



Angling Improvement Fund - ROUND 2 – 2024-2025

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 2024-25 Biosecurity and Invasive Non-Native Species round of the 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 £2.5m of fishing licence money into projects that directly benefit fish and fisheries in England.

When does the fund open and close?

The application portal **opens on 1st October 2024 and closes at 1700 on 14th November 2024.**

Applicants will be notified if they have been successful or not by 6th January 2025.

Who is eligible to apply?

- Angling clubs
- Commercial angling venues
- Syndicate fisheries
- Community organisations
- Local authorities who provide angling facilities

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

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.

There **must** already be angling taking place at the site.

Joint applications between 2 or more organisations will be welcomed. 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 and if the club or fishery owner is actively involved in participation events or activities to grow the sport of angling.

What is the maximum award applicants can apply for?

The maximum award will be restricted to **£5,000** per project. (please refer to page 3 for treatment of VAT).

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.

Notification of results and payments

All communication will be with the main contact person as detailed on the form, by email or by phone. Successful applications will be required to sign and return an Award Acceptance Form.

Payment is made on completion of the project once receipts and photos have been received. This may necessitate a site visit. Payments will be made directly to the organisations bank account, not to individuals.

When must successful projects be completed by?

Successful applicants will be expected to complete any funded project works ideally by 31st March 2025 and no later than 30th September 2025. This includes sending copies of receipts/invoices and photographic evidence of the completed project to AIFadmin@anglingtrust.net.

Activities and species we can support

Funding is available to support the:

- training of members to undertake invasive species management
- the purchase of management equipment
- the installation of biosecurity facilities at venues.
- the purchase of landing nets, unhooking mats and slings (a maximum of £20, £25 and £20 available respectively as a contribution for each item per person)

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 Fishery Support Officers before making an application.

What projects are eligible?

- Projects to buy equipment to manage Invasive Non-Native Species
- Purchase of pressure washers for use as a wash down station and/or to use to improve biosecurity during invasive species management
- Installation of dip tanks, boot scrubs and drying racks
- Installation of soakaways to collect water used to decontaminate angling gear entering and/or leaving the venue
- Purchase of landing nets, unhooking mats and slings (up to £20, £25 and £20 available per item per person) with the remainder expected as an financial contribution from the applicant.
- Training to obtain a herbicide licence to treat invasive non-native species
- Purchase of equipment to control established invasive species through manual, herbicide or biocontrol (Azolla only) treatment
- Repairs/improvement works to an existing wash down station
- Fees to an independent contractor to survey for invasive non-native plants or invertebrates present within your fishery
- Fees to qualified professional contractors to control invasive species, advise and install biosecurity facilities.
- 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.

What is not eligible for funding?

- Routine maintenance of fishery
- 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
- 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
- Purchasing new or replacement fish stock
- Advertising, marketing or promotion costs

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 Fishery Support Officers for advice and view the guidance on biosecurity wash downs:

[Guidance for installing wash downs](#)

[Guidance to control invasive species](#)

Advice on invasive species management:

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

[Invasive plant management](#)

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

Points of contact

Ian Doyle (North)

ian.doyle@anglingtrust.net 07951 037091

Drew Chadwick (South)

Andrew.chadwick@anglingtrust.net 07946 251826

Mark Egerton (Midlands, Anglia)

Mark.Egerton@anglingtrust.net 07415 384554

Alex Van Wienen (South West)

alex.vanwienen@anglingtrust.net 07301 031653

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:

- Photographs or evidence of invasive non-native species on site or in the locality of the venue
- Confirmation that you have sought expert advice from your Fishery Support Officer
- Where projects aim to install a soakaway or wash down station, demonstration of an effective design
- An accurate budget plan with quotes that shows the applicant's contribution which should preferably be a minimum of 50%.

Biosecurity plans are available below. These must be submitted as part of your application. Please select the assessment that is most appropriate for your venue:

[Stillwater](#)

[River](#)

[Catchment](#)

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. This will be applied automatically in the Application form Budget sheet.

General, unskilled labour	Skilled, trained labour	Specialist services	Professional services
Per hour £10.42 Per day £77.10	Per hour £29.44 Per day £217.85	Per hour £49.07 Per day £363.10	Per hour £78.94 Per day £584.10
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 must be submitted by 1700 on 14th November 2024.

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.

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>