



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

UK Seafood Fund

Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee Presentation



Environment
Agency



Forestry Commission



UK Seafood Fund

Our objective is to revitalise the UK seafood industry, so it has the capability to land, process and bring to market our larger share of quota while also supporting the industry to become more self-sustaining.

Science and Innovation £24 million

Ensure the best science, research and technology is used in fisheries management

Infrastructure at least £65 million

Reform and modernise infrastructure to level up and bring economic growth to coastal communities

Skills and Training up to £10 million

Encourage new entrants to the industry and upskill the existing workforce

Export promotion £1 million

Boost UK seafood exports to new and existing markets

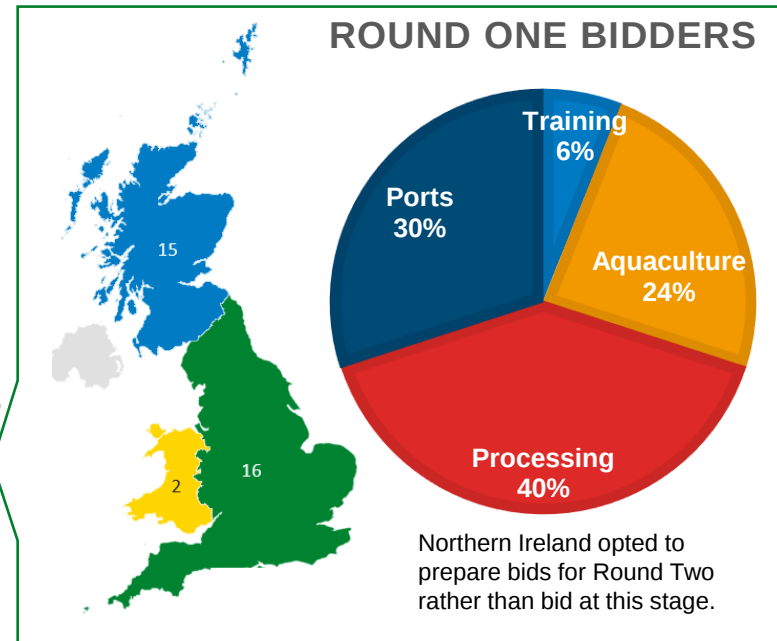
Infrastructure Scheme – Round One



We sought large-scale infrastructure projects with multiple and far-reaching benefits. Focussing on transformational improvements to ports, harbours and processing facilities.

To encourage bids we engaged with stakeholders throughout. We held an event with over 150 attendees to seek feedback and met key stakeholders, such as the NFFO, individually.

These efforts resulted in 33 applications requesting over £60 million of government funding to deliver projects with a total value of over £220 million.



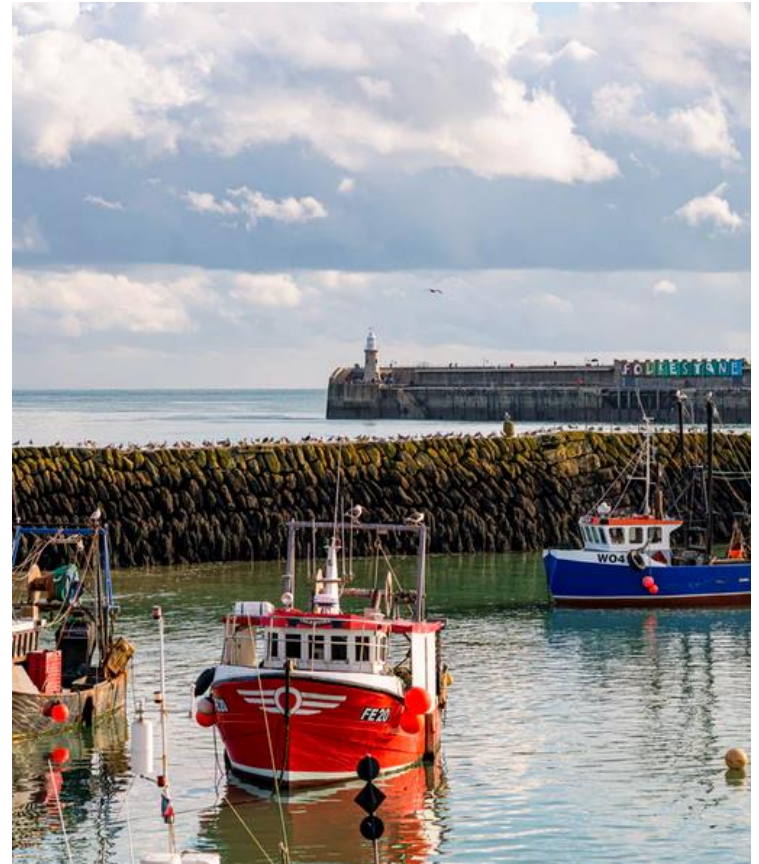
Infrastructure - Next Steps

We will launch further rounds this year targeted at further infrastructure projects (based on our evaluation of Round One), recreational fishing and training hubs.

We will also have a round for the catching sector that will be determined by an industry consultation to test the following assumptions that grants should be:

- Provided to the smaller boats.
- No more than £10,000 each.
- Incentivising a reduction in carbon emissions.
- Complimentary to existing schemes throughout the UK.

Any subsidies will need to ensure that grants cannot increase catching capacity.



Science and Innovation

We have made £24 million available to fund scientific research, and the development of innovative new technologies and ideas.

Within Science and Innovation, there are two schemes. The Seafood Innovation Fund and the Fisheries Industry Science Partnerships scheme.

- The Fisheries Industry Science Partnerships scheme supports the fishing and seafood industry to work jointly with scientists to gather new data to manage the UK's fish stocks more sustainably.
- The Seafood Innovation Fund supports projects which develop innovative ideas and technologies.



Examples include an innovative method of scallop harvesting, using underwater LED lights to attract scallops to pots.



Using in-basket imaging systems to improve data available for stock assessment of crab and lobster.

Skills and Training

We have up to £10 million available for Skills and Training, to develop new or improve current courses to upskill and train the industry, to purchase training equipment and build training hubs.

The scheme will help improve accessibility of courses, for example allowing trainees to join certain sessions remotely, as well as funding portable equipment allowing training to take place across the UK.

Training will help to educate and attract catching sector workers in the longer term to take advantage of opportunities for sustainable fishing to ensure the longevity and adaptability of the sector.



Seafood Exports package

In May 2022, the government launched a £1 million Seafood Exports package, to promote UK seafood in new and existing markets overseas.

This funding is being used to achieve the Government's objectives to promote Great British produce across the world, including the delivery of key events such as meet the buyer activity and exhibitions.

This year, we funded our first ever UK pavilion at the Seafood Expo Global in Barcelona.

The package is also already funding a UK-based seafood specialist who will work with businesses to support them on their export journey.

