

# Fisheries Improvement Programme 2026

## Phase 2

### Guidance for applicants

June 2026

Every year the Environment Agency will reinvest over £1M in projects to support clubs, fisheries and other partners to improve local fish stocks and angling opportunities.

The Fisheries Improvement Programme (FIP) is funded from the coarse, trout and eel fishing licence income and provides a direct benefit to anglers. We have already supported over 200 projects developed by angling clubs and other partners.

This note is aimed at highlighting a further opportunity to award funds to additional projects which can be completed before March 2027.

**Be aware that there is limited extra budget and time available to deliver projects so only apply if your works are a priority and 'ready to go'. Even then in some cases we may be unable to support immediately and good projects may have to wait until after April 2027 to commence.**

### Phase 2 call for projects

The details in the original guidance issued in December 2025 remains relevant. Therefore please refer to this document in terms of: who can apply; what you can apply for, and; funding rules.

The average award is less than £5k and we expect applicants to provide additional funds, secure grants/contribution from other sources, and offer 'in-kind' support.

The following points are copied as a check list reminder:-

- **Aim for every £ of rod licence money invested through FIP to secure £2 of match funding**
- **Every partner should provide a minimum cash contribution of 10% (for more commercially run fisheries the expectation is that they provide at least 50%)**
- **Volunteer time is also important and should be accurately estimated (see current rates at the end of this note)**
- **We cannot pay for work already completed or pay for materials/services already purchased.**
- **there is an expectation that recipients have a club has a rule that members must have a valid rod licence or at commercial venues a day-ticket is only sold to licenced anglers.**
- **Your organisation will need to have a constitution and a separate bank account (we will not pay funds into a personal bank account).**
- **Payments will normally be made on completion with evidence of actual expenditure.**
- **We expect delivery partners to have all necessary insurance, permits and approvals prior to commencing.**
- **On completion of a successful project, we expect the work to be promoted either through a traditional press release or using social media channels.**

### How to proceed

We cannot stress enough the importance of engaging with your local fisheries officer- it is much better to discuss your plans taking on board any advice, before applying, rather than just submitting a speculative idea.

It is good practice for a club or fishery owner to have a management plan setting out actions to improve the venue and stocks and therefore identifying where and how FIP investment is needed. A more general club development plan that could be used is available [here](#).

Log onto the [portal](#) and complete the online application form. Answer all the questions as this will enable us to assess your project, we are looking to fund works where there is a good understanding of the need and benefits. We must be confident that the work required can be safely delivered on budget and to time.

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

**The Portal will be only open for four weeks so please prepare project specifications, quotes and ensure you have the relevant permissions. DON'T DELAY.**

Successful applicants will be required to sign a project agreement and accept our Terms and Conditions (T&C's) governing the delivery of the project. In some circumstances, offers may be made for less than the amount applied for.

If you have taken time to submit a project proposal we will read each and every one and consider how best to take forward the work. We realise that anglers are passionate about their sport and we want to support you and together we can make fisheries better for all.

## Key Dates

Date	What is required
<b>3 August 2026</b>	On-line project <a href="#">portal</a> hosted by the Angling Trust opens. When a proposal has been submitted it will be checked and applicants may be contacted to clarify information.
<b>28 August 2026</b>	Portal closes only projects received by this date will be considered for funding.
<b>By 30 September 2026</b>	Project are reviewed and a decision on whether to fund or not complete.
<b>By 30 October 2026</b>	Successful applicants contacted by Area officers to agree project arrangements. Unsuccessful applicants informed.
<b>By 31 March 2027</b>	Complete all FIP projects and ensure payments are made in full.

## Any Questions?

If you want to discuss your idea with an Environment Agency fisheries officer call 03708 506 506 and ask for your local officer.

For advice on filling out the online form contact Andy Petch or Chloe Guy at the Angling Trust ([aifadmin@anglingtrust.net](mailto:aifadmin@anglingtrust.net)).

For general questions about the Fisheries Improvement Programme contact Roger Handford ([roger.handford@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:roger.handford@environment-agency.gov.uk)).

## Volunteer Rates (June 2026)

General, unskilled labour	Specialist, skilled, trained labour	Specialist services	Professional services
Per hour £12.71/ Per day £94.05	£35.55 / £263.07	£56.31 / £416.69	£90.58 / £670.29
Eg supervised scrub clearance, ditch-digging, planting, basic administrative support	Eg certificated activities which require training, such as operating dangerous equipment, driving off-road vehicles, using chemicals	Eg supervising, training, surveys, diving, designing, photography	Eg consultants, lawyers, planners, engineers, auditors, accountants

customer service line  
03708 506 506

incident hotline  
0800 80 70 60

floodline  
0345 988 1188

[www.gov.uk/environment-agency](http://www.gov.uk/environment-agency)