

IRELAND

In Ireland the National Development Plan (NDP) involves an investment over the period 2000-2006 in various sectors including the fisheries sector.

Objectives & Strategy

The plans for the fisheries sector include the following basic strategic objectives are:

- Creating a sustainable, competitive and quality driven seafood industry
- To maximise the seafood sectors contribution to Irish exports
- To contribute to Ireland's international competitiveness
- To ensure continued economic and social contribution to coastal communities in Ireland

Forms of support

In the fisheries sector in Ireland the main form of support is grant aid. To this end a number of measures (programmes) are available which include:

A. The programme of **Supporting Measures for Sea Fisheries Development** provides grant aid to support a total investment of up to EUR 33.8 million over six years (2000-2006) to benefit fishermen, their families, vessel owners, producer organisations and other associated groups.

The programme covers eight main areas:

1. E-Trade and other IT Policies
2. Small Scale Coastal Fisheries
3. Producer Organisations
4. Quality Certification, Added Value, Traceability and Working Conditions
5. Collection of Basic Data for Fisheries
6. Improved Knowledge and Transparency
7. Sustainable Fisheries Management
8. Experimental Fisheries/ Technical Conservation Measures

B. The **Fishing Fleet Development Measure** provides for Government and EU funding of EUR 25 million to support a total investment of up to EUR 95 million over the lifetime of the NDP (2000-2006). At present the only grant aid being offered is for vessel safety.

Under this scheme funding is available for the following:

- Life-saving Appliances
- Fire Fighting Appliances
- Radio Equipment
- Navigation Equipment
- Structural Fire Protection
- Collision Regulations
- Watertight Integrity
- Occupational Safety

C. The **Seafood Processing Measure** has investment of some EUR 32 million over the period 2000-2006. It aims to support the development of seafood processing enterprises. The key objective is to maximise the value of the seafood supply side (both catching and aquaculture) and to develop new products and technology in the processing sector.

D. Under the **Aquaculture Measure** grant aid is provided to support the development and enlargement of the aquaculture industry. Grant aid aims to support diversification into new species and development of infrastructure and technology for the aquaculture sector.

Category of Transfer

The above grant investments relate primarily to fisheries infrastructure expenditure. Research and enforcement expenditure is additional. Cost reducing transfers, payments for access to other countries' waters and investment and modernisation schemes are not a feature of the sector.

Cost recovery or offsetting charges

At present there are no particular programs in place which are designed to recoup some or all of the costs associated with the programme.

Recipient fishery, fisheries or sector(s)

The transfers are generally available to the fisheries sector including the aquaculture and processing sectors.

Rules and Conditions

To qualify for grant aid under these measures there are a number of general mandatory requirements which must be met. In addition there are further mandatory requirements specific to each measure.

General mandatory requirements include compliance with appropriate national and EU legislation and with licensing and regulatory requirements. Applicants must provide evidence that they are able to manage and carry out the project, detailed information on the cost effectiveness of the project, be in possession of a current Tax Clearance Certificate and must demonstrate financial viability.

Budgets and expenditure

The budget for each measure over the period 2000-2006 is as follows (annual budgets vary according to requirements)

Table 1. Budget of Fisheries Measures (2000-2006)

Supporting Measures	EUR 33.8 m
Fishing fleet Development Measure	EUR 95 m
Seafood Processing Measure	EUR 32 m
Aquaculture	EUR 20.3 m

Expenditure is as detailed under the “number of recipients” section below.

Duration

The grant aid for measures referred to in this note are over the period 2000-2006 which is the duration of the National Development Plan (NDP) in Ireland.

Number of Recipients

The following grant investments have been made in the years 2001-2003 for the different measures outlined under the forms of support category above:

Table 2. Grant Investments Made in Fisheries (2001-2003)

Measure	2001		2002		2003	
	No. of Approvals (entities)	Total Investment €m	No of Approvals (entities)	Total Investment €m	No of Approvals (entities)	Total Investment €m
Supporting Measures	22	2.7	33	13.85	40	14.72
Fishing Fleet Development	Programme formally launched in June 2001- no approval or investment this year		146	65.1	173	65.40
Seafood Processing	Programme being finalised - no approval or investment this year		21	10.45	43	22.14
Aquaculture	32	11.25	15	1.5	18	5.9