

# Devon and Severn IFCA News

## Support for Aquaculture Businesses

**An update on the support available for aquaculture businesses under the Government's Fisheries Response Fund**



On 6<sup>th</sup> May 2020, the following news story was published on the [GOV.UK website](https://www.gov.uk):

English aquaculture businesses producing seafood for the food supply chain may now apply for grants up to a maximum of £10,000 per farm from the government's £10 million Fisheries Response Fund.

The [£10 million fund for England's fishing and aquaculture sectors](#), first announced by Defra and HM Treasury on 17 April, supports fishing and aquaculture businesses that have been adversely impacted by the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Around £1 million of the Fisheries Response Fund (FRF) has been allocated to payments towards aquaculture businesses operating costs. The grants of up to £10,000 will directly contribute to ongoing production costs.

Fisheries Minister, Victoria Prentis, said:

*"Aquaculture businesses are a significant part of England's seafood industry – supporting local jobs as well as quality produce for consumption at home and export around the world."*

*"These grants from our £10 million Fisheries Response Fund will make a real difference to these businesses, ensuring that they can continue to operate and support both our export trade and the economy of many local communities."*

The fund is being administered by the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) on behalf of Defra. Tom McCormack, Chief Executive of the Marine Management Organisation, said:

*"MMO has mobilised quickly to deliver three financial support schemes."*

*"In the last two weeks, we've actioned all Fisheries Respond Fund applications received from the catch sector (so far, making payments directly to over 1,100 fishing vessel owners with a value of nearly £4m); launched the new £1m Domestic Seafood Supply Scheme to support projects that support the sales and consumption of locally caught fish; and are now about to start administering payments to qualifying aquaculture businesses."*

*"Our key focus is to ensure this significant financial support gets to fisheries and aquaculture businesses as quickly and smoothly as possible."*

This final part of the FRF scheme is focussed on supporting aquaculture business that are active shellfish or trout farms in England, holding a business and a farm Fish Health Inspectorate (FHI) authorisation number, and who produce shellfish and trout for direct human consumption.

From Thursday, 7 May 2020, eligible businesses will be contacted directly by MMO with further details on how to apply.

For further information on the fund criteria and eligibility, please see the [guidance](#).