

+ Fisheries Structural Adjustment Scheme - Stage 3

Grant for removal of equipment related to use of relevant mesh nets

1. Purpose of Assistance

- 1.1. The purpose of this assistance under the Fisheries Structural Adjustment Scheme (FSAS) – Stage 3 is to provide a grant of up to \$100,000 former holders and lessees of primary commercial fishing licences (PCFLs) for the cost of removal of equipment and boat survey work related to the use of relevant mesh nets from their boats.

2. Amount of Assistance

- 2.1. The maximum amount of this assistance available for an *applicant* that held or leased a PCFL when the *fishery symbol*:
 - (a) 'N1' or 'N2' written -- **\$50,000** (excluding GST); or
 - (b) 'N4' was written -- **\$100,000** (excluding GST).
- 2.2. The maximum amount of assistance available for an *applicant* eligible for assistance under 4.2 who surrendered a PCFL where the 'N3' *fishery symbol* was written, or surrendered the 'N3' *fishery symbol*, is **\$50,000** (excluding GST).

3. Eligible refitting work

- 3.1. *Eligible refitting work*, including the refitting and survey of a boat, is work to:
 - (a) remove the boat equipment used to deploy, retrieve, lift or stow *relevant mesh nets*; or
 - (b) repair work that is directly related to work mentioned in 3.1(a); or
 - (c) change the boat to meet the standards for a *certificate of survey* if the changes are directly related to 3.1(a).

4. Eligibility Criteria

- 4.1. To be eligible for assistance for '**N1**', '**N2**' or '**N4**' *fishery symbols* assistance category, the applicant must:
 - (a) have held or leased a PCFL on which the *fishery symbol* 'N1', 'N2' or 'N4' was written during the period starting on 1 September 2021 and ending on 30 June 2023; and
 - (b) have taken at least 1 kilogram of fish:
 - i. from a commercial fishery in management regions 1 to 5; and
 - ii. in accordance with the *fishery symbol* 'N1', 'N2' or 'N4' written on the licence; and
 - iii. during the period starting on 1 September 2021 and ending on 30 June 2023; and
 - (c) own the *primary boat* or a *tender boat* for the PCFL; and

- (d) provides in their application at least 2 quotes for *eligible work*, and nothing other than *eligible work*, for the boat mentioned in 4.1(c) from an *accredited marine surveyor* or a person who is qualified to undertake marine outfitting or repair.
- 4.2. To be eligible for assistance for an '**N3**' *fishery symbol* assistance category, the applicant must:
- (a) have surrendered, on or after 8 December 2023:
 - i. a PCFL on which the *fishery symbol* 'N3' was written; or
 - ii. the *fishery symbol* 'N3'; and
 - (b) own the *primary boat* or a *tender boat* for the PCFL; and
 - (c) provide in their application at least 2 quotes for *eligible work*, and nothing other than *eligible work*, for the boat mentioned in 4.2(b) from an *accredited marine surveyor* or a person who is qualified to undertake marine outfitting or repair.
- 4.3. An applicant is **not eligible** for this assistance if the applicant:
- (a) has already received the maximum amount of assistance available under this part of the Scheme; or
 - (b) holds or leases a PCFL on which the *fishery symbols* 'K1', 'K2', 'K3', 'K4', 'K5', 'K6', 'K7', 'K8', 'NX', 'N3', 'N10' or 'N15' are written.

5. Relevant mesh net

- 5.1. A *relevant mesh net* is a mesh net that:
- (a) has floats attached to the rope at the top of the net; and
 - (b) has a bottom rope; and
 - (c) has a mesh size of between 50mm and 215 mm; and
 - (d) could have been used under a PCFL on which the *fishery symbol* 'N1', 'N2' or 'N4' was written; and
- 5.2. Also, a *relevant mesh net* is a mesh net that:
- (a) has floats attached to the rope at the top of the net; and
 - (b) has a bottom rope; and
 - (c) has a mesh size between 160mm and 215mm; and
 - (d) may be used under a PCFL on which the *fishery symbol* 'N3' is written.

6. Conditions of Assistance

- 6.1. The applicant must give consent for the chief executive of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to give QRIDA a copy of the applicant's fishing data to the extent the fishing data is relevant to the application.
- 6.2. Before receiving assistance under this part, the applicant must give QRIDA a tax invoice for the works quoted under 4.1(d) or 4.2.(c).
- 6.3. If the assistance includes an amount for *eligible survey work*, the applicant must give to QRIDA, a copy of the *certificate of survey* to which the *eligible survey works* relates.
- 6.4. If the amount stated on a tax invoice for eligible work is more than the amount stated on the quote for the eligible work, the tax invoice must state, or be accompanied by, an explanation of the difference between the amount stated on the quote and the amount stated on the invoice.
- 6.5. QRIDA may request further information to determine an application.
- 6.6. Penalties apply for providing false and misleading information in accordance with the *Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994*.

7. How to Apply

- 7.1. To be considered for assistance under the Scheme, please submit a completed application form or submit an application through the QRIDA portal at <https://applyonline.qrida.qld.gov.au/>, accompanied by the relevant documentation stated on the application form.
- 7.2. Application forms and related information can be accessed at www.qrida.qld.gov.au.
- 7.3. Complete applications are assessed in order of receipt, and QRIDA may request further information to help assess an application.

8. How applications will be assessed and decided

- 8.1. Upon receiving applications, QRIDA will acknowledge receipt by email and advise if any further information is required to commence assessment of the application.
- 8.2. QRIDA will assess applications in order of receipt. Incomplete applications will not be assessed until all required information is received.
- 8.3. QRIDA must refuse an application if the funds for the assistance are not sufficient to pay the application.
- 8.4. Approved assistance will be deposited to your nominated bank account.

9. Conflict of Interest

- 9.1. A conflict of interest may arise due to a business dealing with QRIDA, if your private interests conflict with your obligations under the Scheme. Conflicts of interest could affect your eligibility for conditional approval. A conflict of interest can be;
 - real (or actual);
 - apparent (or perceived); or
 - potential.
- 9.2. We will ask you to declare, as part of your application, any business dealings that may be considered an actual, perceived or potential conflict of interest or that, to the best of your knowledge, there is no conflict of interest. If you later identify that there is an actual, apparent, or potential conflict of interest or that one might arise in relation to your application, you must inform us in writing immediately.

10. Fraudulent Applications

- 10.1. QRIDA takes fraud and corruption seriously. Suspected fraud will be referred to Queensland Police Services (QPS) and/or the Crime and Corruption Commission (CCC).
- 10.2. Fraud and corruption is a criminal offence under Sections 408C, 408D and 87 of the *Criminal Code 1899 (Qld)*. For corporations, directors and company officials, Section 596 and 184 of the *Australian Corporations Act 2001* (Cth) will also apply.
- 10.3. Providing false or misleading information or documents in the QRIDA application process is an offence. Penalties may apply under Section 41 and 42 of the *Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994*.
- 10.4. By signing the application form, you acknowledge that the information you provide is true and accurate, and agree to be bound by the Scheme's guidelines and provisions.
- 10.5. QRIDA reserves the right to pursue and recover funding provided under fraudulent and dishonest circumstances.

11. Your privacy

- 11.1. QRIDA's Privacy Policy, available at www.qrida.qld.gov.au/privacy, sets out general information on how QRIDA collects, uses and discloses individuals' personal information
- 11.2. The application portal for this Scheme contains specific information on how personal information will be collected, used, and disclosed.

12. More information

For more information on the Fisheries Structural Adjustment Scheme, contact QRIDA on **Freecall 1800 623 946** or email contact_us@qrda.qld.gov.au

13. Definitions

Accredited marine surveyor means a person who is accredited under the *Marine Safety (Domestic Commercial Vessel) National Law Regulation 2013* (Cwlth), section 24.

Applicant means an entity applying for financial assistance under the Scheme.

Certificate of survey see the *Marine Safety (Domestic Commercial Vessel) National Law Act 2012* (Cwlth), schedule 1, section 6.

Commercial fishery means a fishery under the *Fisheries (Commercial Fisheries) Regulation 2019*.

Eligible survey work means work, performed by an *accredited marine surveyor*, associated with surveying a boat for a *certificate of survey*.

Eligible refitting work see part 3.

Eligible work means *eligible survey work* or *eligible refitting work*.

Fishery symbol has the meaning given by the *Fisheries (General) Regulation 2019*.

Fishing data means information given to the Chief Executive of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries under the *Fisheries (Commercial Fisheries) Regulation 2019*, chapter 5 or 6.

Hold, in relation to a *PCFL*, includes holding a suspended *PCFL*.

Holder, of a *PCFL*, means the person to whom the licence is used or transferred to, other than temporarily transferred, under the *Fisheries Act 1994*.

Management region means an inshore management region under the *Fisheries (Commercial Fisheries) Regulation 2019*.

Primary boat, for a *PCFL*, means the boat identified in the *PCFL*.

Primary commercial fishing licence means a primary commercial fishing licence issued under the *Fisheries Act 1994*.

Relevant mesh net see part 5.

Tender boat, for a *PCFL*, means a boat, other than a primary boat, authorised for use under the *PCFL*.