



Iascach Intíre Éireann
Inland Fisheries Ireland

Eel Fisherpersons Support Scheme Booklet & Application Form

Implementing a Support Fund of up to €3.0 million over three years to provide a measure of relief to fisherpersons experiencing hardship following the Government decision to fully align with scientific advice on eel stocks from 2009 and beyond.

1 The Scheme

The Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment has established a 'Support Fund' of €3 million over a period of three years to address the hardship experienced by commercial eel fishermen affected by the Government decision to align the wild eel fishery with the scientific advice from the Standing Scientific Committee for Eels for 2009 and beyond.

1.1 Background

The status of eel stocks in Ireland and elsewhere is well documented and it is evident that these have declined dramatically in recent years.

1.2 National and International Obligations

Following the advice from ICES that the stock is in endangered, the EU commission implemented the Eel Recovery Plan (EC 1000/2007) requiring all member states to create national management plans to aid the recovery of the stock of European eel.

The regulation states that:

"The objective of each Eel Management Plan shall be to reduce anthropogenic mortalities so as to permit with high probability the escapement to the sea of at least 40% of the silver eel biomass relative to the best estimate of escapement that would have existed if no anthropogenic influences had impacted the stock".

Under the EC Regulation, Member States should monitor the eel stock, evaluate current silver eel escapement and post-evaluate implemented management actions aimed at reducing eel mortality and increasing silver eel escapement. These management plans would be evaluated every 3 years until 2018 and subsequently every 6 years. To date Ireland has produced progress reports in 2012, 2015 and 2018.

The European eel was listed in Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) in 2007, although it did not come into force until March 2009. Since then, any international trade in this species needs to be accompanied by a Non Detriment Finding permit. Trade is permitted within the borders of the EU. The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has assessed the European eel as 'critically endangered' and included it on its Red List in 2009 and it renewed this listing in 2014.

Ireland is a signatory of the UN Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) who have highlighted the plight of the eel and in 2014, the European eel was added to Appendix II of the CMS, whereby

parties (covering almost the entire distribution of European eel) to the Convention call for cooperative conservation actions to be developed among range states.

1.3 The Standing Scientific Committee for Eels

Under the National Eel Management Plan a Scientific Eel Group (SEG) was set up and comprises of scientific advisors from different organisations within Ireland and Northern Ireland. In 2010, the SEG was reconstituted as a Standing Scientific Committee for Eel under Section 7.5(a) of the Inland Fisheries Act (2010). The purpose of the committee is to provide independent scientific advice to guide IFI in making the management and policy decisions required to ensure the conservation and sustainable exploitation of Ireland's eel stocks. The group report annually to IFI and prepare a scientific report to accompany the evaluation of the management plans required by the EU every three years.

1.4 Cessation of the Eel Fishery

In 2008 fishery management measures were introduced while the eel management plans were drawn up. This resulted in a reduction in the yellow and silver fishing seasons and a cap on the number of licences issued.

Ireland established five River Basin Eel Management Units (EMU) and one transboundary EMU and undertook an assessment of level of escapement to sea of silver eel relative to historic levels. It was calculated in 2008 that of the 6 Eel Management Units (EMU) in Ireland 3 were below the 40% target (Western River Basin District (WRBD), SHIRBD (Shannon International River Basin District), NWIRBD (North Western International River Basin District), and 3 catchments were above the 40% target (Eastern EMU (Eastern River Basin District (ERBD) and Neagh Bann River Basin District (NBRBD)), South East River Basin District and South West River Basin District. On a national scale Ireland had an escapement of 25% compared with historic pristine conditions.

Given the implications of the scientific advice, the consideration of practical management implications and the need to conserve and recover the stock in the shortest possible timeframe (contingent upon equivalent actions across Europe), the precautionary approach was adopted in accordance with the recommendations of the National Eel Working Group and the eel fishery was ceased in 2009. The eel fisheries in tidal and transitional waters are managed under the Inland Fisheries legislation and management structures and given the absence of appropriate methods for estimating eel stock densities and silver eel escapement in transitional waters, the precautionary approach was also adopted in accordance with the recommendations of the

National Eel Working Group and the eel fishery in transitional and tidal waters was also ceased at the same time.

2 The Support Fund

The fund is a restitution payment specifically targeted at former eel fishermen who were licenced / permitted to engage in the commercial eel fishery in **2007**.

2.1 Who Can Apply?

The fund is available to former commercial eel licence holders who held a Regional Fisheries Board (State) eel fishing licence in their name or were named on an ESB eel fishing permit in **2007**.

2.2 When will the scheme be open?

The scheme will be open for applications from **22nd October 2018** and applications must be received by **5.00pm 30th November 2018**. All applications will be acknowledged. If you do not receive an acknowledgement please contact the scheme's administrative office:

Eel Support Scheme

Inland Fisheries Ireland

Teach Breac

Earl's Island

Galway H91 E2A2.

Late applications will not be accepted.

2.3 Payment Period

The fund will be paid over a period of three years and the amount will be paid in three or four instalments. The first non-taxable instalment will be paid (if the application is verified and approved by IFI) before **31st December 2018**. Subject to verification from the Revenue Commissioners, it is intended that the first taxable instalment will be also be paid before **31st December 2018**. The two further instalments will be paid on the 1st July in the two subsequent years (2019 and 2020).

2.4 Clarification

To avoid doubt where a person had a property right to an eel fishery this scheme does not affect these property rights. If they held a licence they are entitled to make an application for the Support Scheme.

The scheme is only open to those people who were the holder of either a Regional Fisheries Board (State) eel fishing licence or were named on an ESB eel fishing permit in **2007**. An application must be made by the former licence holder and cannot be made by any other person. Where a person is approved for payment and is subsequently deceased the payment will accrue to their estate subject to the relevant rules from the Revenue Commissioners.

2.5 Criteria

In every case those who qualify for the direct payment scheme will be required to:

- Make an application;
- Provide certain specific personal details (which will be used only to enable cross referencing with IFI's records of licences or ESB's records with permit holders and their catches);
- Give an undertaking not to make a future application for a commercial eel fishing licence or permit (for harvest);
- Verifiably decommission their nets to the satisfaction of IFI. IFI may certify retention of nets in certain circumstances;
- In the event of approval the applicant must be in a position to comply with the relevant tax clearance procedures at the time of grant payment.

2.6 Specific Terms and Conditions

Applicants should please note that the following terms and conditions will apply to all applications. These will include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) reserves the right to alter or amend the conditions of this scheme and or to the selection criteria or to suspend the scheme or to substitute the scheme for a different scheme;
- Acknowledgement of any application does not constitute any form of entitlement to any form of payment whatsoever nor should the applicant construe any assistance given to him/her by officers of IFI as a form of indication that payment will become available to him/her;
- A person who is convicted of any offence under the Fisheries Acts or to any offence created pursuant to any provision amending or replacing the offence provisions under the Fisheries

Acts shall lose all entitlement to payments under the Scheme and shall repay all payment instalments received together with interest from the day of payment at a rate of EURIBOR +2%. In addition they will forfeit entitlement to any further payments if this occurs within the time frame of the scheme and subsequent payments fall due.

3 Appeals Process

Any applicant who is of the view that the amount of payment offered -within the terms and conditions of the scheme – or a refusal to offer payment - within the terms and conditions of the scheme - when they can prove that they fully complied with all of these terms and conditions, has a right to appeal. Appeals which relate to any matter not within the terms and conditions of the scheme cannot be considered.

Appeals to include all documentation pertaining to their claim should be sent to:

**Eel Support Scheme
Appeals Officer
Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment
Elm House
Elm Bank
Cavan
H12 A8H7**

The closing date for the appeals is **1st February 2019**.

4 Details of Level of Support Payment

Mandatory Requirement

The scheme is only open to those people who were the holder of either a Regional Fisheries Board (State) eel fishing licence or were named on an ESB eel fishing permit in **2007**.

Licence Based Payment

- Payment will be made in respect of the applicant being the holder of a licence/permit in any given year and not in respect of each licence/permit held.
- If a licensee held a state licence and was also a shared holder of an ESB Permit for the same year, they will receive the full credit for holding the licence for the year in question.
- Where ESB Permits were held in two names, licence based payments will be divided equally between the named individuals.
- This Scheme is not applicable to nominees on eel fishing licences.

Catch Payment

- A taxable payment will be made on the basis of declared catch returns to either IFI or the ESB for the years in question averaged over the number of years the fisherperson held a licence or permit over the datum years (2003 – 2007).
- If there are two names on an ESB permit the catch is divided equally between the two named fisherpersons.

4.1 Examples of Regional Fisheries Board (State) Licence / ESB Permit Based Payments

This element of the support payment is tax exempt. Once a state licence or ESB permit was held in **2007** the fisherpersons record for prior years are taken into consideration.

Years State Licence / ESB Permit Held	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
State Licence based payment	€4,000	€3,500	€3,000	€2,500	€1,000
OR: ESB Permit based payment (permit held in one name)	€4,000	€3,500	€3,000	€2,500	€1,000
OR: ESB Permit held in two names – permit based payment to each named fisherperson	€2,000	€1,750	€1,500	€1,250	€500

Bands of payments for average catch over years fished in the datum years

Band	Average Declared Catch 2003 - 2007	Band lower Kg.	Band Upper Kg.	Amount of payment based on Average catch declared to IFI or the ESB by fisherpersons.
Band 1	No Catch	0	0	€0
Band 2	Average declared catch of between 1 kg– 50 kg for years they held licence or permit	1 kg	50 kg	€1,000
Band 3	Average declared catch of between 51 kg– 150 kg for years they held licence or permit	51 kg	150 kg	€1,500
Band 4	Average declared catch of between 151 kg– 300 kg for years they held licence or permit	151 kg	300 kg	€3,000
Band 5	Average declared catch of between 301 kg– 650 kg for years they held licence or permit	301 kg	650 kg	€6,000
Band 6	Average declared catch of between 651 kg– 1,000 kg for years they held licence or permit	651 kg	1,000 kg	€10,000
Band 7	Average declared catch of between 1,001 kg– 1,500kg for years they held licence or permit	1,001 kg	1,500 kg	€13,000
Band 8	Average declared catch of between 1,501 kg– 2,000 kg for years they held licence or permit	1,501 kg	2,000 kg	€16,000
Band 9	Average declared catch of between 2,001 kg– 4,000 kg for years they held licence or permit	2,001 kg	4,000 kg	€21,000
Band 10	Average declared catch of over 4,001 kg for years they held licence or permit	4,001 kg	No limit	€23,000

4.2 Examples of payments and how they are calculated:

The following are three examples of possible pay-outs and the calculation of same.

Example 1A - Licence / Permit payment: Person has licence in 2007

Name	State Licence 2003	State Licence 2004	State Licence 2005	No State Licence 2006	State Licence 2007
Joe Bloggs	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Amount:	€4,000	€3,500	€3,000	€0	€1,000
Total:	€11,500				

Example 1B – Taxable Catch payment:

Name	Declared Catch 2003	Declared Catch 2004	Declared Catch 2005	Declared Catch 2006	Declared Catch 2007
Joe Bloggs	75 Kg	81 Kg	49 Kg	0 Kg	60 Kg
Average catch over 4 years	66.25 Kg				
Band 3 payment	€1,500				
Total:	€1,500				

Total: €11,500 plus €1,500 (taxable).

The second example is a fisherperson who fished with both a state licence and a shared ESB permit.

Example 2A – State Licence / ESB Permit payment: Person has licence/ permit in 2007

Name	State Licence 2003	State Licence 2004	Shared ESB Permit 2005 No state licence	Shared ESB Permit 2006 Had a state licence 2006	State Licence 2007
Joe Bloggs	Yes	Yes	Yes (50%)	Yes	Yes
Amount:	€4,000	€3,500	€1,500	€2,500	€1,000
Total:	€12,500				

Example 2B – Taxable Catch payment

Name	Declared Catch 2003	Declared Catch 2004	Declared Catch ESB permit 2005– in 2 names – 50% allowed	Total of 50% ESB catch and all of licence catch. 2006	Declared Catch 2007
Joe Bloggs	140 Kg	180 Kg	130 Kg.	260 Kg	120 Kg
Average catch over 5 years	166Kg				
Band 4 payment	€3,000				
Total:	€3,000				

Total: €11,250 plus €3,000 (taxable).

The third example is a fisherperson who fished with both a state licence and a shared ESB permit.

Example 3A – Licence / Permit payment:

Name	Shared ESB Permit 2003 No state licence	State Licence 2004	Shared ESB Permit 2005 No state licence	No licence or permit	State licence 2007
Joe Bloggs	Yes (50%)	Yes	Yes (50%)	No	Yes
Amount:	€2,000	€3,500	€1,500	€0	€1,000
Total:	€8,000				

Example 3B – Taxable Catch payment:

Name	Declared Catch 2003 2 names on permit 50% of total catch	Declared Catch 2004	Declared Catch ESB permit 2005– in 2 names – 50% allowed	Total of 50% ESB catch and all of licence catch. 2006	Declared Catch 2007
Joe Bloggs	325 Kg	520 Kg	480 Kg	0 Kg	725 Kg
Average catch over 4 years	512.50Kg				
Band 5 payment	€6,000				
Total:	€6,000				

Total: €8,000 plus €6,000 (taxable).

5 Important Dates

The opening date for applications is the **22nd October 2018**. The closing date for receipt of applications is **30th November 2018** –Appeals will be received up to the **1st February 2019**. Applicants who qualify for the scheme will be informed within 3 weeks and the level of payments will be advised. Applicants will have until the **1st March 2019** (as the latest date he/she wishes to accept the offer) (where it is not subject to an appeal). Payment will be on the basis of having verifiably disposed of fishing gear in an environmentally appropriate manner. Receipt of a signed letter of acceptance with specified terms and conditions will be a requirement before payment will be released.

Payment will be made electronically except in only very specific exceptional circumstances.

6 Who Manages the Scheme

The scheme will be managed on an administrative basis by Inland Fisheries Ireland over a three-year period.

7 Appeals Mechanism

In all cases an independent appeals procedure will apply in respect of decisions of the administrative authority. Applicants who are unsuccessful may appeal the decision of the administrative authority by submitting an appeal in writing to the Independent Appeals Officer appointed by the Secretary General of the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment for the purpose of this scheme.

All appeals should be addressed to:

Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment
Elm House
Elm Bank
Cavan
H12 A8H7

8 Breach of Current Regulations

A person who is convicted of any offence under the Fisheries Acts or to any offence created pursuant to any provision amending or replacing the offence provisions under the Fisheries Acts shall lose all entitlement to payments under the Scheme and shall repay all payment instalments received together with interest from the day of payment at a rate of EURIBOR +2%. In addition they will forfeit entitlement to any further payments if this occurs within the time frame of the scheme and subsequent payments fall due.

9 How to Apply

Eel Fisherpersons Support Scheme application forms are available to download from www.fisheriesireland.ie or from any IFI River Basin District Offices (please see list on page 13).

Postal Applications

Postal Applications must be forwarded by registered post and contain verifiable proof of identity, **(Copy of photo Identity stamped and signed by a Garda WILL ONLY be accepted with postal applications)**.

Postal applications should be sent by registered post to the following address;

**Eel Support Scheme
Inland Fisheries Ireland
Teach Breac
Earl's Island
H91 E2A2
Galway
Ireland**

Applications by Hand

Completed applications forms can be submitted by hand to any IFI River Basin District Offices (please see list of appropriate offices on page 13).

Original Proofs of Identification

Original proofs of identification **CAN ONLY** be accepted by hand. Where original proofs of identification are submitted as part of an application, a copy of the identification will be taken and the original ID documentation returned to the applicant in person at **the time of submission and verification.**

All copies of identification will only being used for the purpose of the scheme and will not be retained by IFI once the scheme is completed.

<p>IFI Head Office Inland Fisheries Ireland 3044 Lake Drive Citywest Business Campus Dublin 24 D24 Y265 Ireland +353 (0)1 8842 600</p>	<p>IFI Dublin Inland Fisheries Ireland 3044 Lake Drive Citywest Business Campus Dublin 24 D24 Y265 Ireland +353 (0)1 2787022</p>
<p>IFI Clonmel Inland Fisheries Ireland Anglesea Street Clonmel Co. Tipperary E91 RD25 Ireland +353 (0)52 6180 055</p>	<p>IFI Macroom Inland Fisheries Ireland Sunnyside House Macroom Co. Cork P12 X602 Ireland +353 (0)26 41222</p>
<p>IFI Limerick Inland Fisheries Ireland Ashbourne Business Park Dock Road Limerick V94 NPEO Ireland +353 (0)61 300238</p>	<p>IFI Galway Inland Fisheries Ireland Teach Breac Earl's Island Galway H91 E2A2 Ireland +353 (0)91 563118</p>
<p>IFI Ballina Inland Fisheries Ireland Ardnaree House Abbey Street Ballina Co. Mayo F26 KO29 Ireland + 353 (0)96 22788</p>	<p>IFI Ballyshannon Inland Fisheries Ireland Station Road Ballyshannon Co. Donegal F94 WV76 Ireland +353 (0)71 9851435</p>
<p>IFI website: www.fisheriesireland.ie</p> <p>IFI Scheme Application email: eelsupport@fisheriesireland.ie</p>	



APPLICATION FORM

EEL FISHERPERSONS SUPPORT SCHEME

Instructions for Applicants

- Applications will only be accepted on the official application form.
- Only 1 application may be made per licensee, if more than 1 application is submitted, all applications will be returned to the applicants and excluded from further consideration.
- Applications can be forwarded by post or delivered by hand.
 - **Postal Applications** must be forwarded by registered post and contain verifiable proof of identity, (copy of photo Identity stamped **and** signed by a Garda **WILL ONLY** be accepted with postal applications). In every case proof of posting rests with the applicant.
 - **Applications delivered by Hand** - completed applications can be submitted by hand to any IFI River Basin District Head Office. Original proofs of identification **CAN ONLY** be accepted by hand. Where original proofs of identification are submitted as part of an application, a copy of the identification will be taken and the original ID documentation returned to the applicant in person at the time of submission and verification.
- Incomplete applications and applications without the necessary accompanying proof of identification will be returned to the applicant and excluded from further consideration until proof of identification is submitted within the necessary timeframe.
- Information as regards catch levels will be verified using official records held by IFI.
- In the event of approval the applicant must be in a position to comply with the relevant tax clearance procedures at the time of grant payment.
- Payments will only be made by direct payment to the applicant's bank account. In due course such details will be required from successful applicants.
- The Closing Date for receipt of Applications is **5.00 pm on 30th November 2018**. Applications received after this date cannot be accepted.

How to complete this application form

- Please use **BLACK** ball point pen when completing this form.
- Please use **BLOCK LETTERS** and **place X** in relevant boxes.
- Print letters and numbers clearly. Please answer all questions.
- Please ensure all requested supporting documentation is attached to your application. i.e. **Verifiable Proof of Identification**
- All completed applications forms are to be forwarded to

Eel Support Scheme
Inland Fisheries Ireland
Teach Breac
Earl's Island
Galway
H91 E2A2

Part 1: Your Personal Details											
Title:											
First Name (s):											
Your first name as it appears on your birth certificate:											
Surname:											
Date of Birth: (DD/MM/YYYY)	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 30px;"> <tr> <td style="width: 12.5%;"></td> <td style="width: 12.5%;"></td> <td style="width: 12.5%;"></td> <td style="width: 12.5%;"></td> <td style="width: 12.5%;"></td> <td style="width: 12.5%;"></td> <td style="width: 12.5%;"></td> <td style="width: 12.5%;"></td> <td style="width: 12.5%;"></td> <td style="width: 12.5%;"></td> </tr> </table>										
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*Your PPS No is required as there is a tax liability attached to the catch related element of the Scheme.

Part 2: Contact Details

Address:	
How long have you resided at current address?	
Previous Address: (if you changed address since 2003-2007)	
Landline Telephone Number:	
Mobile Number:	
Email Address:	

Part 3: Qualifying Criteria

Mandatory Requirement

The scheme is only open to those people who were the holder of either a Regional Fisheries Board (State) eel fishing licence or were named on an ESB eel fishing permit in 2007.

Licence Based Payment

- Payment will be made in respect of the applicant being the holder of a licence/permit in any given year and not in respect of each licence/permit held.
- If a licensee held a state licence and was also a shared holder of an ESB Permit for the same year, they will receive the full credit for holding the licence for the year in question.
- Where ESB Permits were held in two names, licence based payments will be divided equally between the named individuals.
- This Scheme is not applicable to nominees on eel fishing licences.

Catch Payment

- A taxable payment will be made on the basis of declared catch returns to either IFI or the ESB for the years in question averaged over the number of years the fisherperson held a licence or permit over the datum years (2003 – 2007).
- If there are two names on an ESB permit the catch is divided equally between the two named fisherpersons.

Declaration:

I confirm that I held a State eel fishing licence or an eel fishing permit issued by ESB for 2007.

Type of Licence /Permit	Tick Box as appropriate
State Eel Fishing Licence	
ESB Eel Fishing Permit	

Signature:		Date:
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(Not Block Capitals)

Part 4-Licence Type & Year Held

Column 1 – Year Licence/Permit held -Enter “x” for each year you held a State eel fishing licence and/ or an ESB eel permit.

Column 2 – Licence Type, i.e. Enter “X” if you held a State eel fishing licence and/ or an ESB eel fishing permit.

Year	Column 1 Yr. Licence/Permit held Enter “X”	Column 2 Licence Type Enter X
2003		State Eel Fishing Licence
		ESB Eel Fishing Permit
2004		State Eel Fishing Licence
		ESB Eel Fishing Permit
2005		State Eel Fishing Licence
		ESB Eel Fishing Permit
2006		State Eel Fishing Licence
		ESB Eel Fishing Permit
2007		State Eel Fishing Licence
		ESB Eel Fishing Permit

Part 5: Declaration

I declare that all the information I have given on this form is accurate. I confirm that I have read and understand the terms and conditions of the Eel Fisherpersons Support Scheme set out in the Eel Fisherpersons Support Scheme Information booklet. I agree to abide by these terms and conditions.

Date: _____

Signature (not block letters)

Data Protection Statement

Your personal information is collected and processed by Inland Fisheries Ireland in accordance with EU Regulation 2016/679 General Data Protection Regulation. Any personal information which you provide to IFI will be treated with the highest standards of security and confidentiality strictly in accordance with the GDPR. For further information please see the enclosed Privacy Notice or the IFI website.