmers, Lamprey *sp.* are not. Scoring prioritises structures which significantly impact or prevent fish passage, while accounting for poor swimming and annex listed species. Calculation is: Average of the Salmon and Lamprey *sp.* passability score. Assigned by I-BAST or SNIFFER
Method of Measurement: Salmon and Lamprey *sp.* passability scores
Scoring: No Barrier: 0.0 (Score 0.1), Low impact: 0.1 - 0.3 (Score 0.3), High Impact: 0.31 - 0.6 (Score 0.6), Impassable: 0.61 - 0.9 (Score 0.9)

Table 12 Ecological Criterion Two

Ecological Criterion Three: Importance to local fisheries
Salmonid Managed catchments. There are 144 salmon designated catchments in which the Technical Expert Group on Salmon (TEGOS) provide scientific advice to support IFI with their management. TEGOS identified migration barriers as one of the principal threats to the sustainability of salmon stocks in these salmon designated rivers Calculation is: Is this structure within a TEGOS Catchment and what are the TEGOS management recommendations for 2025 (Closed for angling, Open for catch and release only, Open for harvest)

Method of Measurement: Inside/Outside TEGOS catchments and management recommendations for 2025
Scoring: No: (Score 0.2), Open for harvest: (Score 0.5), Open for catch and release only: (Score 0.7), Closed for angling: (Score 0.9)

Table 13 Ecological Criterion Three

Ecological Criterion Four: Water Quality
The EPA Biotic Index of Water Quality (Q-value) is used to define water quality. Primarily based on the relative proportions of pollution sensitive to pollution tolerant macroinvertebrates resident at a river site. The Q-Value system has been used to assess the quality of Irish rivers since the 1970's. It has a nine point scale ranging from Q5 indicating high quality to Q1 bad quality. There is a proven relationship between fish-community composition and Q-values. Non-salmonids dominate the fish community at 'poor' (Q2–3) quality sites, whereas salmonids dominate the community at high-quality (Q4–5 and Q5) sites and decrease to less than 20% at poor-quality sites. Therefore, where water quality is good/high (Q4-Q5) barrier mitigation works will represent best value for money as pollution intolerant species will maximise the use of newly available habitat. Calculation is: Average Q-Values within the Sub_Catchment the barrier is located in.
Method of Measurement: Average Q-Value in Sub_Catchment
Scoring: Bad: (Score 0.1), Poor: (Score 0.3), Moderate: (Score 0.4), Good: (Score 0.7), High: (Score 0.9)

Table 14 Ecological Criterion Four

Ecological Criterion Five: Hydromorphology Quality
The Water Framework Directive (WFD) term 'hydromorphology', requires the consideration of any modifications to flow regime, sediment transport, river morphology, and lateral channel mobility. In Ireland, the Morphological Quality Index (MQI) is the tool used to assess the hydromorphological pressures and condition in each river waterbody. The installation of weirs/culverts or other instream barriers effect sediment transport, aquatic vegetation, instream habitat formation and maintenance and also impact the movement of fish. Good hydromorphological conditions are required to create and maintain diverse aquatic habitat for invertebrates, fish and plants, which in turn support healthy aquatic ecosystems and good ecological status. Where high/good hydromorphological conditions are prevalent in a catchment, barrier mitigation works will represent best value for money as species present will maximise the use of newly accessible high quality habitat. Calculation is: Average MQI score within the Sub-Catchment the barrier is located in.
Method of Measurement: Average MQI Score -Value in Sub-Catchment
Scoring: Bad: (Score 0.1), Poor: (Score 0.3), Moderate: (Score 0.4), Good: (Score 0.7), High: (Score 0.9)

Table 15 Ecological Criterion Five

Ecological Criterion Six: Conservation Designation
Is the structure of interest located in a Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) or Freshwater Pearl Mussel Sensitive Area? SAC's are prime wildlife conservation areas, considered to be important on a European as well as Irish level. The EU Habitats Directive lists certain habitats (Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation) and species (Salmon, Lamprey, Shad, Pearl Mussel) that must be protected within SACs. The freshwater pearl mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*) is a bivalve mollusc found in clean, fast-flowing rivers, and occasionally in lakes. It is categorised as critically endangered in Ireland. Owing to its threatened status and dramatic decline, the freshwater pearl mussel is listed on Annex II and Annex V of the Habitats Directive. Barrier mitigation within an SAC/ Freshwater Pearl Mussel Sensitive Area are measures which will aid in conservation objectives for these catchments. Calculation: Is the structure inside a Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) for Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation and/or Salmon and/or Lamprey and/or Shad and/or in a Freshwater Pearl Mussel Sensitive Area (Yes/No)
Method of Measurement: Inside/Outside specified Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) or Freshwater Pearl Mussel Sensitive Area.
Scoring: No: (Score 0.2), Yes: (Score 0.8)

Table 16 Ecological Criterion Six

Ecological Criterion Seven: Waterbodies under significant Hydromorphological pressure
Waterbodies identified as being 'at risk' from Hydromorphological pressure as set out in the Water Action Plan 2024 figure 14. The subset of waterbodies identified as being at risk from dams, barriers, locks, weirs and culverts are addressed by this criterion. A barrier identified as being present on one of these waterbodies will score favourably as its removal or mitigation will help to address the hydromorphological pressure on the waterbody.
Method of Measurement: Inside/Outside a waterbody 'at risk' from hydromorphological pressure relating to dams, barriers, locks, weirs and culverts.
Scoring: Outside: (Score 0.2), Inside: (Score 0.8)

Table 17 Ecological Criterion Seven

4.4 Implementation Criterion for Scoring of Barriers

To maximise the efficient use of time and resources, a scoring matrix has been developed to evaluate and prioritise projects based on their ease of implementation and likelihood of success during the project development stage. Barriers are assessed objectively and measurably across a range of criteria.

4.4.1 Scoring Matrix for Implementation Criterion

Average score for top tercile: Favourable score:	0.8
Score for middle tercile: Average score	0.5
Score for bottom tercile: Unfavourable score	0.2

Table 18 Scoring Matrix for Implementation Criterion

4.4.2 Implementation Criterion Details

Implementation Criterion One: Number of owners on Barrier folio or title deeds.
A structure owned by a single party is more favourable than one with multiple owners, as it simplifies decision-making. A structure with multiple owners increases the likelihood of complexity and delays in agreeing on a remediation strategy. Therefore, single ownership scores most favourably.
Method of Measurement: Checked via Land direct and registry of deeds.
Scoring: ≥3 or unregistered (Score 0.2), 2 (Score 0.5), 1 (Score 0.8)

Table 19 Implementation Criterion One

Implementation Criterion Two: Is the structure privately or publicly owned?
If the structure is publicly owned,. i.e. by a state body or local authority, incentives and obligations placed on them via compliance with the WFD and Water Action Plan 2024, will mean project delivery and completion is more likely.
Method of Measurement: Ownership confirmed via Land direct and registry of deeds.
Scoring: Unknown (Score 0.2), Private/Mixed (Score 0.5), Public (Score 0.8)

Table 20 Implementation Criterion Two

Implementation Criterion Three: Distance to access road.
Clear and unrestricted access to the site is essential for the successful completion of the project. Where access is difficult, such as requiring passage through private lands or lacking a usable road, additional time and costs will be incurred, resulting in a lower score.
Method of Measurement: Distance from the structure to the nearest public road via the most direct route, as observed from satellite imagery. Measurement will be conducted using the ArcGIS web application.
Scoring: >400m (Score 0.2), 200-400m (Score 0.5), <200m (Score 0.8)

Table 21 Implementation Criterion Three

Implementation Criterion Four: Urban/ Rural environment
A rural setting will score higher than a busy urban setting due to ease of access to site and the likelihood that the site will require little or minimal traffic management.
Method of Measurement: Urban/Rural/ Zoned classification via GIS web layer 'Urban Areas National Statistical Boundaries 2022', cross referenced with county development plans.
Scoring: Fully urban (Score 0.2), Zoned (Score 0.5), Rural (Score 0.8)

Table 22 Implementation Criterion Four

Implementation Criterion Five: Distance to NIAH/SMR point
A mitigation site in close proximity to a national monument of area of architectural heritage would be more complex and challenging to bring forward to a deliverable project therefore sites that are within 50m of a point on the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) or National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) dataset will score less favourably than a site that contains no such historical heritage.
Method of Measurement: 'National Inventory of Architectural Heritage survey of Ireland' and 'National Monuments Service - Archaeological Survey of Ireland' datasets.
Scoring: <50m (Score 0.2), 50-200m (Score 0.5), >200m (Score 0.8)

Table 23 Implementation Criterion Five

Implementation Criterion Six: Made ground or possible source of mapped contamination.
Historical ground conditions will be examined via desktop study to determine if there is a likelihood of contaminated (C) or Made ground (MG) in the immediate area surrounding the proposed structure for mitigation or removal. A risk of contaminated ground in the project area would add significant delays and cost to the project if discovered upon commencement of works. If risk of contamination is discovered from desktop study it will score in the bottom tercile.
Method of Measurement: Taken from OSI historic maps, and EPA Teagasc soil maps
Scoring: MG and possible source of contamination mapped (Score 0.2), MG (Score 0.5), No MG or possible source of contamination (Score 0.8)

Table 24 Implementation Criterion Six

5 Application Process and Criteria for Award

Applications can be submitted only if the preceding EOI has been successful and an invitation to progress to an application has been received from the NBMP fund evaluation team.

The table below lists the minimum necessary documents and approvals that are required to make an application. This is not an exhaustive list and further information or documentation may be requested at the discretion of the funding process manager. Should the requested information not be available, it is incumbent on the applicant to demonstrate why applicable information is unavailable and supply supporting/supplementary information that can reasonably be accepted to satisfy request for information originally sought.

	Description
1	Project Budget Cost Sheet (template provided via *SmartSimple. Sample in Appendix E)*
2	Ecology Score Document (Template provided via *SmartSimple* -Score taken forward from EOI process. Sample included in Appendix F)
3	Implementation Plan. (Details set out in 5.2.3)

5.1 Assessment Criteria for Category 1 Applications

The evaluation of Cost Score (5.2.1 Benchmarked Reference Costs) and Ecology score (5.2.2 Ecology Score) will be based on the quantitative information provided in the 'Application Budget - Cost Sheet' via the *SMARTSIMPLE* platform and the preliminary ecological score derived from section 4.3 of this document respectively. Please note that the 'Budget -Cost Sheet' must be submitted in Excel format as per sample provided and not as a pdf.

5.2 Award Criteria for Category 1 Applications

Award Criteria		Description	Max marks available	Min marks required
1	Cost Score	Projects are evaluated based on the projected costs compared to benchmarked costs (Table 26), with the assessment varying according to the funding category and the scale of the barrier. Refer to Section 5.2.1 for details	40	
2	Ecology Score	Ecological score as set out in Section 4.3 of this document.	30	
3	Execution Score	Full execution score as set out in Section 5.2.3 below.	30	12 (40%)
		Total	**100**	**-**

Table 25 Award Criteria

5.2.1 Benchmarked Reference Costs

Project sizes are defined as follows: small (<10m), medium (10m–20m), and large (>20m), based on the width of the upstream open channel. This width is measured at a distance of 100m from the upstream extent of the structure along the river's thalweg. Benchmark costs are evaluated on a VAT exclusive basis.

Benchmark Reference costs	Category One
Small <10m	€15,000
Medium 10m – 20m	€85,000
Large >20m	€145,000

Table 26 Benchmark Cost Table

Formula for evaluation:

$$Cost\ Score\ (CS) = 40x\left(1 - \frac{P - B}{B}\right), \qquad If\ B < P < 2B$$

Where:

B = Benchmark cost
P = Project cost
If P ≤ B, CS = 40 and if P ≤ B, CS = 0

40 marks are awarded for a project that aligns with the predefined benchmarked cost, as outlined in Table 26Benchmark Cost Tableabove. The project will lose marks if the price exceeds the benchmarked amount, decreasing progressively until, at twice the benchmarked cost, the awarded marks reaches zero. Projects are evaluated based on size of barrier and category of funding sought.

5.2.2 Ecology Score

The ecological score will be taken forward from the initial EOI evaluation and will contribute to 30% of the score for the application.

The score is normalized to a value between 0 and 1, and then multiplied by 30 to account for 30% of the total marks allocated in the application decision matrix. The function used is set out below:

$$E = \left(\frac{Ep - Emin}{Emax - Emin}\right) \text{ x } 30$$

Where:

E = Ecological Score
Ep = Preliminary Ecological Score
Emin = Minimum Ecological Score Achievable
Emax = Maximum Ecological Score Achievable

(Note as per preliminary ecological score set out in Section 4.3 of this document the minimum ecological score available to a project is 0.11666667 and the max score is 0.88333333)

5.2.3 Project Execution Score

A key requirement used in the assessment of the application will be the 'Project Implementation Plan' which shall include, though not be limited to, the following:

Sub-criteria	Details required for Project Implementation Plan
Project Implementation Plan	The Applicant's proposed approach to deliver a barrier mitigation/removal project must be outlined in a 'project implementation plan' The 'project implementation plan' should include but not be limited to the following: • The approach to removal or mitigation of the barrier. • Details of any investigations, enquiries, site appraisal, research or engagement to understand the approach to achieving project objectives. • Detailed risk management plan identifying potential delays/cost implications along with an outline of mitigation strategies. • Approach to complying with applicable planning/ environmental obligations, technical requirements and standards. • Project Management and Resource planning. • A comprehensive and clear timeline that shows clearly defined milestones with dates leading to project completion within a specified timeframe. For the avoidance of doubt, the assessment will be carried out on the approach, not the particulars of the proposed barrier mitigation/removal project.

Table 27 Sub-Criteria and details required for Project Execution

Documentation shall be submitted via the *SMARTSIMPLE* platform and subject to the page limits not being exceeded, graphical (images, flowcharts etc., or similar) content may be included. Other documents or files shall not be embedded within the response and will not be evaluated. Links to external sources of information are not to be used and no external content shall be evaluated. (A typical "Project Implementation plan" attachment max three A4 pages and one A3 page specifically for the timeline)

The Implementation Plan will be assessed having regard to the following scoring bands in Table 28 Assessment matrix for Project Implementation, in accordance with the professional judgement of the evaluators.

It is not possible to achieve percentage marks between the bands (e.g. it is not possible to score 10% or 30% or 46% etc). The evaluators will use their professional judgment to allocate the appropriate band.

Table Assessment % of Marks	Meaning
Excellent 100	The response demonstrated an excellent approach to project implementation.
Very Good 90	The response demonstrated a very good approach to project implementation.
Good 80	The response demonstrated a good approach to project implementation.
Reasonably Good 70	The response demonstrated a reasonably good approach to project implementation.
Reasonable 60	The response demonstrated a reasonable approach to project implementation.
Acceptable 50	The response demonstrated an acceptable approach to project implementation.
Poor 40	The response demonstrated a poor approach to project implementation.
Very Poor 20	The response demonstrated a very poor approach to project implementation.
Extremely Poor or no submission 0	The response demonstrated an extremely poor approach to project implementation.

Table 28 Assessment matrix for Project Implementation

5.3 Assessment Criteria for Category 2 Applications

The evaluation of Cost Score (5.2.1 Benchmarked Reference Costs) and Ecology score (5.2.2 Ecology Score) will be based on the quantitative information provided in the 'Application Budget - Cost Sheet' via the *SMARTSIMPLE* platform and the preliminary ecological score derived from section 4.3 of this document respectively.

The Execution Score will be based on the information provided in Table 32 Assessment matrix for Project Implementation. The Mitigation Method is scored based on options set out in section 5.4.4 Mitigation Method.

5.4 Award Criteria for Category 2 Applications

	Award Criteria	Description	Max marks available	Min marks required
1	Cost Score	Projects are evaluated based on the projected costs	40	

	Award Criteria	Description	Max marks available	Min marks required
		compared to benchmarked costs (Table 30), with the assessment varying according to the funding category and the scale of the barrier.		
2	Ecology Score	Ecological score as set out in section 4.3 of this document.	25	
3	Execution Score	Full execution score as set out in section 5.4.3 below	25	10(40%)
4	Mitigation Method	Method of mitigation based on method described in section 5.4.4	10	

Table 29 Award Criteria for Category 2 projects

5.4.1 Benchmarked Reference Costs

Project sizes are defined as follows: small (<10m), medium (10m–20m), and large (>20m), based on the width of the upstream open channel. This width is measured at a distance of 100m from the upstream extent of the structure along the river's thalweg. Benchmark costs are evaluated on a VAT exclusive basis.

Benchmark Reference costs	Category Two
Small <10m	€65,000
Medium 10m – 20m	€360,000
Large >20m	€625,000

Table 30 Benchmark Cost Table

Formula for evaluation:

$$Cost\ Score\ (CS) = 40x\left(1 - \frac{P - B}{B}\right), \qquad If\ B < P < 2B$$

Where:

B = Benchmark cost
P = Project cost
If P ≤ B, CS = 40 and if P ≤ B, CS = 0

40 marks are awarded for a project that aligns with the predefined benchmarked cost, as outlined in Table 30 above. The project will lose marks if the price exceeds the benchmarked

amount, decreasing progressively until, at twice the benchmarked cost, the awarded marks reaches zero. Projects are evaluated based on size of barrier and category of funding sought.

5.4.2 Ecology Score

The ecological score will be taken forward from the initial EOI evaluation and will contribute to 25% of the score for the application.

The score is normalized to a value between 0 and 1, and then multiplied by 25 to account for 25% of the total marks allocated in the application decision matrix. The function used is set out below:

$$E = \left(\frac{Ep - Emin}{Emax - Emin}\right) \text{ x } 25$$

Where:

E = Ecological Score
Ep = Preliminary Ecological Score
Emin = Minimum Ecological Score Achievable
Emax = Maximum Ecological Score Achievable

(Note as per preliminary ecological score set out in Section 4.3 of this document the minimum ecological score available to a project is 0.11666667 and the max score is 0.88333333)

5.4.3 Project Execution Score

A key requirement used in the assessment of the application will be the 'Project Implementation Plan' which shall include, though not be limited to, the following:

Sub-criteria	Details required for Project Implementation Plan
Project Implementation	The Applicant's proposed approach to deliver a barrier mitigation/removal project must be outlined in a 'Project Implementation Plan' The 'Project Implementation Plan' should include but not be limited to the following: • The approach to removal or mitigation of the barrier. • Details of any investigations, enquiries, site appraisal, research or engagement to understand the approach to achieving project objectives. • Detailed risk management plan identifying potential delays/cost implications along with an outline of mitigation strategies. • Approach to complying with applicable planning, environmental obligations, technical requirements and standards. • Communications and stakeholder engagement strategy. • Environmental management approach. • Quality management strategy. • Project Supervisor Construction Stage role and responsibilities. • Project Management and Resource planning. • A comprehensive and clear timeline that shows clearly defined milestones with dates leading to project completion within a specified timeframe. For the avoidance of doubt, the assessment will be carried out on the approach, not the particulars of the proposed barrier mitigation/removal project.

Table 31 Sub-Criteria and details required for Project Implementation

Documentation shall be submitted via the *SMARTSIMPLE* platform and subject to the page limits not being exceeded, graphical (images, flowcharts etc., or similar) content may be included. Other documents or files shall not be embedded within the response and will not be evaluated. Links to external sources of information are not to be used and no external content shall be evaluated. (A typical "Project Implementation plan" attachment max five A4 pages and one A3 page specifically for the timeline)

The Implementation Plan will be assessed having regard to the following scoring bands in Table 29 Assessment matrix for Project Implementation, in accordance with the professional judgment of the evaluators.

It is not possible to achieve percentage marks between the bands (e.g. it is not possible to score 10% or 30% or 46% etc). The evaluators will use their professional judgment to allocate the appropriate band.

Table Assessment % of Marks	Meaning
Excellent 100	The response demonstrated an excellent approach to project implementation.
Very Good 90	The response demonstrated a very good approach to project implementation.
Good 80	The response demonstrated a good approach to project implementation.
Reasonably Good 70	The response demonstrated a reasonably good approach to project implementation.
Reasonable 60	The response demonstrated a reasonable approach to project implementation.
Acceptable 50	The response demonstrated an acceptable approach to project implementation.
Poor 40	The response demonstrated a poor approach to project implementation.
Very Poor 20	The response demonstrated a very poor approach to project implementation.
Extremely Poor or no submission 0	The response demonstrated an extremely poor approach to project implementation.

Table 32 Assessment matrix for Project Implementation

5.4.4 Mitigation Method

Multiple options exist in the mitigation approach to barriers to fish passage. Some methods are more favorable than others in achieving the objectives of this fund, including but not limited to, improving river connectivity. The list below sets out the mitigation approaches and how they will score for a category two application.

Mitigation Method	Score
Full Removal of Barrier	10
Partial Removal of Barrier	9
Rock Ramp Fish Pass	6
Bypass Channel	5
Technical Fish Pass	3

Table 33 Mitigation Method

5.5 Award Process

Upon successful completion of the application process, the NBMP will issue an “intent to grant” letter. This document is distinct from the signed funding agreement and is specific to each individual project. The purpose of the intent to grant is to formally acknowledge the Applicant's successful progression through the funding process. The agreement terms and conditions will be issued and the signed agreement “grant letter” must be submitted to IFI by the date specified in the intent to grant letter. A sample grant letter is included in Appendix D.

Once all documentation has been signed and received by IFI, Applicants will receive a “letter to proceed” with the project. The Applicant will be informed of the NBMP Project Manager for the funding allocation and they will liaise with that person over the life of the project/funding requirement.

5.5.1 Fund allocations

Funds will be allocated on the basis of the scores achieved in the full application process with respect to achieving the NBMP objectives as set out in Table 2 Barrier Mitigation Targets. Not all submissions that get through the EOI process will be guaranteed funding. The IFI NBDP team will have the final say in the assessment of any application. The decision on the non-inclusion of an application will be based on fund targets, likely success of project, resources, etc.

5.5.2 Claim Submissions

When the project is complete, the Applicant must submit a claim form via the Grant Management System with the required supporting documentation which should include:

- Procurement details, invoices, receipts, quotes and relevant bank statements..
- Spreadsheet detailing expenditure that comprises the claim (claim form).

- Other relevant material.

It should be noted that all material submitted in support of the claim should be easily understandable to independent reviewers such that the reviewer can clearly identify the nature, composition, the requirement for the claim and its relevance to the project

Depending on the project, the necessary supporting documents may differ; details will be set out in the fund agreement.

Applicants can also request phased payments but must demonstrate a tangible record of works/reports/equipment already completed/purchased and evidence of vouched expenditure. A progress report must be submitted along with each phased claim.

The NBMP project supervisor will carry out a site visit to verify the completed project against the agreed award of funding and the project deliverables and conditions. A specific completion report must then be submitted by the Applicant.

The claim will be paid via electronic payment by Inland Fisheries Ireland once all financial requirements; governance compliance and completion/progress reports; are in place.

5.5.3 Allocation Changes

In some circumstances, there may be certain changes which impact the required funds for the project in the current year. These circumstances may include:

- An acceleration in progress on the project which increases the funding requirement in current year; or
- A change in the scope of the project which increases the required funding allocation in current year.

In such cases, approval for a change in funding requirements must be sought from the NBMP. The process to be followed is outlined below. It should be noted that an Allocation Adjustment Form is used solely to seek approval for an allocation adjustment in the current year and not an estimated change in the total/ multi-annual cost of the project; in such circumstances, the Applicant must liaise with the NBMP Project Manager in accordance with the guidance outlined in this document and the Capital Works management Framework guidance:

- The Applicant should proactively discuss any increases to the projected funding requirement for the current year with the NBMP Project Manager.
- The steps to be taken are as follows:
    - The Applicant must inform the NBMP Project Manager of the anticipated change and discuss the nature & cause of the change with them;
    - The NBMP Project Manager will consider if the required change is appropriate and may deliberate with the Applicant/ certain NBMP stakeholders;

- If the NBMP Project Manager considers that the change is required and justified, they will complete an Allocation Adjustment Form which captures any increases to a project's current year allocation.
- The NBMP Project Manager will be responsible for proposing the adjustment to the relevant NBMP approvers and as such must assure themselves that the required adjustment is valid and justified;
- The NBMP Project Manager will seek appropriate approvals from certain NBMP stakeholders and will revert to the Applicant with a response or if further information/ discussion is required;

- The NBMP Project Manager will share the approved Allocation Adjustment Form with the Project Finance Officer who will make the necessary changes to the internal cost management centres and will notify the NBMP Project Manager and External Agency once complete.
- The NBMP may conduct quarterly, annual, and/ or multi-annual forecasting exercises from time to time requiring input from Applicants. While it is highly important that the information provided by Applicants for projects reflects the true anticipated current year funding requirement for projects, this exercise should not be the means through which the NBMP is made aware of any potential changes to the required current year funding allocation for the projects. Proactive discussion with the NBMP Project Manager is required.

6 General Terms and Conditions

6.1 Confidentiality, data protection and freedom of Information

All documentation, data, statistics, drawings, information, patterns, samples or material disclosed or furnished by NBMP to Applicants during the course of the Scheme:

- are furnished for the sole purpose of progressing the EOI and Applications;
- may not be used, communicated, reproduced or published for any other purpose without the prior written permission of NBMP;
- shall be treated as confidential by the Applicant and by any third parties (including subcontractors) engaged or consulted by the Applicant; and
- must be returned immediately to NBMP upon cancellation, abandonment or completion of the Scheme if so requested by NBMP.

The Applicants' attention is drawn to IFI the data protection policy, Privacy Policy | Inland Fisheries Ireland, which is to inform data subjects of the data relating to them that NBMP may collect and the uses that NBMP may make of such data in administering the Scheme.

Applicants should be aware that, under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 and the European Communities (Access to Information on the Environment) Regulations 2007 to 2014, information provided by them during the Scheme may be liable to be disclosed. Applicants are asked to consider if any of the information supplied by them in their submission should not be disclosed because of its confidentiality or commercial sensitivity.

If Applicants consider that certain information is not to be disclosed because of its confidentiality or commercial sensitivity, Applicants must, when providing such information, clearly identify the specific sections of their Submission containing such information and specify the reasons for its confidentiality or commercial sensitivity. For the avoidance of doubt Applicants may not assert confidentiality or commercial sensitivity over the entire Submission but must clearly identify the specific section containing such information.

If Applicants do not identify information as confidential or commercially sensitive, it is liable to be released in response to a request under the above legislation without further notice to or consultation with the Applicant. NBMP will, where possible, consult with Applicants about confidential or commercially sensitive information so identified before making its decision on a request received. NBMP accepts no liability whatsoever in respect of any information provided which is subsequently released (irrespective of notification) or in respect of any consequential damage suffered as a result of such obligations.

6.2 Tax Clearance

It will be a condition of any Grant Letter pursuant to the Funding scheme that the Applicant(s) shall comply with all applicable EU and domestic tax laws. Applicants are referred to www.revenue.ie for further information. Prior to the award of any Grant Letter arising out of the Funding scheme the Applicant(s) shall be required to supply its Tax Clearance Access Number and Tax Reference Number to facilitate online verification of their tax status by NBMP. By

supplying these numbers, the Applicant acknowledges and agrees that NBMP has the permission of the Applicant to verify its tax clearance position online.

Circular 44/2006: 'Tax Clearance Procedures Grants, Subsides and similar type payments outlines the process for tax clearance between public bodies.

6.3 Conflicts of Interest

A conflict of interest includes, but is not limited to, scenarios where staff members of NBMP or any service provider acting on behalf of NBMP in connection with this Funding scheme have, directly or indirectly, a financial, economic or other personal interest which might be perceived to compromise their impartiality and independence in the context of the Funding scheme. Any conflict of interest or potential conflict of interest involving an Applicant, subcontractor or individual employee(s) or agent(s) of an Applicant or subcontractor(s) must be fully disclosed to NBMP as soon as the conflict or potential conflict is or becomes apparent. In the event of any actual or potential conflict of interest, NBMP may invite Applicants to propose means by which the conflict of interest might be addressed. NBMP will, at its absolute discretion, decide on the appropriate course of action, which may in appropriate circumstances include eliminating an Applicant from the Funding scheme.

6.4 Submission Costs

Applicants shall bear all costs associated with the preparation, submission, and clarification of their submissions. NBMP will not be responsible and/or liable for any costs, expenses or losses which may be incurred by the Applicant in connection with the preparation, submission, and clarification of their submissions, regardless of the conduct or outcome of the funding evaluation.

6.5 Queries and Clarification

All queries or requests for clarification relating to any aspect of the Fund award or the EOI must be directed to NBMP via the online portal 'ifi.smartsimple.ie' before the Final Clarification Date. NBMP reserves the right to (but is not obliged to) respond to queries received after the Final Clarifications Date.

NBMP will endeavour to respond to all reasonable queries/requests received prior to the Final Clarification Date but does not undertake to respond to all queries/requests received.

In the normal course queries will be answered by way of general bulletin. However, NBMP reserves the right to respond separately to a query if, in NBMP's opinion, the response is particular to that particular Applicant. Where an Applicant believes a query is confidential or commercially sensitive, it must mark the query 'Confidential' and set out why it believes the query is confidential/commercially sensitive. If NBMP, in its discretion, is satisfied that the query is confidential or commercially sensitive, the query and the response will be kept confidential (subject to any legal obligations on NBMP).

If NBMP does not consider it would be appropriate to answer the query on a confidential basis, it will tell the Applicant and give the Applicant a short opportunity to object to NBMP's view and explain why, or to withdraw the query. If the Applicant does not withdraw the query, or object to NBMP's view, within the period allowed, NBMP may issue the query and response to all

Applicants. Even if the Applicant objects, or withdraws the query, if NBMP considers that, notwithstanding the objection, the query is not confidential/commercially sensitive, it may issue the query and response to all Applicants.

NBMP reserves the right at any time before the Submission Deadline, to update or amend the information contained in this Fund Guidance Document (which may include information prompted by a confidential query, even if the confidential query has been withdrawn by an Applicant) and/or to extend the Submission Deadline. Applicants will be informed of any such amendment or extension.

NBMP does not accept responsibility for any communications issued by it, which are missed or not received by Applicants or for communications issued by Applicants, which are not received by NBMP.

6.6 Compliant Submissions

Submissions must not be qualified in any way and must be submitted in accordance with the guidance set out in this document. Submissions must not include or be accompanied by any statement that could be construed as rendering the Submission equivocal and/or placing it on a different footing from other Submissions. NBMP's decision on whether a Submission is compliant will be final.

If a Submission fails to comply in any respect with the requirements set out in this document, NBMP shall be entitled (but shall not be obliged) to take such action as it considers appropriate, including (but not limited to):

- Rejecting the relevant Submission as non-compliant;
- Without prejudice to NBMP's right to reject the Submission:
    - Raising issues and/or seeking clarification from the Applicant in respect of the relevant Submission;
    - Requesting the Applicant to provide information or items which has/have not been provided or has/have been provided in an incorrect form;
    - Waiving a requirement which, in NBMP's opinion, is minor or procedural.

6.7 NBMP's Rights

The EOI does not constitute an offer or commitment to enter into a Grant Letter or to make available a Grant.

No enforceable commitment of any kind or contractual rights will exist unless, and until, a formal written Grant Letter has been executed by or on behalf of NBMP and the Applicant.

NBMP may cancel this Funding scheme at any time prior to a formal written Grant Letter being executed by or on behalf of NBMP and the Applicant.

The award of any Grant or the entry into of a Grant Letter does not confer exclusivity on the Applicant.

Applicants shall immediately notify NBMP should they become aware of any ambiguity, discrepancy, error or omission in the Scheme documents, even after the deadline for queries has expired. NBMP shall upon receipt of such notification, notify all Applicants in writing via SMARTSIMPLE of its ruling in respect of any such ambiguity, discrepancy, error or omission.

6.8 Appeals Process

Basis for an Appeal

Applicants may appeal a funding decision on the basis of alleged unfair assessment of or a deviation from the NBMP published procedures.

To be considered a valid ground for appeal the applicant must show that they have cause to believe that their application was assessed or dealt with in a way incompatible with the criteria and procedures for assessment outlined in this funding document. These are the only grounds upon which appeals will be considered.

The funding scheme has a set of requirements in relation to the eligibility of the applicant, project and supporting information required which are set out in this Fund Guidance Document. Applications that do not meet these requirements will not be assessed further. If this is the reason cited for an unsuccessful application, the decision cannot be appealed.

The team in Barrier Mitigation Division is open to discussing unsuccessful applications. Unsuccessful applicants seeking clarification should contact barriers@fisheriesireland.ie. The team will endeavour to assist with advice and recommendations.

Submitting an Appeal

If, having discussed the matter with the Barrier Mitigation Division, an Applicant wishes to process an appeal of a funding decision, an application for an appeal should be submitted in writing to the Head of the Barrier Mitigation Division within 21 days from the date of the notification.

The email address is barriers@fisheriesireland.ie. Once an appeal is received a letter of acknowledgement will issue.

The appeal must state

- The grounds on which you believe your application was not properly assessed or processed
- Any evidence to support your appeal

Appeal

Appeals will be considered by a panel consisting of two senior members of IFI and an independent panel member. Their decision and recommendations, if any, will be submitted to the next available Board meeting. The Board's decision will be final and will be communicated to the applicant within 5 working days. The decision of the appeals panel will be final and binding.

NBMP reserves the right to amend the appeals process at its discretion.

6.9 Insurance Requirements

Entities in receipt of monies from this fund must ensure that any contractors or third-party service providers have relevant and up to date insurances.

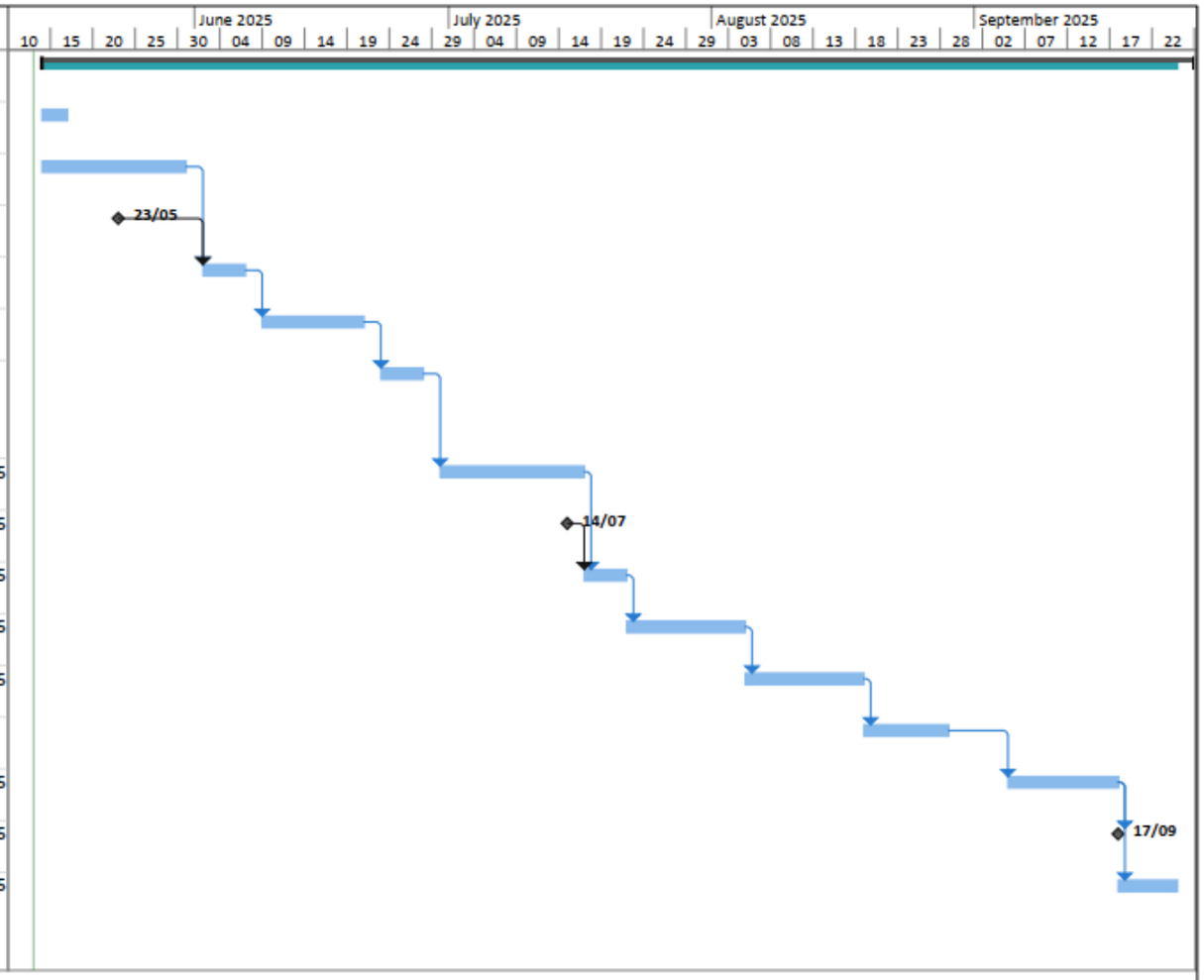
6.10 Compliance with Relevant Legislation

All projects must be undertaken in full compliance with relevant Irish and European legislation, including but not limited to the *Planning and Development Act 2000-2024 (as amended)*, the *European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended)*, the *European Union (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018 (as amended)*. Applicants are solely responsible for ensuring that all necessary planning permissions or exemptions, consents, and environmental assessments are secured from the relevant Competent Authorities before any works commence. This includes, where applicable, screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive and screening for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). Projects must also adhere to any conditions, mitigation measures, or monitoring requirements imposed as part of these processes.

Appendix A – IFI National Barrier Mitigation Programme - Project Management Process Flowchart

Appendix B – Spring Funding Call Timeline

ID	Task Mode	Task Name	Duration	Start	Finish
1		**Spring Call 2025**	**98 days**	**Wed 14/05/25**	**Fri 26/09/25**
2		Fund Launch	3 days	Wed 14/05/25	Fri 16/05/25
3		Opening call EOI	13 days	Wed 14/05/25	Mo 02/06/25
4		Clarifications for EOI Ends	0 days	Fri 23/05/25	Fri 23/05/25
5		Screening/Additional Info	5 days	Mon 02/06/25	Fri 06/06/25
6		Evaluation of EOI	10 days	Mon 09/06/25	Fri 20/06/25
7		EOI Successful & Unsuccessful letters issued	5 days	Mon 23/06/25	Fri 27/06/25
8		Open for Application	13 days	Mon 30/06/25	Wed 16/07/25
9		Clarifications for Application End:	0 days	Mon 14/07/25	Mon 14/07/25
10		Screening/Additional Info	3 days	Thu 17/07/25	Mon 21/07/25
11		Application Review	10 days	Tue 22/07/25	Mon 04/08/25
12		External Review	10 days	Tue 05/08/25	Mon 18/08/25
13		Steering group approval	8 days	Tue 19/08/25	Thu 28/08/25
14		IFI Board sign off	9 days	Fri 05/09/25	Wed 17/09/25
15		IFI Board meeting 17/09/25	0 days	Wed 17/09/25	Wed 17/09/25
16		Letters of offer and Funding Agreement	5 days	Thu 18/09/25	Wed 24/09/25



Project: msproj11
Date: Tue 13/05/25

Task	Project Summary	Inactive Milestone	Manual Summary Rollup	Deadline
Split	External Tasks	Inactive Summary	Manual Summary	Progress
Milestone	External Milestone	Manual Task	Start-only	Manual Progress
Summary	Inactive Task	Duration-only	Finish-only	

Page 1

Appendix C - Public Procurement Guidelines (January 2024)

Public procurement refers to the process by which public service bodies and organisations seeking grant funding purchase goods, services or works from suppliers. It includes the purchase of routine goods or services and large-scale contracts for infrastructural projects. Public Procurement is governed by EU and national rules, the guidelines are available on the following link: gov.ie - Public Procurement Guidelines for Goods and Services

It is the Applicant's responsibility to ensure that every stage of the procurement process is undertaken in full compliance with the public procurement regulations. The Applicant must be able to submit documentary evidence of all stages of the process to the Fund Management System. The consequences of failing to follow correct procurement procedures (in compliance with the latest regulations) can compromise a funding application and/or grant draw down.

Procurement Thresholds

Any organisation undertaking procurement for funding must adhere to a series of requirements that align to established thresholds in relation to all purchases. Procurement thresholds vary depending on the category and cost of the proposed purchase/s. Once the estimated value of works, services or goods exceeds specific thresholds, the Applicant must carry out a transparent, public and open competition. These thresholds are mandatory and represent minimum requirements. Under no circumstances should requirements be split to bring purchases below a particular threshold.

Goods or Services Contract

Goods or Services Contract is where a project needs equipment or other goods to be purchased or requires the inputs of service providers e.g., professional services. The procurement requirements for Goods and Services contracts funded by Inland fisheries Ireland are as follows:

- Estimated value of goods or services less than €250 (excluding VAT): No quotes required; however, amounts must be identified in the budget breakdown on the Fund Management System.
- Estimated value of goods or services from less than €250 to €1,000 (excluding VAT): Minimum of 3 verbal quotes identified in the budget breakdown and include budget rationale document on the Fund Management System.
- Estimated value of goods or services from €1,001 to €50,000 (excluding VAT): Minimum of 3 written quotes/tenders is required from competitive suppliers- Select the most economically advantageous quote/tender. Provide original documents and evaluation in line with criteria.
- Estimated value of goods or services from €50,001 to €221,000 (excluding VAT): All tenders should be advertised as part of a formal tendering process on e-Tenders www.etenders.gov.ie. All tender documentation to be uploaded to the Fund Management System.
- Estimated value of goods or services above €221,001 (excluding VAT): Above EU thresholds should be advertised as part of a formal tendering process on the Official

Journal of the European Union (OJEU) and e-Tenders www.etenders.gov.ie. All tender documentation to be uploaded to the Fund Management System.

Works Contracts

A Works contract is defined as a project that requires the execution of a construction phase. The procurement requirements for Works contracts funded by Inland fisheries Ireland is as follows:

- Estimated value of works from €1,001 to €200,000 (excluding VAT): Minimum of 5 written quotes is required from competitive suppliers. Provide an evaluation form of tenders in line with criteria. All quotes requested and received must be uploaded to the Fund Management System.
- Estimated value of works from €200,000 to €5,538,000 (excluding VAT): EU threshold for works. Must be advertised as part of a formal tendering process on e-Tenders using the Open Procedure www.etenders.gov.ie. All tender documentation to be uploaded to the Fund Management System.
- The Capital Works Management Framework (CWMF) comprises a suite of standard procurement documents, model forms, works contracts, as well as guidance notes, which apply to the conduct of public sector capital works projects in Ireland. The documents are available at www.constructionprocurement.gov.ie. IFI encourages the use of CWMF suite of documents at all levels of procurement.

Works Related Services Contracts

Works Related contracts refer to the professional services required to develop and deliver a construction project. The procurement requirements for Works Related contracts funded by Inland fisheries Ireland is as follows:

- Estimated value of works related contracts from €1,001 to €50,000 (excluding VAT): Minimum of 5 written quotes/tenders is required from competitive suppliers- Select the most economically advantageous quote/tender. Provide original documents and evaluation in line with criteria.
- Estimated value of works related contracts from €50,001 to €221,000 (excluding VAT): All tenders should be advertised as part of a formal tendering process on e-Tenders www.etenders.gov.ie. All tender documentation to be uploaded to the Fund Management System.
- Estimated value of works related contracts above €221,001 (excluding VAT): Above EU thresholds should be advertised as part of a formal tendering process on the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) and e-Tenders www.etenders.gov.ie. All tender documentation to be uploaded to the Fund Management System.
- The Capital Works Management Framework (CWMF) comprises a suite of standard procurement documents, model forms, works contracts, as well as guidance notes, which apply to the conduct of public sector capital works projects in Ireland. The documents are available at www.constructionprocurement.gov.ie. IFI encourages the use of CWMF suite of documents at all levels of procurement.

Evaluation of Tenders

The Tender Evaluation Report is vital to demonstrably objective transparency, accountability and to prove equal treatment, proportionality, and mutual recognition of quotes/tenderers.

Evaluators elected to assess quotes/tenders must declare any conflict of interest. A conflict of interest is defined as any scenario where a person, persons, or organisation in a decision-making role as a buyer (Applicant) has a commercial or personal relationship of any type with a supplier organisation.

A quote/tender evaluation should be carried out by a committee or team with a minimum of two evaluators with the requisite competency. Evaluators must keep an impartial and objective view of quotes/tenders submitted. Transparency must be demonstrated in line with the weighted criteria in a comparative assessment of quotes/tenders. The criteria applicable to the evaluation is identified in the specification/tender documents.

The successful tenderer is notified, and all tenderers should be informed of the result of a tendering process without delay considering the appropriate standstill period. Contracting authorities should comply with all procurement regulations and legislation at all stages of the process. Ensure all evaluation documentation including quotes/tenders requested and received are uploaded to the grant management system.

eTenders.gov.ie Requirements

eTenders.gov.ie is the Irish Government's electronic tendering platform administered by the Office of Government Procurement (OGP). The platform is a central facility for all public sector contracting authorities to advertise procurement opportunities and award notices. Follow the guidance from www.eTenders.gov.ie for advice on how to use their website for tenders. Applicants may consider seeking professional advice and support in relation to procuring works or services on etenders to aid compliance and reduce financial risk.

Where a tender is placed on the e-tenders website the organisation submitting the tender must adhere to the public procurement guidelines. Files uploaded to etenders must be made available on the Fund Management System, including:

- The contract/tender notice specification, compliance and award criteria including criteria weighting(s).
- Provide evidence of publication.
- All submissions received within the identified timeframe.
- Assessment of tender compliance in line with the tender requirements.
- A comparative assessment of all compliant tenders by the evaluation team using the agreed scoring system which clearly illustrates the weighted criteria applied.
- Personal declarations of conflict of interest from all evaluators.
- Standstill notifications to successful and unsuccessful tenders of the result of the tender process including relevant feedback.
- Copy of the final signed and dated contract between promoter and supplier.

Sustainable Procurement

Sustainable procurement relates to consciously purchasing products and services that are produced in a socially responsible way. It incorporates human health, social equity and environmental concerns into the search for high quality products and services at competitive prices.

The European Commission's 'Buying Green' guide describes sustainable procurement as "A process whereby public and semi-public authorities meet their needs for goods, services, works and utilities by choosing solutions that have a reduced impact on the environment throughout their life cycle, as compared to alternative products/solutions".

IFI is committed to ensuring that its procurement processes comply with all government circulars and will actively encourage and promote the use of green procurement. IFI will work to incorporate best practice guidelines into all procurement efforts. Incorporating green criteria into public purchasing provides an opportunity to convert environmental policy objectives on carbon reduction, air and water quality, and waste reduction into delivered actions.

Appendix D – Sample Grant Letter

1 Grant Letter

Our Reference: D @Ref

Contact: F @Applicant

Organisation: G @Organisation

Address: AO @Address

Email: AP @Email

XX XXX 2025

Barrier Mitigation Fund 2025 – Scheme No. 1

Dear F @Applicant

I refer to your recent application to the Barrier Mitigation Fund 2025, run by Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) which closed on XX June 2025.

As you are aware, you have been successful in your application to receive funds.

Reference D @Ref

Project Title E @Project_title

Funding Requested K @Request

Funding Approved AM @Funding_Approved

Comments AL @Final_Comments

This offer of funding is conditional on compliance with the provisions of the terms and conditions of this Funding Agreement.

If you are prepared to accept this award of funding and the conditions indicated, please sign, and return the funding agreement via email or upload it to the Fund Management System SmartSimple. The deadline for receipt of the signed Funding Agreement, is the XX of XXXX 2025.

This project shall not commence until a signed copy of the Funding Agreement along with any outstanding documents have been uploaded to the online Fund Management System and a 'Letter to Proceed' received from the NBMP. The deadline for receipt of all outstanding documentation specific to your project (Ref Appendix 1) is the XX of XXXX 2025. Should projects commence in advance of the NBMP Letter to Proceed being issued, any funding awarded may be considered ineligible. Commencement refers to the point at which a funded project officially begins work, with distinctions based on project category:

Category 1 Projects (Pre-Planning Stage): Commencement refers to the initiation of preparatory activities required for project development, such as feasibility studies, ecological and engineering assessments, stakeholder consultations, and securing necessary regulatory approvals.

Category 2 Projects (Post-Planning Stage): Commencement refers to the start of works immediately post the decision to proceed following on the grant of planning/permitting consents, or, in the case of exempted developments, at the start of the preparatory works for the tender process. This includes activities such as environmental surveys, detail design, demolition or modification of barriers, or any direct construction related to barrier removal or mitigation.

The NBMP advise that you begin addressing any outstanding documentation required as outlined in the funding agreement as soon as possible. If, for any reason, you have any questions or are not in a position to accept the terms of the funding agreement please notify us immediately. Any queries or communication should be directed to the NBMP at Barriers@fisheriesireland.ie.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest in contributing to measures that aim to restore rivers to a more natural and less fragmented condition. I wish you well with your project.

Yours sincerely

_____

Inland Fisheries Ireland

Barrier Mitigation Fund 2025

Funding Agreement

Funding Agreement between Inland Fisheries Ireland and G @Organisation (hereinafter known as the Grantee) for the amount of AM @Funding_Approved in relation to the project below:

Reference	**D @Ref**
Project Title	E @Project_title
Funding Requested	K @Request
Funding Approved	AM @Funding_Approved
Comments	AL @Final_Comments

This funding is provided on the provision that the terms and conditions listed below are adhered to. Outstanding information in support of your project is provided to Inland Fisheries Ireland's Fund Management System https://ifi.smartsimple.ie. The specific project requirements noted as outstanding from your application are identified but are not limited to the table provided in Appendix 1

1.1 General Conditions:

This project shall not commence until a signed copy of the Funding Agreement along with any outstanding documents have been uploaded to the Grant Management Portal and a 'Letter to Proceed' received from the NBMP. The funding deadlines are detailed below:

Receipt of all signed funding Agreements is the XX of XXX 2025.

Receipt of all outstanding documentation (ref. Appendix 3) specific to your project is the XX of XXX 2025.

This project must be completed in full, with all funding claimed by the draw-down date of the XX of XXX 20XX. The Grantee must also notify the assigned NBMP project manager in writing prior to project commencement.

Outstanding information in support of your project is provided to Inland Fisheries Ireland's Fund Management System https://ifi.smartsimple.ie. The specific project requirements noted as

outstanding from your application are identified but are not limited to the list provided in Appendix 1.

1.2 Finance Conditions:

The Grantee must ensure that the project is delivered in accordance with public procurement requirements. All records relating to tendering/procurement/contracting/sub-contracting must be retained for audit inspection and the Grantee must provide any reports and information relating to the project(s) as may reasonably be requested by Inland Fisheries Ireland from time to time.

Double funding is prohibited, i.e. no costs for the same activity can be funded twice from a funding source in any circumstance. If the Project receives or is seeking grant funding from any other State Sector sources, including Local Authorities, for the same activities, this Project may be deemed ineligible for funding from Inland Fisheries Ireland.

The Grantee shall complete a New Supplier Agreement Form which will be issued to them by Inland Fisheries Ireland NBMP via email at project delivery stage. The completed form should be uploaded by the Grantee to the Fund Management System (for GDPR purposes this form should not be emailed to IFI). The New Supplier Agreement will have to be in place prior to any funds being issued.

The Grantee will maintain detailed accounts in relation to the public funds provided and document all activities in relation to the implementation of the project(s) to the satisfaction of Inland Fisheries Ireland. The Grantee is obliged to make books and accounts available for inspection by both Inland Fisheries Ireland, the Comptroller and Auditor General and any other audit process undertaken by Inland Fisheries Ireland. These accounts will be held by Inland Fisheries Ireland for inspection by the Comptroller and Auditor General or any other audit process undertaken by Inland Fisheries Ireland.

The Grantee must alert Inland Fisheries Ireland of any irregularities found during any other audits relating to this grant, such as those conducted by the Comptroller and Auditor General, the Local Government Auditor, any Government Department to which the Grantee reports or the Grantee's own internal or external auditor, or any other internal or external source.

The Project must be completed in a sustainable and resilient manner in accordance with the approved project description, activity plan and management plan. Project funding is awarded in accordance with the criteria provided in the letter of offer and the funding agreement, unless otherwise advised by Inland Fisheries Ireland. The grant agreed amount or part payment of this amount shall only be paid to the Grantee on completion or part completion of the project, through the online claim form(s). If project costs prove higher than anticipated, and the NBMP team have not been informed, then an increase in grant funding will not be given. Payments from the fund will be for eligible costs only (refer to Barrier Mitigation Fund Scheme Guidance for details).

The Grantee may be asked to provide Inland Fisheries Ireland with appropriate written Revenue confirmation of its VAT status and entitlement to recover VAT on relevant costs where VAT is included in claimed expenditure.

Where VAT can be reclaimed by a Grantee IFI will only pay the Grant on the net project costs (i.e. excluding VAT).

In order for any claim for draw-down of the Grant to be processed, Inland Fisheries Ireland must be in possession of a current valid eTax Clearance for the Grantee (where applicable) and for each supplier who has provided goods or services greater than €10,000. Such Tax Clearances will be verified by Inland Fisheries Ireland before any payments are made and if it is invalid, expired or rescinded, Inland Fisheries Ireland will be unable to issue payment. Maintaining a current valid eTax Clearance is a continuing obligation for the Grantee under the Grant offer up to receipt of the final grant payment.

The total funding awarded to the Grantee for this project is AM @Funding_Approved. In order to draw-down funds, the Grantee must submit a claim form via the Fund Management System. Proof of payment including receipted invoices, copies of cheques/other forms of payments and bank statements must also be uploaded. Draw-down of funds is also dependent on the provision of a completion report for the project. This report will be conducted by Inland Fisheries Ireland's project supervisor(s) and the NBMP, following a site visit confirming alignment with the approved funding award. Pre-works, during works and post-works photos of the project must be taken chronologically by the Grantee and uploaded on the Fund Management System. Inland Fisheries Ireland reserves the right to use these photos in future publications. Projects must be fully completed, and the final claim submitted before XX of XXX 20XX.

It is a condition of this funding that grantees comply with the Statement of Principles for Grantees as per Circular 13/2014 – Management of and Accountability for Grants for Exchequer Funds

Grant funding will be on the basis of vouched expenditure and Grantees are obliged to ensure that

- The invoices used to support the claim relate to activities and services appropriate to the grant scheme objectives,
- The amounts invoiced have been paid,
- The invoices have not and will not be used in support of another claim for reimbursement from any other funder(s).

1.3 Access/Permissions Conditions:

Responsibility for obtaining all consents, permissions, and compliances etc. rests with the Grantee. All access agreements, approvals and/or assessments must be in place in written form from the relevant agencies, landowners and/or fishery owners.

Where National Parks and Wildlife Service/Office of Public Works/ESB/Local Authority permissions have been obtained (where applicable) the Grantee must notify the relevant statutory agency prior to commencement of works.

The Development of State/IFI owned fisheries by clubs or other organisations does not infer any ongoing lease or licence, ownership, or property right to that fishery. This is in line with the licence agreement between Inland Fisheries Ireland and the Licensee as follows:

“It is hereby agreed by the parties hereto that it is not their intention to create the relationship of landlord and tenant or to confer any interest on the Licensee in the fishery.”

1.4 Insurance/Health and Safety Related Conditions:

Inland Fisheries Ireland shall not assume liability for accidents, illnesses or claims arising out of any work supported by this grant award and the Grantee shall fully indemnify Inland Fisheries Ireland and any of its employees in relation to any such damage, loss or injury howsoever occurring during the development works or other activities. The Grantee is advised to take such steps as may be deemed necessary to insure and protect themselves, their employees and property. Insurance requirements for the project include but are not limited to that set out in Appendix 2 of this document. Each contractor shall provide a Health and Safety Statement, Risk Assessment and a Method Statement including biosecurity management measures for the works being undertaken. The appropriate insurances, indemnifications, Health and Safety Statement, Risk Assessments and Method Statements attaching to this contract shall be in force by the Grantee and the Grantee’s contractors prior to commencement of works.

Any premises, assets, equipment, services or works purchased or used in the project shall be insured. Adequate policies will be effected against employer’s liability, public liability, and third-party risks, see Appendix 1. The Grantee must furnish Inland Fisheries Ireland with confirmation that such insurances have been provided and be willing to provide further details of insurances as may be requested by Inland Fisheries Ireland from time to time.

1.5 Promotion Conditions:

The Grantee will acknowledge the support of Inland Fisheries Ireland in all public announcements and advertising relating to the project(s) and Inland Fisheries Ireland may seek to use the project in the broader promotion of its policies. Inland Fisheries Ireland will, if deemed necessary, work with the Grantee to develop appropriate signage acknowledging Inland Fisheries Ireland as the funder of the project at the project site. This will depend on the size and duration of the project.

Any published or printed material being funded by IFI must provide a draft of such material to be inspected and approved by IFI. Inland Fisheries Ireland logos must be included on all published or printed material, posters, plaques, web pages etc., relating to a project. All publications and electronic information about the project must clearly indicate Inland Fisheries Ireland’s contribution.

1.6 Project Monitoring Conditions:

Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) is committed to providing open, accountable, and accessible systems and procedures for its grants programmes. To this end, IFI is obliged to monitor the progress of projects from award status through to its delivery and completion and will continue for a period of 5-years following the agreed completion of the project.

The project works will be inspected by Inland Fisheries Ireland staff to ensure all works are undertaken in line with the funding agreement, best practice and to the satisfaction of Inland Fisheries Ireland. Evaluations may be conducted during the project works phase to monitor the progress of agreed work plans and activities involving safety, environment, insurance and permissions.

A full evaluation of the project will be conducted upon project completion. A completion report will be conducted by Inland Fisheries Ireland following a site visit confirming alignment with the approved funding agreement.

Pre-works, during works and post-works photos of the project must be taken chronologically by the Grantee and uploaded on the Fund Management System. It should be noted that IFI reserve the right to use project details and photograph/media when reporting and for promotional material.

Monitoring will be conducted during and at any time after the completion of the project to assist in the evaluation of IFI funding programme. Selected grantee requirements and project outcomes will be evaluated to verify that they are adhering to the conditions set out in the funding agreement post works for a period of 5 years following the agreed completion of the project.

Audits will be conducted over 5 years following the agreed completion of the project. To facilitate the efficient monitoring of and publicity of the project, the Grantee agrees to facilitate any staff member or representative of Inland Fisheries Ireland. Inland Fisheries Ireland will conduct on site post-payment evaluations on a minimum 5% of project payment claims to verify compliance with funding conditions, project delivery and the reality of expenditure where appropriate. Payment claims will be selected on both a risk and random basis. The evaluation will include an examination of the completed project, or partial completion, in line with the approved specifications and conditions outlined in the funding agreement. The NBMP will make contact if your project is chosen for monitoring and evaluation.

The Grantee will on completion of the project also provide a certificate of assurance signed at management level (in general by two responsible persons e.g. at management or board level) certifying that the public money granted was used in accordance with the terms and conditions of the grant.

1.7 Legislation, Freedom of Information and Data Protection Conditions:

The Project must be completed in accordance with the provisions of all applicable statutes, regulations, byelaws, national and EU Legislation, including but not limited to, all legislation affecting employment, taxation, equality of opportunity, health and safety, environment, and public financial procedures. The Grantee and all contractors, consultants and suppliers used in the course of this project, shall be deemed to have made themselves aware of all the relevant legislation and shall nominate to Inland Fisheries Ireland a person whose responsibility it shall be to ensure compliance.

This Agreement confers permission on Inland Fisheries Ireland to disclose, for the purposes of a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 or otherwise, in connection with the funded project(s):

Any relevant data supplied by the Grantee and accumulated by Inland Fisheries Ireland in administering the grant funding to the project, except where the information is considered to be personal or commercially sensitive. The Grantee will be contacted in this regard prior to the release of any such information.

Inland Fisheries Ireland processes your personal information for the purposes of assessing, administering, processing and payment of your application for funding under the IFI funding schemes. Your personal data is securely stored and processed in line with the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). The Grantee is obliged to comply with this legislation. This fund is administered through the Grants Management Portal and all documentation and information is securely stored in line with Inland Fisheries Ireland Data Protection Policy which can be found at Data Protection Policy (fisheriesireland.ie).

1.8 Termination and Appeals Process Conditions:

Projects will be monitored monthly by the NBMP. Projects that do not make significant progress towards achieving delivery status at agreed milestones will be notified that funding may be at risk of being withdrawn.

Projects that are in delivery but have not made significant progress will also be at risk of funding being withdrawn. Delivery and grant draw-down deadlines must be maintained.

This agreement may be terminated by Inland Fisheries Ireland where:

- In the opinion of the Inland Fisheries Ireland, the Grantee is in breach of any of the terms of this agreement and/or
- The entity is dissolved and/or
- Key delivery and completion dates are exceeded without approval.

A notification will be issued to grantees in breach of a, b and c above to advise of the possible termination of the funding agreement and award.

The Grantee may terminate this agreement by giving Inland Fisheries Ireland 30 days' notice in writing specifying the reasons for termination.

In relation to the interpretation of these conditions, or in relation to any other matter concerning the project, Inland Fisheries Ireland's decision is final.

Should the Grantee wish to appeal Inland Fisheries Ireland's decision; an appeals procedure can be found in the Scheme Guidance document. All appeals must be lodged within 20 working days and must be sent in writing via email to the projects office via barriers@fisheriesireland.ie for the attention of the Head of Division.

I confirm, for and on behalf of G @Organisation that I have noted and agree to be bound by the terms and conditions as set out in this Funding Agreement regarding the award of AM @Funding_Approved in respect of the project ref D @Project_title.

Signed: _____

Print Name (Block Capitals):_____

Position: (Block Capitals): _____

Date: _____

Appendix 1: Specific outstanding documentation to be addressed pursuant to this funding grant letter

G @Organisation Ref: D @Ref

ItemA	Status
Upload signed Insurance declaration	
Organisation Constitution/Articles of Association, list of officers	
Evidence of Licence/Permit	
Grantee/Contractor Tax Clearence and Access	
Permissions: Landowner, Fishery owner, Leaseholder	
Planning status	
Consultation: OPW, NPWS, ESB, LA	
Procurement: Quotes, evaluations, tender, responses	
Location Maps and drawings	
Pre-Works Photos	
National Monuments ZON	
Supplier application (set up on IFI accounts package)	

Insurance

Item	Status
Grantee/Contractor up to date Employer Liability	
Grantee/Contractor up to date Public Product Liability	
Grantee/Contractor Indemnity Clauses (PL Insurance)	
Once off unintended accidental pollution	
Member to member liability	
Contractors up to date Professional Indemnity	

Environmental & Health and Safety Requirements

Item	Status
Appropriate Assessment and IFI Determination	
Consultation with National Habitats Specialisation Unit	
Grantee/Contractor H&S Statement and Risk Assessment	
Biosecurity management	
Works authorisation(s) (s59)	

Sample

Appendix 2: Insurance, Health & Safety Requirements

The Grantee shall ensure that all works performed, including design, planning, execution, and maintenance, comply with all applicable Health and Safety regulations and standards, including but not limited to the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005 and the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Construction) Regulations 2013 (S.I. No. 291 of 2013). This includes insuring the provision and maintenance of a safe working environment, the implementation of appropriate risk assessments, the provision of adequate training and supervision, and the use of necessary personal protective equipment.

Health and Safety Statement

All parties shall provide Health and Safety Statement/Plan, Risk Assessment and Method Statement for the works being undertaken.

Insurance Requirements for Grantees

The Minister and Inland Fisheries Ireland will not be liable for any accidents, illnesses or claims arising out of any work supported by this grant award. G @Organisation shall ensure that they shall effect and keep in force during the duration of the services at their own cost, with a reputable insurance company, such levels of insurance cover as may be required to meet its potential liabilities under this Agreement, which shall include, without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing:

Public/Product Liability (PL) Insurance with the minimum limit of indemnity being no less than €6,500,000 in respect of each and every occurrence, unlimited in the period of insurance and in the aggregate any one period of insurance for Products Liability. This policy shall also provide confirmation that the Public/Products liability policy provides cover for:

- Accidental Pollution.
- Member to Member Liability.
- A specific indemnity in favour of Inland Fisheries Ireland, landowners, and other potential stakeholders.

Employers Liability (EL)

Please confirm if the Grantee's organisation has employees or members participating in these works: Yes □ No □

Employers Liability Insurance with the minimum limit of indemnity provided being no less than €13,000,000 in respect of each and every occurrence and unlimited in any one period of insurance. This policy shall also provide confirmation that the Employers Liability policy includes a specific indemnity in favour of Inland Fisheries Ireland, landowners and other potential stakeholders.

If the Grantee has no employees participating in these works, there will be no requirement to have Employers Liability cover so long as a Contractor is employed to carry out all the approved works and the Contractor has all relevant insurance cover in place.

Insurance Requirements for Contractors

G @Organisation shall ensure that all Contractor(s) shall effect and keep in force during the duration of the services at their own cost, with a reputable insurance company, such levels of insurance cover as may be required to meet its potential liabilities under this Agreement, which may include, without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing:

Public/Product Liability Insurance with the minimum limit of indemnity being no less than €6,500,000 in respect of each and every occurrence, unlimited in the period of insurance but in the annual aggregate for Products Liability. This policy shall also provide confirmation that the Public/Products liability policy provides cover for once-off unintended accidental pollution for the works phase of the project. (Higher limit of indemnity may be required based on the specific project and the level of exposure).

Employers Liability Insurance with the minimum limit of indemnity provided being no less than €13,000,000 in respect of each and every occurrence and unlimited in any one period of insurance.

Contractors All Risks insurance to cover material loss or damage to the contract works with a sum insured for no less than the value of the contract.

Professional Indemnity Insurance for those professionals who are providing reports, design, plans, or specification services for a fee, with the minimum limit of indemnity as outlined in the current version of Guidance Note GN1.1.2 on the constructionprocurement.gov.ie website. The cover to be maintained for a period of 6 years after the certification of completion of the services.

For professionals providing reports, design, plans, specifications, or other consultancy services for a fee, a higher level of Professional Indemnity Insurance may be required for projects deemed to be of higher risk due to complexity, scale, or potential impact. This will be notified on a project specific basis.

The insurance cover must be maintained for a period of not less than 6 years following the final certification of completion of the services. Evidence of appropriate insurance must be provided at application stage and upon request throughout the delivery and post-completion phases of the project.

A specific indemnity shall be provided on all Contractor(s) policies in favour of Inland Fisheries Ireland, landowners, and other potential stakeholders such as grantees' club / organisation. This relates to each of the above policies in force.

The Grantee shall obtain and furnish confirmation to Inland Fisheries Ireland via the Fund Management System that the required up-to-date insurances are in place, including the specific indemnity in favour of Inland Fisheries Ireland and the landowner(s), prior to the performance of any of the said services.

Please confirm that G @Organisation will arrange the appropriate insurance cover/s:

Signed: Date:

Print Name: Position:

Appendix E – Sample Project Budget Sheet

Category 1 Project Budget Sheet (Sample)

Budget Line Item	Description	Estimated Eligible Costs (€)	Requested Eligible Cost (€) (e.g. 50% or 100%)	Notes / Justification
Budget Items that should be considered				
Consultant Fees – Feasibility / Scoping	Preliminary design, options appraisal, feasibility studies			
Hydrological / Hydraulic Assessment	River modelling, flood risk assessments			
Ecological Surveys & Reporting	Fish surveys, habitat assessments, Appropriate Assessment (AA) screening			
Engineering / Structural /Geotechnical Surveys	Condition assessments of existing barriers, ground conditions, structure inspections			
Stakeholder / Public Engagement	Community consultation, landowner liaison, workshops			
Planning Application Preparation	Drawings, maps, forms, planning consultant time			
Planning Fees (to Local Authority)	Statutory fees for submitting planning application			
Legal / Access Costs	Easements, landowner access agreements, legal advice			
Estimated Total Eligible Costs		0		
Total Requested Eligible Costs			0	
*Note: Add rows as required to set out more detailed costs				

Category 2 Project Budget Sheet (Sample)

Budget Line Item	Description	Estimated Eligible Costs €	Requested Eligible Costs (€) (e.g. 50% or 100	Notes / Justification
Budget Items that should be considered				
Consultant Fees - Design, Tender, Construction	Detailed Design / Preparation of Tender Docs and Evaluation			
Contractor / Construction Costs	Mobilisation, demolition/removal, reinstatement			Based on quotations / estimates
Site Supervision / Project Management	Engineering oversight, site visits, H&S management			
Materials & Equipment	Pipes, aggregates, rock, formwork, fencing			
Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW)	On-site ecological supervision during works			If specified as requirement of planning
Environmental Mitigation Measures	Sediment control, fish rescue, erosion control			
Traffic / Public Safety Management	Temporary road closures, TTMP, signage, diversions			
Waste Management / Disposal	Removal of demolition material, contaminated waste			
Insurance & Site Security	Site insurance, fencing, out-of-hours security			
Estimated Total Eligible Costs		**0**		
Total Requested Eligible Costs			**0**	

*Note: Add rows where appropriate to set out line items or materials as required

Appendix F – Sample Ecology Score Document

			Preliminary Ecological Criterian														
			Criterion 1		Criterion 2		Criterion 3		Criterion 4		Criterion 5		Criterion 6		Criterion 7		
Project Name / Barrier Description	U 28 ID	Barrier Size	1) Distance from the Sea (km)	Distance Score	2) Barrier permeability	2)BP score	3) Tegos catchment	3) Tegos Score	4) Water Quality	4) Water Quality Score	5) Hydromorphology	5) Hydro score	6) Conservation Designation	6)Conservation Score	7) LAWPRO Catchment Designation	7)LAWPRO Score	Preliminary Ecological score
Project A	06_583_54	S	<25	0.9	Impassable	0.9	No	0.2	Moderate	0.4	Moderate	0.4	No	0.2	Outside	0.2	0.457
Project B	07_5_1	L	<25	0.9	Impassable	0.9	No	0.2	Poor	0.3	Poor	0.3	No	0.2	Outside	0.2	0.429
Project C	None	L	<25	0.9	Impassable	0.9	No	0.2	Poor	0.3	Poor	0.3	No	0.2	Outside	0.2	0.429
Project D	16_1509_0	S	62-111	0.4	Impassable	0.9	No	0.2	Moderate	0.4	Poor	0.3	No	0.2	Outside	0.2	0.371
Project E	17_662_152	M	<25	0.9	Impassable	0.9	No	0.2	High	0.9	Good	0.7	Yes	0.8	Outside	0.2	0.657

List of Acronyms

AA	Appropriate Assessment
ARC	Audit and Risk Committee
BMD	Barrier Mitigation Division
C&AG	Comptroller and Auditor General (Government audit office)
CWMF	Capital Works Management Framework
DECC	Department of Environment Climate and Communications
DHLGH	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
ELT	Executive Leadership Team
EOI	Expression of Interest is used to identify projects which may be appropriate for funding applications.
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ES	Ecological Score
EU	European Union
FET	Fund Evaluation Team
FMS	Fund Management System
FOI	Freedom of Information
GIS	Geographic Information System
IBAST	IFI Barrier Assessment and Screening Tool. Used by IFI to determine the level of passability a barrier is to various fish species.
IFI	Inland Fisheries Ireland
MQI	Morphological Quality Index
NBMP	National Barrier Mitigation Programme
NBP	National Barrier Programme
NDP	National Development Plan
NIAH	National Inventory of Architectural Heritage
NPWS	National Parks and Wildlife Services
OPW	Office of Public Works
OSI	Ordnance Survey Ireland
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SMR	Sites and Monuments Record
TEGOS	Technical Expert Group on Salmon
VAT	Value Added Tax
WFD	Water Framework Directive

List of Terms

Applicant	An eligible entity or organisation that submits a funding application through the fund application process.
Anadromous fish species	Anadromous fish means a fish or fish species that spends portions of its life cycle in both fresh and salt waters, entering fresh water from the sea to spawn
Approving Authority	The Approving Authority is the body funding the programme / project, in this case the approving authority is the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
Appropriate Assessment	An Appropriate Assessment is a structure process, mandated by European law (Habitats Directive), used to evaluate the potential impact of plans or projects on the integrity of Natura 2000 sites (e.g. Special Areas of Conservation SACs and Special Protection Areas SPAs)
Barrier Mitigation Fund	A funding scheme dedicated to removing or mitigating barriers to fish migration
Catadromous fish species	Catadromous fish are those that breed in the sea, but spend the majority of their adult life in freshwater
Catchment-Based Approach	Managing rivers based on the entire watershed area
Category 1 Project	The development stage of a project from initial planning to include statutory process
Category 2 Project	The second phase of funding available to take projects through post statutory process and implementation.
Diadromous fish species	A diadromous fish species is a species that divides its lifecycle between freshwater and the sea
Ecological Scoring Matrix	A framework used to rank the ecological importance of a barrier
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)	A legal requirement for major environmental projects
Expression of Interest (EOI) Process	The initial step in applying for funding. Expression of Interest is used to seek project approval for an application for either phase one (development) or phase two (construction)
EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030	European Union's policy for biodiversity conservation
Exempted Development	A development type that does not require planning permission. Details of which are outlined in the Planning and Development Regulations

Free-Flowing Rivers	Rivers flowing in a natural condition without significant human-made interventions or alterations such as dams, weirs or other artificial obstructions impede or divert its natural flow.
Grantee	
Grant Letter	The agreement to be entered into between IFI and a Grantee, setting out the terms and conditions on which a grant is being made available in connection with a barrier removal/mitigation project, substantially in the form set out in Appendix D – Grant Letter
Grand Management System	
Hydromorphological Pressure	Changes (typically man-made) to the physical characteristics of waterbodies that affect water flow and quality
Implementation Criteria	Factors used to evaluate how the project will be executed.
Infrastructure Guidelines (formally known as the Public Spending Code)	A set of regulations that provide a framework for evaluating, planning, and managing public investment projects, particularly capital infrastructure projects. These guidelines, which replaced the Public Spending Code in December 2023, offer a centralized source of guidance for public bodies involved in developing and approving infrastructure projects
Q-Value	Water Quality Classification System
Sponsoring Agency	The Sponsoring Agency has primary responsibility for evaluating, planning and managing public investment projects within the parameters of the Infrastructure Guidelines. The role of the Sponsoring Agency is performed for the purpose of this funding by Inland Fisheries Ireland through the Barrier Mitigation Division.
SNIFFER	The WFD111 Phase 2a Course resolution rapid-assessment methodology to assess obstacles to fish migration developed by the Scotland and Northern Ireland Forum For Environmental Research..
SMARTSIMPLE	The online portal used for managing funding applications