



Angling Improvement Fund - ROUND 2 – 2022-2023

Guidance Notes for Applicants:

BIOSECURITY AND INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT

Introduction

The Angling Trust, with the support of the Environment Agency (EA), is seeking new applications for the next round of the Angling Improvement Fund (AIF) – Round 2- Biosecurity 2022-23.

The AIF is funded by income generated through the sale of the EA's coarse and non-migratory trout fishing licences and aims to provide a direct benefit to anglers. It was established in 2015 and since then has reinvested over £2.5m of fishing licence money into projects that directly benefit fish and fisheries in England.

The application process opens **May 16th 2022** and closes at **1700 July 4th 2022**, with the aim of projects being approved and funded in sufficient time for them to be completed during the better weather in summer and autumn.

The maximum award will be restricted to £5,000 per project. Applicants should attempt to match the award with a similar amount of funding from their own sources. This may include cash, volunteer time, donations or a combination of all three.

Successful applicants will be expected to complete any funded project works by January 31st 2023.

Suitable projects for funding:

- Well planned projects that demonstrate a good understanding of the current impacts of invasive species, good biosecurity to prevent their introduction and/or best practice to control established species
- Evidence is shown of the need for action to undertake management and/or evidence of the benefits of enhanced biosecurity
- Expert advice has been sought from an Angling Trust (AT) Environment Officer
- Projects that have provided evidence of a completed a biosecurity risk assessment for their site and the lead applicant has completed the e-learning on invasive species (see links below for these)
- The project should provide outcomes that are sustainable for several years thereby safeguarding fish stocks and angling opportunities

We need evidence that the applicants have at their disposal the expertise to deliver their project within the timescales permitted.

The fund will not pay for work already completed or materials/services already purchased.

Who is eligible?

- Angling clubs
- Commercial angling venues
- Syndicate fisheries
- Community organisations
- Local authorities or other public bodies who provide angling facilities

Joint applications between 2 or more organisations will be welcomed.

There must already be angling taking place at the site. We will prioritise awards to clubs and fisheries where there is the greatest benefit to fishing licence holders.

Therefore, free fishing waters, or clubs with open membership will be preferred to venues with restricted access arrangements (syndicates for example). The number of anglers, or day tickets sales will also be considered and if the club or fishery owner is actively involved in participation events or activities to grow the sport of angling.

Any project **must** be based in England and involve a form of angling covered by a valid EA coarse and non-migratory trout fishing licence.

Projects benefiting migratory salmon or sea angling projects are not eligible.

It is not necessary to be an Angling Trust member club or affiliated organisation to apply.

What species are eligible?

Funding is available to support the training of members to undertake invasive species management, the purchase of management equipment and the installation of biosecurity stations at sites.

Invasive non-native species are those that have been introduced by human activity into Great Britain and are causing significant negative impacts. These may include:

- Invasive plants such as Floating pennywort, Canadian pondweed, Water fern, Giant hogweed, Japanese knotweed, Himalayan balsam
- Invasive invertebrates such as Killer shrimp, Demon shrimp, Zebra mussel
- Mink

Please note that if you are interested in installing a biosecurity station you do not need to have an invasive species established on your site.

We **do not fund** projects involving the removal of:

- Native 'weeds' or invertebrates
- Any non-native fish such as catfish, zander (for advice on non-native fish species please contact your local EA fisheries officer)

- Otters or fish eating birds such as cormorants, goosander and other fish eaters (funding to support management of these species were available in an earlier AIF round)
- Seals
- Signal crayfish

If you are uncertain whether your invasive species is eligible, please contact one of our Environment Officers before making an application.

What projects are eligible?

- Purchase of pressure washers for use as a wash down station and/or to use to improve biosecurity during invasive species management
- Installation of other wash down station options including dip tanks
- Installation of soakaways to collect water used to decontaminate angling gear entering and/or leaving the venue
- Training to obtain a herbicide licence to spray invasive non-native species
- Purchase of equipment to control established invasive species through manual, herbicide or biocontrol (Azolla only) treatment by the applicant
- Repairs/improvement works to an existing wash down station - the judging panel will consider applications from organisations wishing to complete and/or undertake essential repairs to an existing wash down station. Where this applies, you will need to provide details of the design and materials used in the existing wash down and fully explain what has happened to it. We may ask you to discuss your plans with one of the Angling Trust's Environment Officers if you have not already done so.
- Mitigation work to ensure access by disabled anglers is maintained (or enhanced) following installation of the wash down or other structures
- Fees to bona-fide professional contractors to implement the above
- Fee to an independent contractor to undertake an ecological survey to establish aquatic or riparian invasive non-native plants or invertebrates present within your project area
- Other measures to address risk factors for invasive non-native species

If you are uncertain that your project will qualify, please contact aifadmin@anglingtrust.net before applying.

Advice on the installation of biosecurity wash downs:

The best design and choice of wash down at your water will depend on the specific conditions at your site. Contact our Environment Officers for advice and view the guidance on biosecurity wash downs:

[Invasive Species management and Biosecurity guidance for angling clubs and fisheries](#)

Advice on invasive species management:

More information about invasive non-native species can be found by following the link below:

Invasive plant management

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1FXhr1Edv3k>

The Angling Trust employs two Environment Officers who can offer free advice to applicants. You should speak to one of these officers before making your application.

Ian Doyle (North and Midlands)

ian.doyle@anglingtrust.net

Drew Chadwick (South and East)

Andrew.chadwick@anglingtrust.net

To phone Ian or Drew please find their contact details at:

<https://anglingtrust.net/invasive-non-native-species/>.

What is not eligible for AIF funding:

- Equipment, fees and expenses for routine maintenance/ upkeep services, e.g. grass cutting
- Stillwater habitat improvements such as improvements to bankside vegetation and marginal planting
- Advertising, marketing or promotion costs
- Purchase of angling nets or unhooking mats
- Costs associated with surveys of piscivorous fish species e.g. zander, catfish etc or their removal or translocation
- Work already completed or to pay for materials/services already purchased
- Crayfish traps

Assessment criteria:

Provision of funding will be based entirely on the information given on the application form.

It is therefore essential that the applicant provides:

- A photograph to show a 'Check, Clean, Dry' sign has been installed on site. A sign can be provided by the Environment Officers where an applicant does not have one of these in place
- Evidence of other measures in place to prevent invasive non-native species spread onto/off the site
- Presence of invasive non-native species on site or in the locality of the venue
- Evidence of the impact invasive species are having on fish, fishing and/ or other wildlife
- Confirmation that you have sought expert advice from your Environment Officer

- Where projects aim to install a soakaway or wash down station, demonstration of an effective design, including what standard of materials you are proposing to use
- A completed biosecurity risk assessment (see below) and certificates to show the lead applicant has completed Modules 1 and 3a of the free [GB Non-native Species Secretariat e-learning](#) on invasive non-native species. It is **compulsory for every applicant** to provide a risk assessment and certificates with their application
- Explanation of how you will deliver your project
- A concise accurate budget plan that shows the applicant's contribution which should preferably be a minimum of 50%
- Clear evidence of the benefits the project will provide

Photographic evidence, a completed risk assessment and invasive species e-learning plus contact with your Environment Officer should be attached with the application.

Biosecurity risk assessments are available below for:

[Stillwater](#)

[River](#)

[Catchment](#)

Award payments

The maximum award for a single applicant will be £5,000 but lesser amounts will be considered with equal merit.

We also welcome joint applications for clubs and fisheries that wish to undertake a project that covers larger areas. The maximum award for larger, catchment projects is £10,000.

In some circumstances, offers may be made of less than the amount applied for.

Payments will be made directly to the organisations bank account, not to individuals, on the receipt of an acceptance form.

Successful applicants will be required to provide receipts for all major materials or services purchased which cost over £100.

End of project report

You will need to provide an end of project report which must include receipts for all materials or services purchased and photographic evidence of works completed. We may also visit the project at any point in its delivery.

Treatment of VAT

Many angling clubs will not be VAT-registered and therefore unable to recover VAT on purchases. These clubs will receive the amount in full including VAT up to a maximum of £5,000

Where the organisation is VAT-registered, and so able to recover VAT, the award will only cover the net amount, which again must not exceed £5,000.

Match funding and voluntary time

Preference will be given to projects that offer a significant match-funding commitment. This can come in the form of labour, materials, or expertise, not just in monetary payments.

When assessing the costs of labour, the following rates apply to estimate the value of voluntary time.

General, unskilled labour	Skilled, trained labour	Specialist services	Professional services
Per hour £9.50 Per day £70	Per hour £22.50 Per day £166.50	Per hour £37.50 Per day £277.50	Per hour £60 Per day £444
Supervised scrub clearance, ditch-digging, planting, basic administrative support	Operations for which certificated training is a requirement, such as operating dangerous equipment, driving off-road vehicles, using chemicals	Supervising, training labour teams, surveys, counts, trapping, ringing, diving, printing, designing, photography	Consultants, lawyers, planners, engineers, accountants, auditors

Before completing the budget section, please see example below:

Item description	Net cost (£)		VAT payable (£)		
Training for PA1, PA6 and PA6w	850	£	170	£	▼
Backpack sprayer	200	£	40	£	^ ▼
Personal protective equipment	40	£	8	£	^
		£		£	
Total net cost of items (£)			1090.00	£	
Total VAT payable (£)			218.00	£	
(A) Total project cost including VAT (£)			1308.00	£	

Please list separately ALL major items or services that you need to purchase (with an AIF grant and any other funds) to deliver this project. Before completing this section please read pages 4 & 5 of the guidance document.

Source of other funding	Amount (£)		Committed (Y/N)
Applicants own cash contribution	200	£	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		£	<input type="checkbox"/>
(B) Total other funding	200.00	£	

Please list your own cash contribution and/or other external grants that will be used towards this project.

Total grant requested from the Angling Improvement Fund (C)

1108.00

Please note this figure is automatically calculated, please do not attempt to over type or change this figure. This figure should be between £0 and £5000 for your application to be considered.

Description of In-kind contribution	Estimated value (£)	
2 spray trained members x 4 days (2 x 4 days x £166.50)	1332	£
		£
(D) Total value of In-kind contributions	1332.00	£

List any non-financial support (e.g. volunteer time, donated materials and/or services) and their estimated value. To estimate the value of volunteer time, please consult the rates shown in the guidance document page 4.

Total Value of the project

2640.00

Please note this figure is automatically calculated, please do not attempt to amend over type.

How to apply:

You must only apply via the online grant application system. Please follow the link below.

<https://grants.anglingtrust.net/>

Your application form should be submitted by the 4th July 2022

Following assessment of all the projects submitted if you are shortlisted to receive a funding offer, we may ask to see copies of:

- The organisation's most recent audited accounts, recent bank statements, or equivalent
- Evidence of prices or copies of quotations
- Confirmation of partnership funding, or offers/promises of funding
- A copy of the lease agreement for the site where the project will take place (if applicable)
- Confirmation that Public Liability Insurance cover is in place

In the event of any queries or questions please contact the AIF Admin Team on; AIFadmin@anglingtrust.net or ring 0115 822 4561 or 07495 433626.

Notification of results

All communication will be with the main contact person as detailed on the application form, usually this will be by email or by phone.

It is expected that judging will be completed within 6 weeks of the submission deadlines. All applicants will be contacted and advised of the current situation at that point in time. Unsuccessful applicants will be informed of the panel's decision as soon as possible and will be sent feedback on their application.

Terms and Conditions

Successful applicants will be asked to read, sign, and accept our Terms and Conditions governing the delivery of the project.

Health and Safety

Before commencing your project, you should consider your responsibilities under the **Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015 (CDM 2015) and the Health & Safety at Work Act 1974. Remember, just appointing a contractor to do the work does not mean that you do not have responsibilities.**

You must carry out a Risk Assessment before starting any work as without doing so may invalidate any insurance cover you have. This should be completed by a person with the appropriate skills, knowledge, experience, and training.

We strongly recommend that you view our Health and Safety forum held in January 2022.

<https://anglingtrust.net/regional-forums/virtual-fisheries-forums/#guide-to-health-and-safety-requirements-for-projects-and-working-parties>

A free leaflet can be downloaded from the HSE website at:

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg411.pdf>

The following is a selection of permissions or consents that you may need to obtain, and organisations you may need to consult, depending on the nature of the project:

Approvals and consents (could) include:

- Utility/Services Search
- Land Registry Search (if required)
- Application to use herbicides in or near water refer to:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/application-to-use-herbicides-in-or-near-water>
- Flood Risk Environmental Permit, refer to:
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-activities-environmental-permits>

External consultation (could) include:

- Landowner consultation if entry or access over land is required
- Local Authority (planning and potentially archaeology). The Local Authority Planner should always be consulted on construction projects. This will have cost and timescale implications and may require supporting information such as ecological surveys and a formal flood risk assessment
- Natural England - if the project is in a designated conservation area, works are likely to need formal assent
- Historic England
- Forestry Commission
- Other local interest groups

A useful summary is available relating to Countryside Stewardship works but many of the issues could apply to AIF funded projects:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/countryside-stewardship-get-paid-for-environmental-land-management#wildlife-offers>