Habitats and Conservation 2027
Funding Call Guide

IFI/2026/1-4803





Iascach Intíre Éireann
Inland Fisheries Ireland

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INTRODUCTION: HABITATS AND CONSERVATION 2027

Each year funding is made available by Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) to allow fisheries related projects to be carried out. This funding is made available to Inland Fisheries Ireland and to eligible third parties. The Funding Call Guide 2027 explores the funding available from IFI, the relevant criteria associated with each fund and an overview of the main stages and requirements when making an application to receiving grant funding. Inland Fisheries Ireland Funding Call 2027 is made up of the following funds:

SALMON & SEA TROUT REHABILITATION, CONSERVATION & PROTECTION FUND 2027
up to €1,000,000

The Salmon and Sea Trout Rehabilitation, Conservation and Protection Fund (SSTRCPF) is generated from the sale of salmon and sea trout angling and commercial fishing licences, which represents a major contribution by licence holders to the rehabilitation, conservation and protection of these fish species. This year, funding will be provided for **rehabilitation and conservation related projects only**.

Funding is available through the SSTRCPF to contributors to the Fund which may include angling clubs, commercial fishermen and fishery owners with an interest in a salmon fishery and who have purchased an Irish salmon and sea trout angling or commercial fishing licence.

MIDLAND FISHERIES FUND 2027
€90,000

The Midland Fisheries Fund (MFF) is a funding mechanism through which angling clubs and organisations can access funding to undertake sustainable development works in the Midland Fisheries Group permit area. This source of funding has been created through angler contributions set-a-side from the permit income received by Inland Fisheries Ireland in the Midlands Fisheries Group permit area.

Funding is available to contributors of this fund that have an up-to-date Midland Fisheries Group permit.

KEY DATES

Item	Date
Launch 2027 Funding	**01 November 2026**
2027 Applications Open	**Expressions of Interest (EOI) for funding must be completed before an application can be created. Only completed EOI's that meet the specific fund criteria can transfer to a funding application.**
2027 EOI Deadline	**Expressions of Interest for funding in 2027 have to be submitted before the 10th of December 2026 at 1600hrs.**
2027 Applications	**Only successfully transferred EOI's can advance to application. Applications must comply with the conditions set out in this guide before being considered for funding. Closing date for receipt of full application is the 04th of February 2027.**
Grant Decisions	**May 2027**

Inland Fisheries Ireland acknowledges the comprehensive environmental and financial governance requirements associated with projects that are undertaken in environmentally sensitive areas. IFI recommends that applications submitted must justify the time and effort that applicants will need to put in to complete the project. Applicants will be advised regarding the development of their proposals in line with funding criteria, potential environmental effect and the information, reports and steps necessary to bring the proposal to full application.

Requirements- All Funds

Expressions of Interest (EOI) will only be accepted via IFI's Grant Management portal called SmartSimple. An EOI can progress into application through appropriate engagement with IFI.

Where projects include remedial works, scientific justification will be required. Such projects will be referred for scientific evaluation by IFI and this information will be provided to you.

Please note that only applications that contain all required information, as set out in this guidelines document, can be considered for funding. A quality check of all applications will be undertaken to ensure scheme compliance. Where applicants do not have all such information, they will be advised to collate relevant information specific to their project before making an application for funding.

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Salmon and Sea Trout Rehabilitation, Conservation and Protection Fund 2027 (up to a maximum of €1,000,000)

Introduction to the Fund

Salmon and Sea Trout Funds are generated from the sale of salmon and sea trout angling and commercial fishing licences which represents a major contribution by licence holders to wild salmon and sea trout habitat rehabilitation, conservation and protection.

Applicant Eligibility

Applications are invited from contributors to the fund which may include angling clubs, commercial fishermen and fishery owners with an interest in a salmon fishery and who have purchased a valid salmon and sea trout angling or commercial fishing licence (evidence required upon registration).

The fund is managed by Inland Fisheries Ireland. Applicants may apply for projects for the rehabilitation, conservation and protection of our wild Atlantic Salmon and Sea Trout stocks. It is recommended that the project is of sufficient size to justify the applicants time and effort required in project development and governance.

Match Funding

Match funding is not required for the majority of projects funded by this fund



FIGURE 1 NATIVE TREE PLANTING

WHAT TYPE OF PROJECT CAN I APPLY FOR?

The aim of this fund is to rehabilitate, protect and conserve Salmon and Sea Trout and their habitats. Funding will be available for **rehabilitation and conservation projects only**. Priority will be given to:

1. Rivers below conservation limit (in terms of salmon) or where sea trout stocks are significantly in decline or where sea trout fisheries are derelict.
2. Rivers, lakes and coastal zones where the conservation of the stocks either salmon or sea trout is under threat.
3. Rivers which have the greatest prospect of recovery of either their salmon or sea trout stocks or both.
4. Remedial works within the remit of Inland Fisheries Ireland where maximum benefit can be expected to accrue in terms of an improvement to the salmon or sea trout stocks.
5. Projects where part funding or in kind resources are provided by NPWS, LAWPRO or other, local, stakeholders.
6. Feasibility studies that offer improved value for money by virtue of the fact that they cover a large catchment area and/or demonstrate synergies with other nature restoration programmes.
7. Projects of strategic national importance that benefits the conservation of Ireland's salmon and sea trout stocks.
8. Measures that will aid in the assessment of the status of salmon or sea trout stocks in threatened rivers.

Applications are invited for the following project types (note not an exhaustive list):

- Design of fish passage improvement (e.g. Feasibility study/ options report).
- Spawning enhancement (addition/raking of gravel or cleaning existing substrates).
- In-stream restoration (woody weirs, woody deflectors, rubble mats, random boulders, etc.).
- Riparian zone improvement (sensitive tree management, tree planting, regeneration).
- Riverbank protection (soft engineering measures, log revetments, large woody habitat etc.).
- Fencing (protection of riverbanks including fences, stiles, solar cattle drinkers, etc.).
- Removal/control of aquatic invasive species (e.g., Asian Clam, Chub, etc.).
- Feasibility studies/development plans which lead to future projects under the above headings.
- Appropriate Assessment screening/other environmental reports for projects conserving Salmon/Sea trout may be funded to a maximum of €5,000.
- Research to evaluate proposed river/habitat rehabilitation efficacy.
- Assessment of status, monitoring of outcomes, funds will be available that will aid in the assessment of the status the salmon or sea trout stocks in threatened rivers and water bodies.
- Provision of match funding to OPW/Local Authorities etc., where the objectives of the project satisfy the objectives of the Salmon and Sea trout scheme and governance, liability is assumed by the lead agency.



FIGURE 2 - RIPARIAN FENCING AND NATIVE TREE PLANTING

For maximum effectiveness, the riparian buffer zone should be a wide as possible. Detailed discussions should be had with landowners as to the widest buffer zone permissible before making your application for funding.
In 2027 up to 10% of the allocated fund will be made available to projects that seek to improve fish passage and up to 20% will be made available to projects of strategic national importance to Salmon and Sea Trout. The remaining funding (at least 70%) will be available for habitat restoration projects/feasibility studies. If there are insufficient suitable habitat restoration projects/feasibility studies to take up the 70% allocation, the remaining fund could be made available for applications categorised as projects of strategic national importance.

All proposed works must align with current best practice and research in order to be eligible for funding, in particular, riverbank protection projects. Fish passage improvement proposals will need to demonstrate engagement with the landowners and show how they will contribute towards to rehabilitating salmon and sea trout habitat. Habitat rehabilitation proposals will require scientific evaluation before approval to progress. Guidance is available by following this link River Restoration in an Era of Climate Change

Please note: While this fund will support the feasibility report /design/ consent stage for barrier mitigation projects, the funding of the construction required for barrier mitigation should be sought from the National Barrier Mitigation Fund.

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MIDLAND FISHERIES FUND 2027 (€90,000)

INTRODUCTION TO FUND

The Midland Fisheries Fund (MFF) is a sustainable funding mechanism through which angling clubs and organisations can access funding to undertake sustainable development works in the Midland Fisheries Group permit area. The fund has been created through angler contributions from purchasing their angling permits, which is set aside from the permit income received by IFI in the Midlands Fisheries Group permit area.

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must have paid a current Midland Fisheries Group permit to be eligible for this fund (evidence required on registration). Eligible applicants can apply for funding through agreed collaboration with IFI. Projects can only be applied for within the Midlands Fisheries Group permit area (see Appendix 1).

MATCH FUNDING

As this fund is made up of permit contributions, applications to this fund generally do not require match funding, but are limited to 2 applications per organisation per year. It is recommended that the project is of sufficient size to warrant the required effort in project development and governance.



FIGURE 3 AUGMENTATION OF SPAWNING GRAVELS

WHAT TYPE OF PROJECT CAN I APPLY FOR?

Eligible project categories under this years scheme include projects that benefit anglers and projects that enhance fishery habitats within the MFF permit area (Appendix 1). Applications are invited for the following project types:

- Spawning gravel enhancement (addition/raking of appropriate gravel or raking existing substrates).
- In-stream structures to enhance river habitats (Large woody habitat, wood weirs and deflectors, rubble mats, random boulders, etc.).
- Riverbank protection (soft engineering measures, log revetments, large woody habitat etc.).
- Fencing (protection of riverbanks including fences, stiles, cattle drinks, etc.).
- Riparian zone improvement (sensitive tree management, tree planting, regeneration).
- Removal and control of alien invasive species (e.g., Asian Clam, Chub, Japanese knotweed etc.).
- Design of Fish passage improvement (e.g. Feasibility study/ options report).
- Feasibility studies/development plans/ Appropriate Assessment for proposals within the categories listed to a maximum of €25,000. A maximum of five studies are allowed.
- Research to evaluate proposed river/habitat rehabilitation efficacy.
- Projects that are of benefit to the anglers.

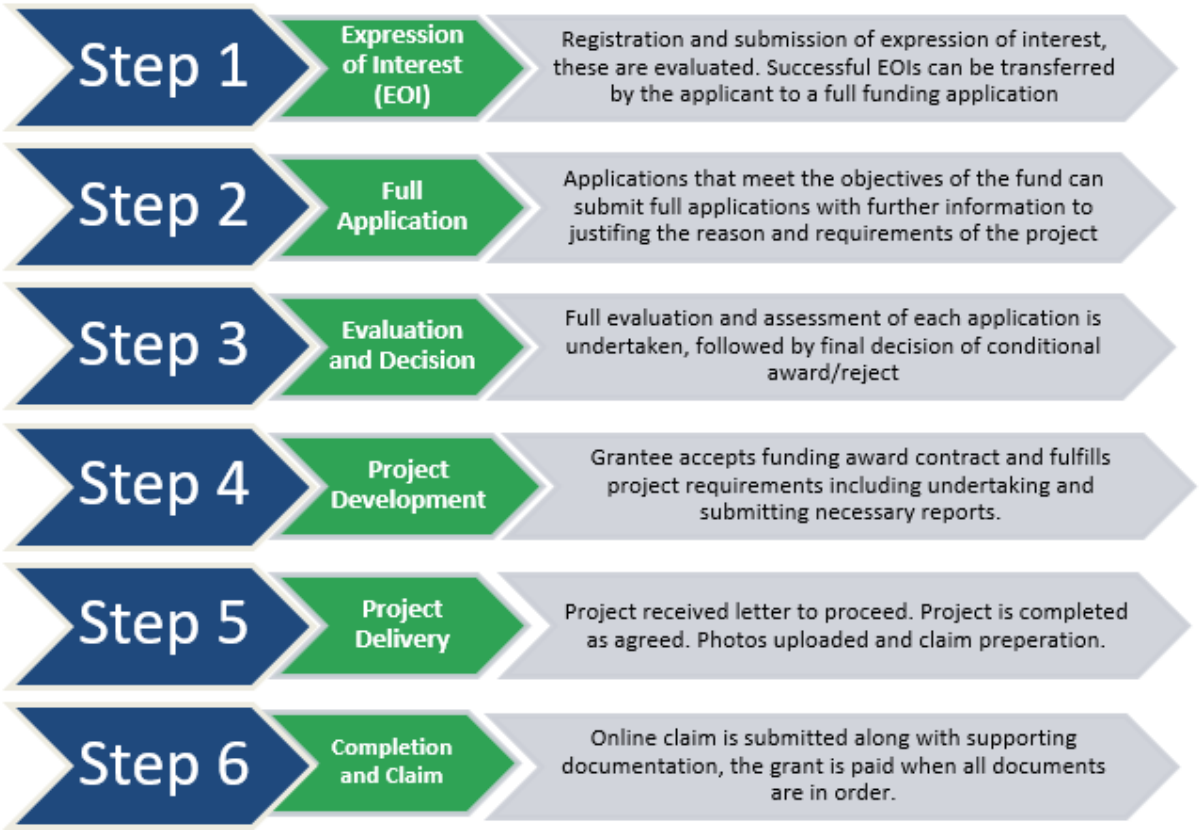
All proposed works shall have to align with current best practice and research in order to be eligible for funding, in particular, riverbank protection projects. Proposals that seek to rehabilitate habitat will require scientific evaluation and endorsement in advance of approval to progress.



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APPLYING FOR AND CLAIMING FUNDING 2027

Step by step process involved in applying and claiming fisheries funding.



STEP 1 EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (EOI)

- Applicants must engage with the relevant River Basin District inspector or assistant inspector and the Projects Office to discuss proposals before submitting an application (Appendix 2). This helps to establish a project's eligibility, such as its fit with the local Inland Fisheries Ireland River Basin District management plans and how it aligns to the fund objectives. It also facilitates applicants in becoming familiar with the process involved in a full application.
- The applicant must register on the system; the application process will only be allowed through IFI's grants management portal SmartSimple. No other forms of application will be considered.
- An expression of interest (EOI) application will include a minor description of the project, the location, the aims and objectives, an outline budget and a proposed methodology describing how the projects will be delivered and managed. A useful checklist is provided on page 13.
- At this stage only indicative costs can be presented but quotes are recommended.
- Applicants must commit to ensuring that all the necessary permissions will be in place to undertake the project up to and including planning permission, if required.
- EOI's are preliminarily evaluated by the RBD and the Projects Office. Only successful proposals that meet the minimum criteria will be allowed to progress.

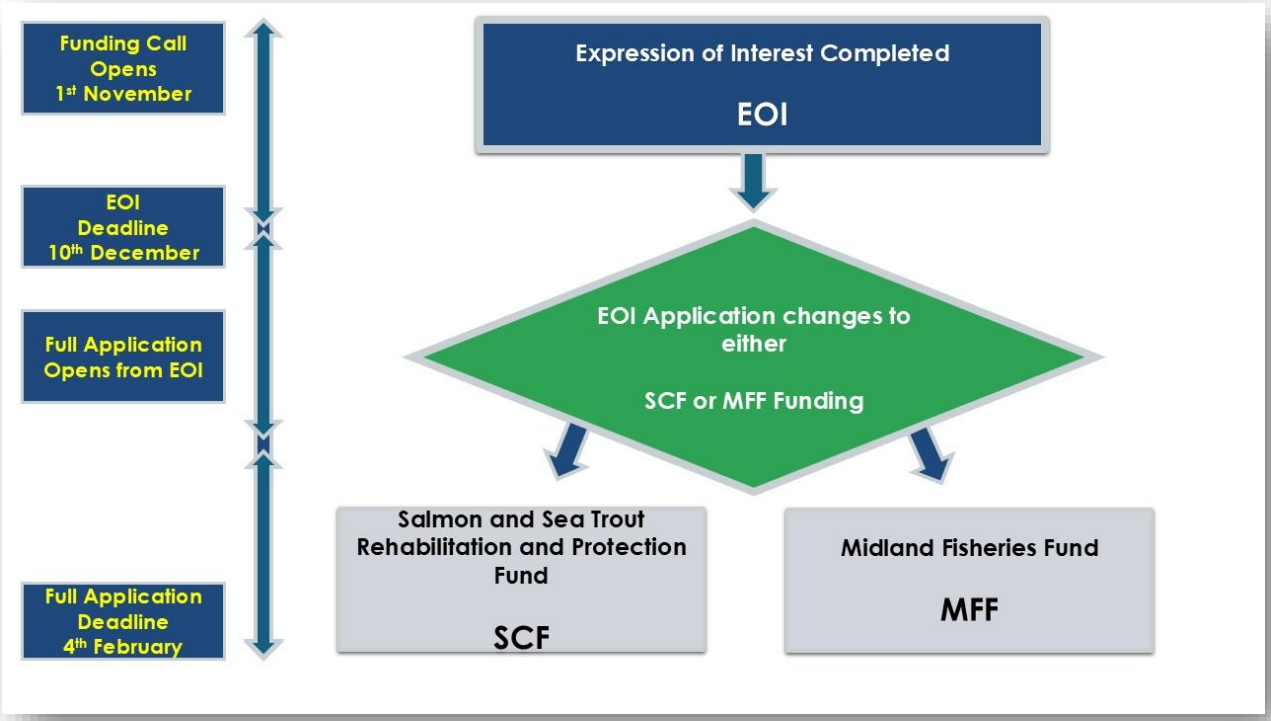


FIGURE 4 - IN JANUARY, SUCCESSFUL EOI APPLICATIONS WILL BE CONVERTED TO EITHER SCF OR MFF PROJECTS BY IFI THROUGH THE SMARTSIMPLE PORTAL - *IN COLLABORATION WITH THE APPLICANT*.

STEP 2 SUCCESSFUL EOI TO FULL FUNDING APPLICATION

- Applicants, if successful in completing their EOI, can submit a funding application by providing the appropriate requirements, supporting documents and selecting the relevant fund. Eligible costs include contractors engaged in the design and delivery of capital projects e.g. engineers, construction, project managers etc. All elements and activities of the project must be clear and be supported by relevant quotations and budgets; otherwise, the application may be ineligible and be rejected.

STEP 3 APPLICATION EVALUATION AND DECISION

- All submitted applications received within the deadline will first be evaluated to ensure that the application meets minimum requirements of the specific funding scheme objectives. Applications will be rejected/accepted at this stage.
- Applications are reviewed in accordance with the IFI Environmental Assessment Process (EAP). Inland Fisheries Ireland then reviews the full application and prioritises the project in line with fisheries objectives.
- Applications that progress to this point are put forward for a detailed review by a specific Panel of Experts for each fund (SSTRCPF and MFF). The panel assess the application submitted and evaluate it in line with the fund objectives and criteria. Feasibility in keeping with best practice, funding availability and value for money are also considerations for evaluation. A recommendation is provided regarding approval/rejection, award amount and elements/activities included in the potential award of funding corresponding to fund criteria.

- The panel recommendations are reviewed by the Development Funding Oversight Group (DFOG) and endorsed for review by the of Board of Inland Fisheries Ireland. When the Board approves the funding, letters of offer and funding agreements are uploaded to the Grant Management portal. These documents detail specific requirements to be adhered to prior to project delivery and claims procedure where grantees can recover agreed costs. Rejected projects are provided with a rationale and possible areas for development. All applicants are notified via email through the Grants Management portal.

Step 4 Project Development

- The award of funding is conditional until all outstanding requirements specific to the application are addressed and the funding agreement is signed within a designated time frame. A full list of terms and conditions are outlined on the funding agreement. A letter to proceed (LTP) is issued when specific requirements have been addressed. Projects must not commence until an LTP is sent to the grantee via email and they engage with their designated Inland Fisheries Ireland project supervisor.
- To ensure the protection of European Sites (SAC/SPA) an appropriate assessment (AA) process may need to be undertaken, this will be advised to the grantee in the funding agreement. A draft AA must be submitted in both MS Word and in a final PDF format to the IFI Project Office who will initiate a determination process on the report. This process could take 6/8 weeks and may need the author of the report to make specific amendments. If amendments are made, the author must provide the updated AA Screening in both MS Word [*with tracked changes*], and a final PDF version of same without any visible notes. The AA must be validated before the commencement of works.

Step 5 Project Delivery

- Once an LTP is in place and the project supervisor is notified, the grantee can progress with the agreed project. Any deviations or significant changes that might occur during the course of the project must be notified immediately to the supervisor and project officer. It should not be assumed that IFI are aware of these changes.
- Where applicable, Inland Fisheries Ireland may be available to enable the delivery of both third party and Inland Fisheries Ireland projects either in a supervisory or follow-up capacity as approved by the relevant River Basin District Director.
- Grantees must be aware of sunset clauses included in the funding agreement that set out milestones by which the project must be completed, or the funding award will be withdrawn.
- Grantee must complete the New Supplier form which will be emailed out with the LTP and email it back to the project officer. This will be required to facilitate reimbursement.

Step 6 Completion and Claim

- When the project is complete, the grantee must submit a claim form via the Grant Management portal with the required supporting documentation. Please refer to Claim Process on page 19.

- Grantees can also request phased payments but must demonstrate a tangible record of works/report/equipment. A signed progress report is submitted along with each phased claim by the project supervisor.
- The 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 is then submitted.
- The claim will be paid via electronic payment by Inland Fisheries Ireland once all financial requirements and completion/progress reports are in place.



FIGURE 5 EXAMPLE OF LARGE WOODY HABITAT IMPROVEMENT



FIGURE 6 - SOLAR POWERED DRINKING UNIT IN COMBINATION WITH RIPARIAN FENCING

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USEFUL CHECKLIST

WHAT INFORMATION WILL I NEED AND WHEN?

Note: Project types are shown on the right of the table, the associated requirements on the left under 'Required Items'.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

To make an initial expression of interest you will require the following items to complete your on-line submission:

No.	Required Items	Riparian plans	Riparian works	Barrier plans	Strategic Projects
1	To have consulted your project with the local Inland Fisheries Ireland staff.	✓	✓	✓	✓
2	Identifying and assess potential partner agencies and / or stakeholders to share responsibilities of the project.	✓	✓	✓	✓
3	Detail all intended outcomes and deliverables of your project.	✓	✓	✓	✓
4	Photographs of the proposed site/s that illustrate all the elements of the project, Photographs should identify the issues before work is done.	✓	✓	✓	
5	Any supporting information such as environmental reports, research paper, feasibility study or development plan if available.		✓		✓
6	Permissions or authorisations for the project if available.	✓	✓	✓	
7	Obtain quotes to back-up any proposed budget and clearly outline what funding you require from Inland Fisheries Ireland.	✓	✓	✓	✓
8	For fish passage design projects, provide confirmation of consultation with the National Barriers Mitigation Team.			✓	

After an Expression of Interest has been successful and achieved complete status, it can then move to a full application once it aligns to the objectives of an available fund. Additional information is then required to fully inform and back up the application process, including but not limited to the items listed in the table on page 14.

No	Requirements for a full application	Stage of application required	Riparian Plans	Riparian Works	Barrier Plans	Strategic Projects
1	Club Constitution/Memo/Articles of Association and a list of officers in the club/organisation.	Full application	Y	Y	Y	N
2	Evidence of valid salmon and sea trout angling or commercial fishing licence	Full application	Y	Y	Y	N
3	Valid eTax Clearance Reference number and Tax Clearance Access Number.	Full application	Y	Y	Y	N
4	Exact project area of operations location plotted on a map including river segments.	Full application	Y	Y	Y	Y
5	Evidence of fishery ownership/ satisfactory lease on project base/site.	Full application	Y	Y	Y	N
6	Completed landowner agreement form permitting land access for development works.	Full application	Y	Y	Y	N
7	Project tasks clearly outlined.	Full application	Y	Y	Y	Y
8	Budget breakdown of all elements of the project.	EOI & application	Y	Y	Y	Y
9	Details of in-kind contribution to the project	Full application	N	N	N	Y
10	Procurement as outlined in Appendix 5.	Full application or before works	Y	Y	Y	Y
11	Planning permission OR confirmation that planning is not required OR evidence that planning permission has been applied for.	Full application	N	Y	N	N
12	Partnership and resource sharing where appropriate.	Full application	Y	Y	Y	Y
13	NPWS Consultation is required for projects in or connected to a designated site.	Full application	Y	Y	Y	Y
14	OPW Consultation is required in managed rivers.	Full application	N	Y	Y	N
15	Digital photos of pre works/ location incorporating all elements of the project to illustrate the issues.	EOI & application	Y	Y	Y	Y
16	Screening for Appropriate Assessment, Appropriate Assessment, and Ecological Impact Assessment – if in or connected to designated site or species of qualifying interest.	Full application or before works	N	Y	N	Y
17	Biosecurity Measures– identify measures to be undertaken to prevent the spread of invasive species and harmful pathogens	Full application	N	Y	N	Y
18	Maintenance/Sustainability Plan– how the applicant will maintain the infrastructure/works over 5 years.	Full application	N	Y	N	Y
19	Applicant insurance to required levels - • Indemnification of IFI and landowners and continue to keep indemnified on relevant policies. • Public liability/Employers' liability • Health and Safety Statement/Risk assessments	Required before project commences	Y	Y	Y	N
20	Contractor insurance to required levels - • Indemnification of IFI and landowners and continue to keep indemnified on relevant policies. • Public liability/Employers' liability • Professional Indemnify (if appropriate) • Health and Safety Statement/ Risk Assessment	Required before project commences	Y	Y	Y	Y

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Specific Applicant and Project tasks to be completed			
ITEM/TASK	**DESCRIPTION**	**PROJECT TYPE**	**CRITERIA/SOURCE**
Site Plan of Proposed Project	Drawing or sketch of proposed works to specifically demonstrate what is to be done where, clearly outlining the various elements/categories involved in the project to facilitate project evaluation	Required on all development and enhancement works projects. Not required for feasibility studies or environmental report projects	**AutoCAD/Freehand drawings on maps, quantifying the works i.e., outlines measurements, dimensions/distances etc.**
Location Map	General and specific geographical map detailing location and scope of works to correctly evaluate the relevant permissions /authorisations required	Required on all development and enhancement works including feasibility studies, environmental reports and equipment	**Resource available on the grants management platform application form**
River Basin District Area	Nominate ERBD, SERBD, SWRBD, ShRBD, WRBD, NWRBD or National to identify evaluation direction and to select the project supervisor	Required for all projects	**Identified in application**
IFI Licenced Fishery	IFI state owned and licenced fisheries	Required for all state-owned licenced fisheries projects	**If not known contact local IFI office**
Rod Licence/Permit Number.	Valid Salmon or Sea Trout Licence or Midlands Fishery Permit number	Valid licence number required when applying for SSTRCPF, Valid Permit number required when applying for MFF.	**Number listed on licence/permit. Upload copy of licence/permit.**
Club Constitution/ Articles of Association	Documentation provided to identify up to date aims, objectives, structure and composition of organisation applying for funding	Required for all projects.	**Club/Committee secretary standard documentation**
List of Officers in Club	List of up-to-date officers (including contact info) involved in the club to confirm existence	Required for all projects unless they are a private business	**Club/Committee/Board standard documentation**
Proof of fishery ownership/lease	Provide evidence of title/leasehold/rental agreement to establish the legal status/ownership of the site	Required for all development and enhancement works. Not required for feasibility studies or environmental report projects	**Title deeds/lease agreement provided**
Fishery Owner Permission	Written consent from fishery owner and/or lessee permitting site development. This permission should reconcile with that of the legal status/ownership	Required for all development and enhancement works. Not required for feasibility studies or environmental report projects	**Landowner template can be used or written letter from owner/lessee permitting access and development**
Landowner Agreement permitting access to enable site development	Landowner template form(s) filled out by 2 witnesses after receiving oral agreement for access to proposed site of development to access and execute development and	Required for all development and enhancement works. Not required for feasibility studies or environmental report projects	**Templates available on the Grant Management portal or if filled out, on application form**

	enhancement works. Landowner may alternatively issue permission in writing to this effect		
Public Access Agreement in place - Min 5 years access	Agreed access from relevant landowner(s) and/or applicant to ensure a minimum of 5 years public access (post works).	The written agreement is required for MFF access type projects.	**Signed letter from landowner(s) to facilitate access for min of 5 years**
Planning status from Local Authority Approval/Consultation	Planning permission, Sec. 5 Declaration or letter/email from the Local Authority referencing the project.	Required for projects that screen in for AA, such as enhancement, development or access works	**Email/Letter from relevant authority or signed declaration template from a relevant person referencing the project**
NPWS Consultation	Letter or written evidence of consultation with NPWS to prevent significant effects upon Natura 2000 sites, NHA's or listed species	Required in all Natura 2000 sites, NHA's including boundaries and connections	**Email/Letter from authority referencing the project**
National Monuments/NIAH Consultation	Letter or written evidence of consultation with National Monuments/Inventory of Architectural Heritage to prevent impacts to Architectural Heritage and Historic Monuments	Required within zones of notification of architectural heritage and historic monuments sites, boundaries and connections	**Check boundaries off Historic Environment Viewer managed by the Department of Housing, Heritage and Local Government**
ESB Consultation	Letter or written evidence of consultation to ensure relevant permissions have been attained	Required in all development and enhancement projects within the ESB Hydrometric areas	**See details on web ESB Hydrometric Areas**
OPW Approval	Letter or written evidence of consultation to ensure relevant permissions have been attained in managed channels.	Required for enhancement projects in all OPW managed channels.	**See details on web OPW Drainage Maps**
Local Navigation or Drainage Board	Letter or written evidence of consultation to ensure relevant permissions have been attained.	Required in all enhancement or development projects in navigable channels.	**See details on web Inland Waterways**
Procurement for Works/Services	Procurement process required for all applications for funding.	See Appendix 5	**See Appendix 5**
Tax Clearance & Access No.	eTax clearance details will be checked to confirm that tax affairs are in order at the date of issue. Tax clearance will also be required from suppliers / contractors over a €10K threshold	Required for all projects	**See details on web Revenue Tax Clearance**
Pre-Works Photos of proposed site/s	**Photos must clearly show pre-site/project development to represent an accurate project concept prior to works, then can be compared to pictures after project completion to show value for money.**	**Required for all projects other than feasibility studies and environmental report projects**	**Photos are uploaded to the Grant Management portal. Ensure to take sufficient photos in sequence to fully realise your project.**

Insurance/Health & Safety

Item/Task	DESCRIPTION	PROJECT TYPES	CRITERIA/SOURCE
Employers Liability	EL protects any club/business employing people, Min. limit of indemnity provided €13,000,000 in respect of each and every occurrence and unlimited in the period of insurance	Required by club or contractor for development and enhancement projects, if contractor works alone then the club needs it. Insurance requirements must remain in place and maintained for the duration/life of the works.	**Min. Limit of indemnity €13,000,000. Each and every occurrence, Unlimited in any one period of Insurance. If the Angling club or contractor has No employees or volunteers working for them, EL is not required**
Public/Product Liability	Public Liability provides protection for the applicant against loss arising from injury to persons (other than employees) or damage to their property. Products Liability provides protection for the applicant (specifically for angling club/3rd party) against loss arising from injury or property damage caused by a defect in the product manufactured or sold	Required by club and contractor for development and enhancement projects. Insurance requirements must remain in place and maintained for the duration/ life of the works	**Min. Limit of indemnity €6,500,000. Any one accident, unlimited in any one period for Public Liability and in the aggregate any one period of insurance for Products Liability.**
Indemnity Clauses (PL Insurance)	Specific indemnity clause from insurance, required to protect IFI, landowners and other potential stakeholders	Required on all relevant policies and applications. Indemnity to Landowner is required if the Angling Club or Contractor obtains approval from a landowner to use their land for access	**Written letter/Insurance Schedule**
Member to Member Liability (PL)	Included in Public Liability to protect club members taking action for personal injuries sustained by other club members at a club event or on club property	Required by club and contractor for development and enhancement projects	**Included in PL Schedule.**
Once-Off Unintended Accidental Pollution (PL)	Included in the Public Liability policies of both applicant and contractor Insurances to protect against unintended pollution damage to the environment sustained during the access/works phase of the project	Required by club and contractor for development and enhancement projects	**PL/Products policy must provide cover for Accidental Pollution**
All-Risks	All risks insurance covers existing structures, temporary and permanent construction works plus materials should they be damaged or stolen prior to project completion	Applicant - Required for buildings and equipment projects. Club to clearly advise all Contractors to take out this policy to ensure the contractor is responsible for the recoverable costs of the goods/services prior to handover to applicant	**Value of the contract**
Professional Indemnity	Insurance for compensation being sought by a client if contractor has made mistakes in the advice or design you have given or is found to have been negligent	Required for contractors providing reports, designs, plans or spec for a fee	**Min. limit of indemnity up to €2,000,000, for each and every occurrence, and an undertaking to continue the policy for a min. of 6 years following certification of completion of works**

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Environmental Requirements, Health & Safety

Environmental Documentation Requirements	Documents include Appropriate Assessment screening (AAS), Ecological Impact assessments, Environment Impact Assessment (EIA), and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The documents should be conducted independent of the organisation to protect from environmental liability	Required in all Natura 2000 sites, NHA's including boundaries and connections. Identified and stipulated in the Environmental Assessment Process/Determination Process	**Identified in the IFI Environmental Assessment Process and appropriate assessment Determination, this will be stipulated in the grantee's Funding Agreement**
Section 59 Authorisation	Authorisation certificate provided by IFI under the Fisheries Act 2010 for the purpose of improving any fishery. The authorisation permits improvement works to undertake tasks as outlined in an application, under specific listed conditions	Required for all works projects operating within the watercourse. Provided by the IFI projects office.	**http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2010/act/10/section/59/enacted/en/html**
Health and Safety Statement	Document which specifies how H&S is going to be managed and is the cornerstone of effective H&S management in any business	All parties must prepare and implement H&S statements, risk assessments and provide appropriate training to those involved in respect of each project	**Template available, see HSA Guidelines on Safety Statements**
Risk Assessment	Systematic process of identifying risk, evaluating the potential risks that may be involved in a projected activity or undertaking to reduce/eliminate risk by adding control measures, as necessary	All parties must prepare and implement Health and Safety statements, risk assessments and provide appropriate training to those involved in respect of each project	**Template available, see HSA Risk Assessment Guidelines**
Biosecurity information	Preventive measures designed to reduce the risk of transmission of infectious diseases in crops, livestock, quarantined pests, invasive alien species, living modified organisms	Biosecurity info can be required as stipulated on funding agreement	**Can be included in Method statement or see Biosecurity Guidelines**
De-Minimis declaration	Agreement must be signed, dated and detailed by the applicant to declare State Aid received over the last 3 years. Enterprise applicants must not exceed the €300,000 ceiling for State aid in the 3-year timeframe	Required by all projects	**Template on the Funding Agreement (EC) 2023/2831**
Signed Funding Agreement	**Funding Agreement must be signed and dated by the applicant to accept the terms and conditions of the award of funding.**	**Required by all projects**	**Signed and uploaded to the Grant Management portal**

Completed Project Overview

Item/Task	DESCRIPTION	PROJECT TYPES	CRITERIA/SOURCE
Letter to Proceed	Grantees cannot proceed with any aspect of the project until this letter has been issued by Projects Management Office. The letter is also issued to the RBD and project supervisor to ensure transparency. This is a separate document to the signed funding agreement and is specific to each project.	Required for all projects prior to project commencement and delivery	**Provided by Projects Management Office**
Progress/ Completion Report	Undertaken by Projects Office and IFI project supervisor to confirm project delivery, stage payment and to proceed to Claims Process phase.	Required for all projects after all elements of the project are completed	**To be completed and signed by the Projects office in combination with Project Supervisor via Grant Management portal**
Completed Post Works Photos	Photos should ideally be taken at the same angle and location as the pre-works photos to demonstrate the entire scope of the project and cover all project elements.	Required for enhancement development projects	**Photographs covering all elements of the project are submitted to the Grant Management portal**

Claims Process

Item/task	DESCRIPTION	PROJECT TYPES	CRITERIA/SOURCE
Copy of Invoice(s)	Scanned copy of invoice(s), which should include date, clear detailed description of works/goods, with Invoice clearly identifying supplier and purchaser, VAT information for audit clarity	Required by all grantees finalising projects and claiming for funding	**Scanned copy of supplier/contractor invoices, delivery dockets, project reference should be included on all invoices.**
Copy of Receipt(s) or supplier statement of account	Scanned copy of receipt/supplier statement of account from supplier/contractor, to prove invoice payment by grantee	Required by all grantees finalising projects and claiming for funding	**Scanned copy of supplier/contractor receipts**
Copy of Cheque/EFT or Other form of payment	Scanned copy of cheque(s) issued to each creditor as proof of payment/s which must clearly include date, payee details, total and signature for audit clarity. EFT or other payments to include clear description of goods, date paid, supplier and complete transaction details	Required by all grantees finalising projects and claiming for funding	**Scanned copy of all creditor payment cheque(s), EFT or other payment types issued by applicant**

Copy of Bank statement	Scanned digital copies of original bank statements to be provided as proof of payment. Invoices and bank statements should be appropriately cross-referenced so that a clear and easy-to-follow audit trail exists from the invoices to the bank statements. For data protection all non-relevant transactions to be redacted by applicants.	Required by all grantees finalising projects and claiming for funding	**Copy of Applicant bank statements including account detail and all relevant project payment transactions**
Claim Form	Complete the template Claim Form on the Grant management portal according to the headings, each supplier payment should have its own line for clarity.	Required by all grantees finalising projects and claiming for funding	**Available on the Grant Management portal**
Grantee Bank Details Received	Grantee bank account details received detailing grantee account details for transfer of funds on completion and sign-off of project	Required by all grantees finalising projects and claiming for funding	**For existing IFI creditors, confirmation of current bank account details. For new Applicants "New Supplier Form" completed by grantee to enable transfer of funds**
Check eTax Information	Tax clearance information provided by the grantee will be checked by IFI before any payments are made and if it is invalid, has expired or has been rescinded, IFI will be unable to issue payment.	Provided by Grantee during claims process.	**See details on web Revenue Tax Clearance**
Procurement Compliance	**A review of procurement procedures will be completed to ensure compliance with statutory and financial obligations relating to the Project. (Refer to Appendix 5).**	**Required by IFI Finance best practice guidelines and policies**	**Audit of claim completed by projects office**

IMPORTANT POINTS TO NOTE

REGULATIONS

- Grantees must comply with all relevant state aid rules. To comply with State Aid rules, the level of funding provided to an applicant must not exceed the €300,000 ceiling for State aid over three years, known as the de Minimis ceiling. The rules governing de Minimis aid are set down in Commission Regulation (EC) 2831/2023.
- Double funding is prohibited. If the Project(s) receives or is seeking grant funding from any other State Sector sources, including Local Authority, under other schemes or programmes, this must be indicated in the application form.
- Responsibility for obtaining all consents, permissions, and compliance's etc. rests with the Applicant/Grantee. All permissive access agreements, approvals and/or assessments are in place in written form from the relevant agencies, fishery owners and/or landowners.
- 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.
- Any premises, assets, equipment, services or works purchased or used in the project shall be insured. Adequate policies will be affected against employer's liability, public liability and third-party risks. Details available on page 17.
- All applications must consider the costs associated with the on-going efficiency and maintenance of capital works and factor this into any funding proposal.
- Ineligible budget costs include time, insurance, interest paid on loans and travel/subsistence expenses for volunteers.
- Inland Fisheries Ireland logos must be included on all published or printed material, posters, plaques, web pages etc. relating to the project. All publications and electronic information about the project must clearly indicate Inland Fisheries Ireland's contribution.
- 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.
- For any claim, or drawdown of the Grant to be processed, Inland Fisheries Ireland must be in possession of a current valid eTax Clearance for the Grantee and for each supplier who has provided goods or services greater than €10,000.
- Organisations obtaining funding must show proof/documentation of existence and identify up to date aims, objectives, structure and composition. Funding will not be available if the organisation is dissolved.
- IFI is subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2014 and European Communities (Access to Information on the Environment) Regulations 2007 to 2018, therefore must consider any request made to it under the Acts.
- Personal data supplied to Inland Fisheries Ireland in relation to the Project and the Grantee may be processed by Inland Fisheries Ireland for the purposes of the Programme. The policy is available on the following link https://www.fisheriesireland.ie/privacy-policy
- If there is no contact or progress on the project in line with the timeframes identified in the funding agreement, a sunset clause letter will be issued and funding may be withdrawn, see page 22.

Sunset Clause

If we do not hear from the grantee or the requirements of the fund cannot be met within a logical timeframe identified in your funding agreement, Inland Fisheries Ireland will have no alternative but to terminate the funding agreement. The project office will help to ensure the applicant is aware of the funding deadlines. Should your agreement be terminated, your application and grant approval will receive no further consideration under this round of funding. You may submit a new application under future IFI funding schemes. A sample of the letter of offer and funding agreement is available on the following link:
https://www.fisheriesireland.ie/sites/default/files/migrated/docman/Sample%20Agreement.pdf

Appeals Procedure

Inland Fisheries Ireland is committed to providing open, accountable and accessible systems and procedures for its grants programmes. The process for appeals regarding projects associated with grants programmes administered by Inland Fisheries Ireland is as follows. All appeals must be sent in writing via email to the project's office via funding@fisheriesireland.ie for the attention of the Development Programme Director.

Project Monitoring

Grantees will receive timely prompts as they approach their project milestones, helping to support them in keeping to their agreed project timelines.

Monitoring will be conducted during and at any time after completion of the project, to assist in the evaluation of the IFI funding programme. Selected grantees are chosen randomly depending on funding award for review. Requirements and project outcomes will be evaluated to verify that the project is continuing to adhere to the agreed conditions post works. This monitoring will continue for a period of 5 years following the agreed completion of the project. The evaluation conditions are specific to each fund objectives and are set out in the funding agreement. Inland fisheries Ireland will conduct onsite post-payment evaluation of selected ongoing and completed projects. To facilitate the efficient monitoring of and publicity of the project, the Grantee must facilitate any staff member or representative of Inland Fisheries Ireland.

Designing Angling Stands

If your MFF project includes the design of angling stands, please refer to Inland Fisheries Ireland's Guide to the Design and Construction of Accessible Angling Stands. This can be found on the Inland fisheries Ireland website at:

Layout 1 (fisheriesireland.ie)

IFI also recommend that applicants look to the guidelines from the National Disability Authority regarding best practice for universal design of the built and external environment. These may be found at the following link: http://universaldesign.ie/Built-Environment/Building-for-Everyone/

GETTING HELP WITH YOUR APPLICATION

For general enquiries regarding the fund please contact:

The Projects Office, Inland Fisheries Ireland, HQ, Dublin

Phone: +353 (0)1 884 2600

Email: funding@fisheriesireland.ie

You must discuss your proposed project before submitting your EOI application with your local Inland Fisheries Ireland inspector or assistant inspector. Office contact details are as follows:

IFI North Western RBD, Ballyshannon, Co. Donegal

+353 (0)71 9851435

IFI South Eastern RBD, Clonmel Co. Tipperary

+353 (0)52 6180 055

IFI South Western RBD, Macroom, Co. Cork

+353 (0)26 41222

IFI Western RBD, Ballina, Co. Mayo

+353 (0)96 22788

IFI Shannon RBD, Limerick

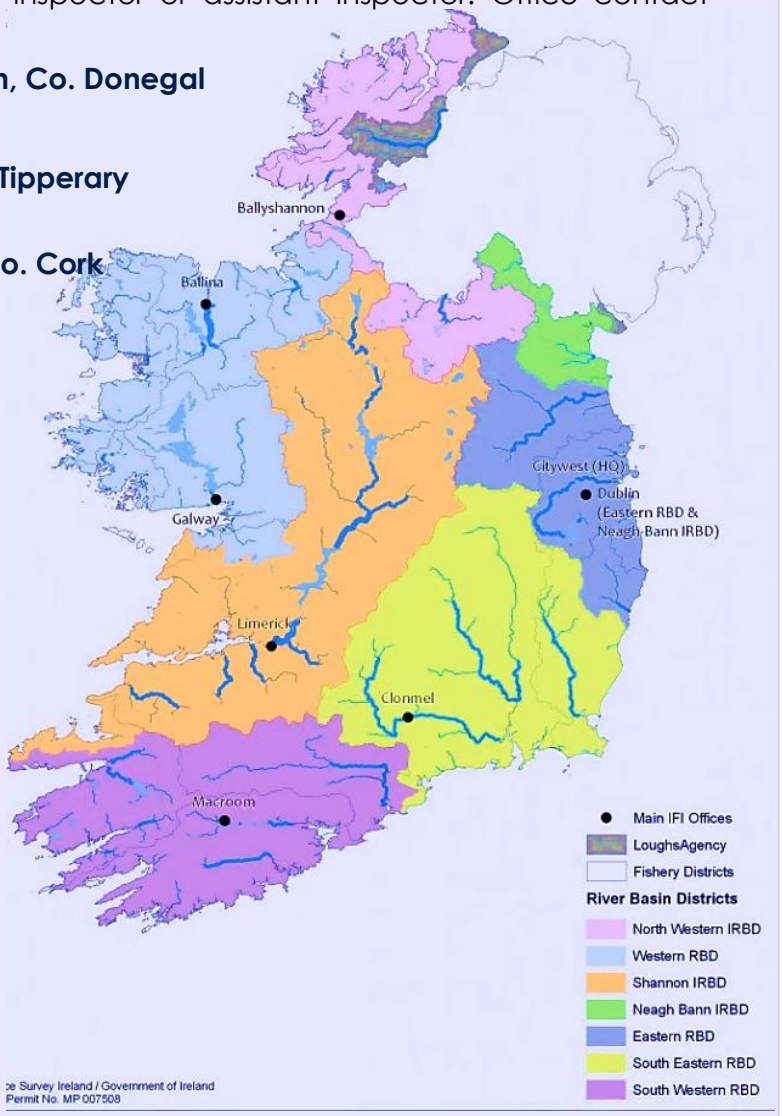
+353 (0)61 300238

IFI Western RBD, Galway

+353 (0)91 563118

IFI Eastern RBD, Dublin

+353 (0)1 2787022



How will applications be Assessed?

All applications will be objectively assessed using a standard consistent format. Each fund has specific criteria and objectives that must be followed.



FIGURE 7 NATIVE TREE WHIP PLANTING (LEFT), AND RIPARIAN FENCING

Salmon and Sea Trout Fund

Projects will be assessed against the objectives of the scheme:

1. Rivers below conservation limit (in terms of salmon) or where sea trout stocks are significantly in decline or where sea trout fisheries are derelict.
2. Rivers, lakes and coastal zones where the conservation of the stock of either salmon or sea trout is under threat.
3. Rivers which have the greatest prospect of recovery of either their salmon or sea trout stocks or both.
4. Remedial works within the remit of Inland Fisheries Ireland where maximum benefit can be expected to accrue in terms of an improvement to the salmon or sea trout stocks and habitat.
5. Projects of strategic national importance that benefit the conservation or protection of Ireland's salmon and sea trout stocks.
6. Measures that will aid in the assessment of the status of either the salmon or sea trout stocks in threatened rivers.
7. Priority will be given to projects where part funding or in-kind resources are provided by NPWS, LAWPRO or other, local, stakeholders.
8. Priority will be given to feasibility studies that offer improved value for money by virtue of the fact that they cover a large catchment area and/or demonstrate synergies with other nature restoration programmes.

In 2027 up to 10% of the allocated fund will be made available to projects that seek to improve fish passage and that up to 20% will be made available to projects of strategic national importance to Salmon and Sea Trout. The unallocated funding (at least 70%) would be available for habitat restoration projects/feasibility studies. In the event that there are not enough suitable habitat restoration projects/feasibility studies to take up the 70% allocation, the remaining fund could be made available to fish passage and strategic projects.

Salmon projects are prioritised on a points scale by answering the following questions;

Question 1 Salmon Conservation Limit for the river in question.
Rivers will receive a score based on their current Salmon Conservation Limit attainment figure.

0 points is given to Unlisted rivers and rivers exceeding 120% of their CL.
1 point is given to rivers between 100 and 120% of CL.
2 points is given to rivers below 100% of CL.

Question 2* Water Framework Directive (WFD) Status.
Rivers will receive a score based on their Water Framework Directive status in terms of water quality, hydromorphology and the fish status. The WFD score is the sum of the scores for each of the categories. The Scores for each of the different classifications in each of the component categories are shown in the table below:

Category	WFD classification	SSTRCPF score
Water quality	High	1
	Good	2
	Moderate	3
	Low	2
	Poor	1
RHAT score	High	1
	Good	2
	Moderate	3
	Low	2
	Poor	1
Fish Status	High	1
	Good	2
	Moderate	3
	Low	2
	Poor	1

If the WFD Status is not published, the data shall be sourced through IFI research division.

Question 3 Maximum Benefit of the Project to the River.
Panel to allocate rating of 0 to 4 based on information provided in application (0 being of no benefit to 4 being very high benefit). Split scores are allowed e.g. 3.5.

Question 4. Leveraged resources available to the project.
A score will be allocated to the project on the basis of additional resources brought to the project from external sources. These resources can be in the form of funding or In kind contributions such as the provision of labour and plant. The magnitude of the

contribution will be expressed as a percentage of the requested funding and will be scored as follows:

0-5% 1 point
5-10% 2 points
Greater than 10% 3 points

Question 5. Is the proposed project part of a wider nature restoration project funded by another agency (NPWS or LAWPRO for example). If the project is a discrete, separate part of a greater nature restoration project an additional point will be awarded.

Question 6 Total approved to proceed to Funding Implementation Group for signoff. Panel to agree on the figure based on the weighted score, the RBD priority and a Value for Money consideration.

Sea Trout projects

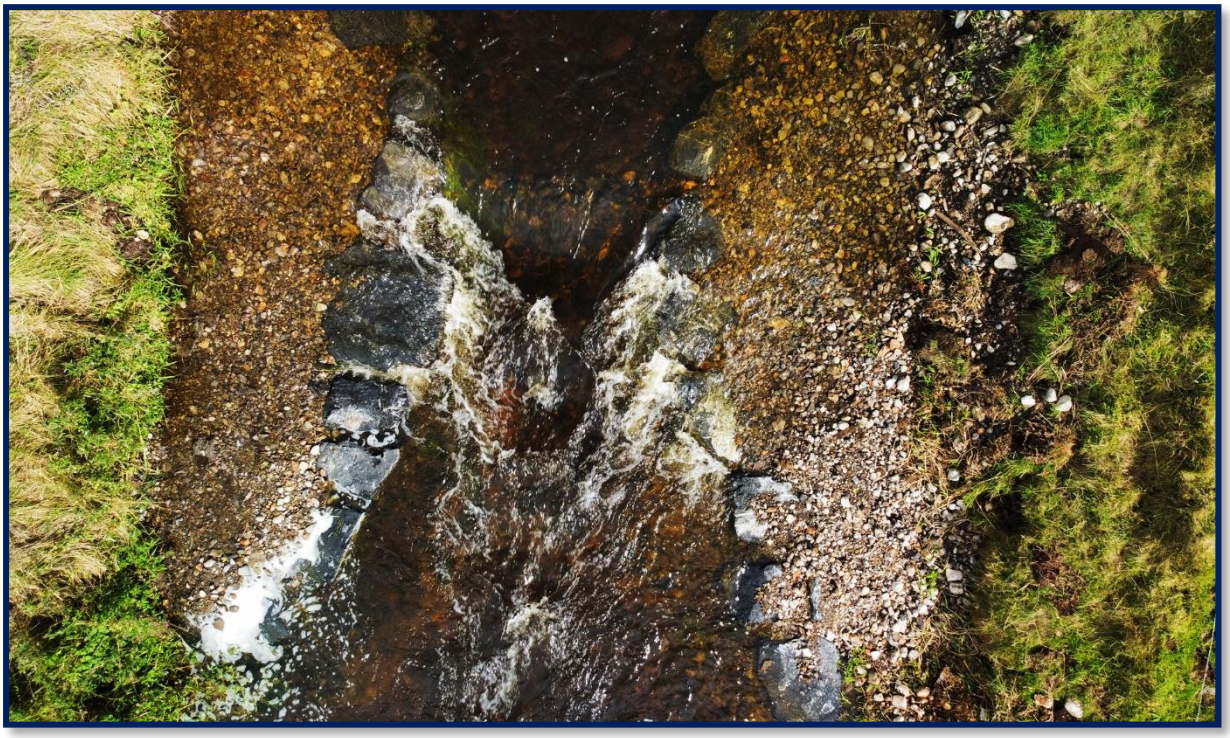
Prioritisation criteria for Sea Trout projects has yet to be devised, however Inland Fisheries Ireland is positively disposed to a project that can deliver on conservation outcomes.



FIGURE 8 EXAMPLE OF LARGE WOODY HABITAT IMPROVEMENT

Midland Fisheries Fund

Inland Fisheries Ireland reserves the right to allocate funding at its absolute discretion to meet its priority of sustainable development of fisheries and angling in the Midland Fisheries Group area. Inland Fisheries Ireland will assess project proposals, score them and then prioritise the proposals (based on scoring). Funding will be allocated on the basis of that prioritisation exercise.



Project scoring criteria will include (but not be limited to) the following:

- Projects must have a good potential to clearly benefit fisheries in the Midland Fisheries Group Permit Area.
- Projects must have a definite focus on tourism angling or fisheries development that will ultimately improve the tourism potential.
- Sustainable development must be evident, i.e. Maintenance Plans provided.
- Potential economic impact must be outlined as part of the application.
- Projects that are part of a larger community or tourism project must be noted as such and supporting documentation provided.

Appendix 1: Midland Fisheries Group Permit Area

Catchment Area	Rivers	Lakes
River Inny	River Inny	Lough Derravaragh
		Lough Patrick
		Lough Sheelin
		Lough Kinale
		Lough Glore
		Bracklough lake
River Brosna	River Brosna	Lough Ennell
	Silver River	Lough Owel
	Clodiagh River	Ballinafid Lake
	Gageborough River	Doolin Lake
		McEvoys Lake
		Slevins Lake
		Mount Dalton
		Lake Sheever
		Pallas Lake
Little Brosna	Little Brosna River	
	Camcor River	
River Suck	Island River	Lough Acalla
	River Shiven	Hollygrove Lake
	Killian River	Lough O Flynn
	Ahascragh River	Stonehams Lake
	Killeglan River	Lough Loung
	Clooncar River	
	Bunowen River	
	Castlegar River	
	Tirur River	
Other Waters	Camlin River	
	County Longford	

Iascach Intíre Éireann
Inland Fisheries Ireland

APPENDIX 2: TEMPLATES – LETTER OF CONSULTATION

CONSULTATION FORM - DETAILS OF APPLICANT/PROPOSED PROJECT

Organisation/Applicant Name			
Main Contact Name			
General Overview of proposed Project			
Proposed Project Location (list relevant river/lake)		Estimated Cost of Proposed Project:	€

CONSULTATION WITH MEMBER OF IFI STAFF

Date of Consultation		
IFI Staff Member Name(s)		RBD Location:
Name(s) of Applicant/Club/ Association Representative		

COMMENTS/POINTS OF DISCUSSION

Comments/Points of Discussion	
Issues/Areas of Concern Discussed (if any)	

Signatures I hereby confirm that I have discussed the above outlined proposed project with a member of IFI Staff		
Signature of IFI Staff Member(s):		Date:
Signature of Applicant/Club/ Assoc representative(s) attending Meeting		Date:

Inland Fisheries Ireland obtains and processes your personal data for the purposes of verification in relation to your Expression of Interest (EOI) application. Your personal data is securely stored and processed in line with the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

Please scan and upload this form to your EOI

APPENDIX 3: TEMPLATES - LANDOWNER PERMISSIONS

Letter of confirmation and agreement regarding use of property for land access for the purpose of fisheries development work

Name of club/organisation applying _____

Address of project site _____

_____

Folio Number _____

I/We, _____ (landowner) confirm that:

1. I/ We own the above land.
2. I/ we are aware that the above-named club/ organisation access my lands for angling purposes
3. I/ we are aware that the organisation is applying for a grant for fisheries/ angling development and that I/ we agreed to the proposed works/ development
4. At the present time I/we have no intention of barring, evicting or otherwise limiting the access of the club/organisation to the site/facility for a minimum of 5 years.

Landowner name _____

Landowner address _____

_____

Reasonable precautions will be exercised by _____ (*insert organisation seeking permission) to* avoid damage to persons and property. _____ (*insert organisation seeking permission) agrees* to indemnify and hold harmless the Landowner caused by reason of the uses authorised by this agreement, except those caused by the gross negligence or intentional conduct of the Landowner.

Please attach a map clearly indicating the location and extent of the property in question and the agreed point of access.

Signed _____ Date _____

Witness Name _____

Witness Signature _____ Date _____

Iascach Intíre Éireann
Inland Fisheries Ireland

Verbal agreement between landowners and development proposer for land access for the purpose of fisheries development work

We, _____ (organisation seeking permission) have attained verbal agreement from the landowner detailed below, to allow us to access the _____ (fishery) through their property for the purpose of carrying out fisheries/angling development works.

Landowner name _____

Landowner address _____

_____

_____

Folio Number _____

Name of 2 authorised personnel who has spoken with landowner:

Authorised personnel 1 _____

Authorised personnel 2 _____

(Permission should be sought in the presence of at least 2 relevant authorised personnel/members)

Date that verbal agreement for access was attained: _____

(Stock proofing projects) Does the landowner wish to part fund any element of the project: YES / NO If YES provide details below:

_____

If for any reason, prior to or during the development work, access is restricted and so prevents part / all for the development work to be completed as agreed, we _____ _____ (applicant) will bear full responsibility. The cost of works that are not completed to the satisfaction of Inland Fisheries Ireland will not be reimbursed by Inland Fisheries Ireland.

Please attach a map clearly indicating the location and extent of the property in question and the agreed point of access.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Signed by authorised personnel (e.g. chairperson /secretary) on behalf of _____

APPENDIX 4: TEMPLATE - CONFIRMATION THAT PLANNING PERMISSION IS NOT REQUIRED

Template to be completed where planning permission is not required

Must be completed by the Local Authority Planning Department

Name of Applicant	
Address of Project	
Project details	

To be completed by your Local Authority planning department only

I certify that the above-named project or part of project does not require planning permission.

Signature _____

Name _____(Block Capitals)

Position _____

Relevant Qualification _____

Date _____

Iascach Intíre Éireann
Inland Fisheries Ireland

APPENDIX 5: TEMPLATE – LANDOWNER MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT FOR GRANT FUNDED ASSETS

Equipment and Fencing Maintenance Agreement

Project Ref: _____

I, _____, confirm that I am satisfied with the work, providing the grant funded assets of No._____, No. Cattle drinking Units; _____meters of fencing (*circle relevant ones*) provided by Inland Fisheries Ireland (IF) on my land at

_____

I understand and agree to take ownership of, and responsibility for, the ongoing upkeep and reasonable maintenance of the grant funded assets provided to me by IFI on my lands at the folio number listed below, from the completion date listed below.

To help ensure that the above-mentioned investment items continue to provide their intended benefit, the materials, equipment and fencing will be maintained on site for a **minimum of 5 years**.

Completion date: _____ **Folio(s) No.:** _____

Agreement

Landowner name: _____ **Date:** _____

IFI Staff member Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Equipment and fencing details

Please itemise the specific materials, equipment and fencing provided, including make/model/serial number (if relevant). This helps all parties maintain a clear record of what has been provided and supports ongoing communication and care.

Item / Material / Equipment / Fencing	Make / Model / Serial No(s). (if relevant)

The original signed agreement will be stored securely by IFI. A copy of the completed agreement will be provided to the landowner upon agreed practical completion.

APPENDIX 6: 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: https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/c23f5-public-procurement-guidelines-for-goods-and-services/?referrer=

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 grant management portal. 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 grant management portal.
- Estimated value of goods or services from **€250 to €1,000** (excluding VAT): Minimum of 3 verbal quotes identified in the budget breakdown and include budget rationale document on the grant management portal.
- 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 grant management portal.
- 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 grant management portal.

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 grant management portal.
- 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 grant management portal.

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 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 grant management portal.
- 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 grant management portal.

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 managements portal.

eTender Requirements

eTenders 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 grant management portal, 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.

Relevant Circulars and Plans

In 2019, the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (DPER) published 'Promoting the use of Environmental and Social Considerations in Public Procurement' Circular-20-2019. This Circular instructs government departments to consider using green criteria in procurement, where defined and measurable criteria exist.

In 2021, Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications with DPER published 'Green Tenders - an Action Plan on Green Public Procurement' Green Tenders states that 'Where possible, public procurement policies should encourage the use of all types of environmentally friendly products - energy efficient, water conserving, recyclable, non-toxic, and low in emissions of volatile organic compounds.'

The Climate Action Plan 2021 link and Climate Action Plan 2023 link provides a detailed plan for taking decisive action to achieve a 51% reduction in overall greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and setting us on a path to reach net-zero emissions by no later than 2050, as committed to in the Programme for Government. These include plans to mandate the inclusion of green criteria in all public procurements and update OGP frameworks in line with green procurement practice by the end of 2023.

The importance of following correct procurement procedures cannot be over emphasised for Inland Fisheries Ireland funding.

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