Grant-Aided PFD with PLB

Application Form

**To be completed by individual commercial cockle fishers or intertidal shellfish farmers based in Wales.**

**Complete this form if you;**

1. **are an active commercial cockle fisher with a Natural Resources Wales cockle licence or Welsh Government cockle permit,**

**OR**

1. **own an active shellfish Aquaculture Production Business based in Wales,**

**and wish to apply for financial assistance towards the cost of purchasing type-approved Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs) fitted with integrated Personal Locator Beacons (PLBs) for yourself and / or your employees (where applicable).**

**You must also:**

1. **Have not previously received support for purchasing PFDs and PLBs within the last three years.**
2. **Have not received up to or more than €30,000 of de minimis aid within the last three years (please see Annex 1 for further details).**

This project has been made possible thanks to funding from the Welsh Government.

Funding for 90% of the total cost **up to a maximum of £360** per PFD with PLB is available on a first come, first served basis. The PFDs must include an integrated PLB fitted according to manufacturer’s instructions, and must comply with the minimum lifejacket standards which are available to read on the PFD-[related Marine Guidance Note on Gov.uk.](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mgn-588-ilo-work-in-fishing-convention-health-and-safety-pfds)

**The deadline for all applications is** **Friday 15 January**. Late applications will not be accepted. Once the funding has been allocated, we will be unable to approve any further applications.

Before completing this form please note:

* Only one application per person will be accepted.
* If you hold both an NRW cockle licence and Welsh Government cockle permit you will only be eligible for grant funding towards one PFD with PLB.
* Funding cannot be awarded retrospectively. You must complete this application form and secure approval from Seafish before purchasing any equipment to be eligible for reimbursement.
* We will check with appropriate authorities, including Natural Resources Wales, Welsh Government and CEFAS, to confirm that the eligibility information you have provided in this application form is correct. Only your name and eligibility information will be shared with these organisations in order to validate your application.
* If any of the information provided is found to be false, Seafish reserves the right to inform the appropriate authorities.
* By applying for this grant funding, you are assumed to be demonstrating a commitment to ensuring the safety of yourself and your employees (where applicable) through the provision of essential safety equipment.

If you have any questions about completing or submitting this form, please contactthe Project Administrator on07966 393 987or email **walesfishingsafety@seafish.co.uk.**

**DATA PROTECTION AND USE**

All details collected in this form will be used and stored securely by Seafish in accordance to the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) 2018. The information collected in this form will be used only for the purposes of this project, including i) the verification of eligibility, ii) payment of eligible claims for grant aid and, iii) the provision of anonymised information to Welsh Government for the purpose of grant claims and audits.

1. PERSONAL DETAILS (\*Required information)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Forenames\*:** |  |
| **Surname\*:** |  |
| **Residential Address\***  **(including postcode)** |  |
| **Telephone number:**  **(in case we need to contact you)** |  |
| **Email address\*:** |  |

2. EVIDENCE OF ELIGIBILITY (\*Required information, where applicable)

PLEASE NOTE: A delay in providing the information below may result in your application not being processed before the deadline.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Natural Resources Wales (NRW) cockle licence number\*:** |  | |
| **Welsh Government (WG) cockle permit number\*:** |  | |
| **Have you submitted catch returns to NRW or WG providing evidence of your commercial activity during the preceding two years\*?** | **YES** | **NO** |

**Cockle fishers only:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Full business name\*:** |  | |
| **Unique APB registration number\*:** |  | |
| **Have you submitted documentation to CEFAS providing evidence of your commercial activity during the preceding two years\*?** | **YES** | **NO** |

Shellfish Aquaculture Production Business (APB) owners only:

3. FISHERIES DE MINIMIS AID DECLARATION (2014 to 2020)

This funding is being delivered in line with Commission Regulation (EC) No 717/2014 of 27 June 2007 on the application of Articles 87 and 88 of the EC Treaty to De Minimis aid in the fisheries and aquaculture sector.

The De Minimis Regulation covers small amounts of aid ("de minimis” aid) within a predetermined threshold which do not count as State aid in the sense of Article 87(1) because the Commission considers that such small amounts of aid will have a negligible impact on trade and competition and are therefore exempt from the notification requirements of the EC competition rules.

The De Minimis regulation allows a fisheries or aquaculture company to receive up to **€30,000** in any three fiscal years. Please note that the limits are in Euros, therefore when measuring the level of aid given, the official Commission Euro / £ exchange rate **at the time that the assistance is granted** must be used to determine the amount of aid given.

To confirm that you are able to receive this assistance you must declare the full amount of aid, from any public source, and in any format, you have already received over the last 3 fiscal years. You must declare whether or not it was de mimimis aid. All aid received whether de minimis aid or exempted aid, **must now be declared**. Further guidance can be found in Annex 1

I declare that the amount of state aid received by the company/organisation over the last three years is (\*required information, if applicable):

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Year and date aid was granted\*** | **Value of the aid\*** | **From which body or under which scheme\*** | **What activity or item was the aid given for\*** | **Was it under a notified scheme or block exemption? (y/n)\*** | **State Aids Notification Letter provided?**  **(y/n)\*** |
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4. DETAILS OF PFD WITH PLB TO BE PURCHASED (\*Required information)

**Please also attach the equipment specification and a quote from your preferred supplier when you email us this application form.**

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| --- | --- |
| **Equipment make and model\*:** |  |
| **Preferred supplier\*:** |  |
| **Cost per unit (PFD with PLB)\*:** |  |
| **Number of units required\* (for APB business owners only):** |  |

5. APPLICANT DECLARATION

“I the under-signed confirm that I am eligible for grant aid towards PFD(s) with PLB(s) and all the details provided above are correct.

I accept full responsibility for the grant-aided PFD(s) and PLB(s) I purchase, including their annual servicing.

I accept that the grant-aided PFD(s) and PLB(s) I purchase must not be disposed of, transferred or sold without the prior written consent from Seafish for up to three years after receipt of the equipment.

I accept responsibility for registering the grant-aided PLBs I purchase with the Maritime & Coastguard Agency (MCA) Beacon Registry, and for ensuring that I and my employees (where applicable) wear the PFDs with PLBs when required whilst working in the intertidal zone.”

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Signature\*\*:** |  | **Date:** |  |

\*\*You may use an electronic signature, type your name or add your initials.

**Please return your completed application form to:** [walesfishingsafety@seafish.co.uk](mailto:walesfishingsafety@seafish.co.uk)

# Next steps

* We will check and verify the information you have provided on this form.
* If eligible, we will email you to confirm approval of support and send you a claim form.
* You may only go ahead and purchase the equipment specified above once you have received approval from us.
* Once you have purchased the equipment you must complete and submit the claim form, a photograph of your equipment and a copy of the original VAT receipt (scanned copy or photograph) from the supplier detailing the PFDs with PLBs you have purchased.
* On receipt of eligible claims, we will issue reimbursements for 90% of the total cost **up to a maximum of £360** per PFD with PLB purchased within 28 working days.

**Annex 1. Fisheries De Minimis Aid (2014 to 2020)**

Note that this is a change from the requirements of previous regulations. Although unrelated aid which is approved under a block exemption or a state aid notified scheme does not normally have to be cumulated with de minimis aid, if you are seeking de minimis aid for an activity which has previously, or is currently receiving aid under a state aid notified or block exempted scheme, the value of this aid must be added to the de minimis aid currently offered by this project and the combined value of the aid be below the de minimis ceiling.

The following is not a comprehensive list of the possible forms of aid. However it should give an indication of the most common forms of aid, which you may have been given over the past three years. Potentially any assistance from a public body might be an aid. Should you have any doubts on this matter, please contact the body from which the assistance was received:

* Grants from public bodies
* Loans from public bodies at favourable rates
* Loan guarantees from public bodies
* Differential tax benefits
* Grants from an investment trust (including charities) which may themselves have received the funds from a public body
* Grants from a part publicly funded venture capital fund
* Publicly administered funds, even if the funds were originally not public such as the national lottery
* Landfill tax
* Waiving or deferral of fees or interest normally due to a public body such as the waiving or deferral of rent or waiver of interest normally due on late payment of taxation or other costs to a public body
* Monopoly licences or guarantees of market share
* Advertising via a public channel such as a tourist board or state owned television
* Consultancy advice provided either free or at a reduced rate
* Training provided either free or at a reduced rate
* Aid for investment in environmental projects
* Provision of a free or reduced rate feasibility study for research and development or other assistance with research and development
* Purchase of public land or property at a less than market rate
* Benefiting from the provision of infrastructure where your organisation was pre-identified as a beneficiary

These types of aid may have been provided under De Minimis (as De Minimis aid) or under another State Aid regulation. If you are in any doubt whether aid received was De Minimis aid or about its value, check with the organisation, which provided it and if they are unable to say or there is any uncertainty then please contact us for advice.

**Please provide copies of any available state aids notification letters you have received as evidence of aid received**.

Any De Minimis aid awarded to you under this project will have to be declared if you apply, or have applied, for any other public funding. Therefore, if successful, **the offer letter must be retained** and shown to any other aid awarding body who requests information from you on how much de minimis aid you have received during the three fiscal years including the year in which this award has been made.

False declarations will lead to the recovering of the value of the assistance offered with interest.