

## Devon and Severn IFCA News

### From the sea to door: New grant scheme to support seafood businesses in England to sell catches

**New £1 Million grant scheme opened on 29<sup>th</sup> April to increase supply of local seafood during the Covid-19 pandemic**



The Government is accepting applications for a new [Domestic Seafood Supply Scheme](#), which will fund projects that will help seafood businesses in England increase the supply of local seafood to domestic markets.

The £1 Million scheme, first announced by Defra and HM Treasury on 17<sup>th</sup> April, is part of a [£10 Million fund for England's fishing and aquaculture sectors](#) that have been adversely

impacted by the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

As well as this financial support, qualifying seafood businesses may also qualify for other Government support. The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) has produced a [guide to what is available](#).

The scheme will help seafood businesses adapt to changes in their markets caused by Covid-19 by helping fund changes to businesses and/or infrastructure that will help them to sell their products domestically, and support projects that increase domestic consumption of seafood landed or processed in England.

The [MMO](#) will accept applications for projects that support domestic sales of locally caught fish and shellfish from Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April to Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May. Projects will be assessed by a panel including industry representatives. Successful applications will be announced from Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May.

The scheme will fund measures that assist the industry to set up local and regional distribution such as plant and equipment to help with local fish processing, or assets that can be shared at port such as storage and refrigerated vans.

To read the full press release and the thoughts of Fisheries Minister (Victoria Prentis) and Chief Executive Officer of the MMO (Tom McCormack), please click [here](#).

To apply for the Domestic Seafood Supply Scheme, visit [www.gov.uk/mmo](http://www.gov.uk/mmo)

Development is also underway to provide other support for the aquaculture sector under the Fisheries Response Fund (FRF). An announcement is planned soon.