

GUIDANCE NOTES FOR APPLICANTS

Angling Improvement Fund 2023/4

BIOSECURITY AND INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT

Introduction

The Angling Trust, with the support of the Environment Agency (EA), is seeking new applications for the 2023/24 Angling Improvement Fund (AIF).

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 £2.7m of fishing license money into projects that directly benefit fisheries in England.

In the 2022/2023 round, 19 different projects were funded, tackling the spread of non-native invasive species and measures implemented to increase biosecurity at angling venues.

The application process opens 14th April 2023 and closes at 1700 on 26th May 2023, 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.

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

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 31st December 2023. This includes sending copies of receipts/invoices and photographic evidence of the completed project to AIFadmin@anglingtrust.net.

Suitable projects for funding:

- Well planned projects that demonstrate a good understanding of the current impacts of invasive non-native species at the site
- Evidence is shown of the real need for action to tackle and mitigate the problems caused
- Independent expert advice has been sought, preferably from an Angling Trust (AT) Environment Officer
- The project should be sustainable over 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 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 rod 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. Also, 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 non-migratory trout and coarse 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 projects and species are eligible?

Funding is available to support;

- Training of members to undertake invasive species management
- The purchase of management equipment
- The installation of biosecurity stations at sites such as washdowns and dip tanks
- The installation of soakaways to collect water used to decontaminate angling gear entering or leaving the venue
- Repairs or improvements to existing wash down stations and dip tanks
- Fees to bona-fide professional contractors to implement the above
- Fees to independent contractor to undertake ecological survey to establish aquatic or riparian invasive non-native plants or invertebrates present within the project area
- Other measures to address risk factors for invasive non-native species

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

- Native 'weeds' or invertebrates
- Signal crayfish
- Seals
- Catfish
- Zander
- Any other non-native species or predatory fish

We also **do not fund**

- Equipment, fees and expenses for routine maintenance
- Upkeep services, e.g. grass cutting
- Purchase of angling nets or unhooking mats
- Work already completed to pay for materials/services already purchased
- Crayfish Traps
- Stillwater habitat improvements such as marginal planting

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

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

The Angling Trust employs two [Environment Officers](#) who can offer free advice to applicants.

Ian Doyle (North and Midlands)
Ian.doyle@anglingtrust.net

Drew Chadwick (South and East)
Andrewchadwick@anglingtrust.net

To phone Ian or Drew please find their contact details at
<https://anglingtrust.net/invasive-non-native-species/>

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:

1. Photographs to show biosecurity measures in place to prevent invasive non-native species spread onto/off the site e.g. a 'Check, Clean, Dry' sign installed on site. A sign can be provided by the Environment Officers where an applicant does not have one of these in place
2. Presence of invasive non-native species on site or in the locality of the venue
3. Evidence of the impact invasive species are having on fish, fishing and/ or other wildlife
4. Confirmation that you have sought expert advice from your Environment Officer
5. 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
6. 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
7. Explanation of how you will deliver your project
8. A concise accurate budget plan that shows the applicant's contribution which should preferably be a minimum of 50%
9. 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. These must be submitted as part of your application. Please select the assessment that is most appropriate for your venue:

[Stillwater](#)

[Rivers](#)

[Catchment](#)

Award payments

The maximum award will be £5,000 but lesser amounts will be considered with equal merit but still need to provide matched funding.

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

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

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 £70.30	Per hour £27.45 Per day £203	Per hour £45.75 Per day £338.55	Per hour £73.60 Per day £544.60
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

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 1700 on the 26th May 2023

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 form, by email or by phone.

It is expected that a decision will be within 6 weeks of the submission deadline. All applicants will be contacted and advised of the outcome. Unsuccessful applicants will be notified and sent feedback about their application on request.

Terms and Conditions:

Successful applicants will be required to read sign and accept our Terms and Conditions (T&C's) 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 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)
- 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>