

## Appendix I Programme Complement

### Guidelines on €5m Salmon Hardship Community Support Scheme

#### **Aims and objectives of the Scheme**

The focus of this Scheme should primarily be those communities where mixed stock fishing for salmon including drift-net fishing had been a well established activity and where its withdrawal demonstrably impacts on their economic and social fabric e.g. Gaeltacht areas.

#### **Eligibility Criteria**

As recommended by the Independent Group, those eligible under the scheme would especially include those affected by the cessation of the mixed stock salmon fishery and those formerly involved in the commercial salmon fishing drift-netting sector, or, alternatively, where a promoter proposes to employ a significant number of people formerly engaged in commercial drift-netting. The scheme is not ordinarily directed at commercial salmon fishing licence holders (who have the opportunity to avail of payments from the Salmon Hardship Scheme) but rather at the development of additional economic opportunities for crews and employees in the processing and ancillary sectors in the communities where commercial salmon fishing has been a well established activity.

#### **Projects**

The types of projects that may be carried out under the Scheme are as follows:

- i. Re-training of labour force previously involved in drift/draft net salmon fishing
- ii. Retraining of labour force previously involved in ancillary activities associated with the commercial wild salmon fishery
- iii. Diversification into non-salmon fishing economic activity
- iv. Diversification from ancillary activities previously dependent on the wild salmon fishery
- v. Education and employment preparation
- vi. Projects to promote the quality of the coastal environment
- vii. Any other appropriate community project identified during the course of the Scheme.

**Note: Where proposed projects fall into category (vii) above the Implementing Body (i.e. the relevant Leader Company) must consult with and gain approval from the Department before agreeing to the proposed project.**

#### **Project Selection Procedures**

The selection of projects should be undertaken in a fair, equitable, and impartial way in a manner that is clear and transparent.

- 1) The Leader Company should advertise the Scheme and indicate the closing date for receipt of applications i.e. 31 December 2008.
- 2) The applicant should submit a formal application to the Leader Company which should include at least the following details;
  - a: applicant's name and address,
  - b: their PPS number,

- c: name of boat/fishing vessel and owner/operator, where relevant,
- d: their role/job description,
- e: period of employment,
- f: current employment details,
- g: the amount of grant assistance sought,
- h: the proposed use of the grant,
- i: details of business plan where relevant,
- j: date of application.

- 3) The Leader Company should:-
  - mark the date the application was received and acknowledge same
  - assess whether the proposed project is eligible for funding
  - if proposal is deemed eligible, carry out a background verification of the applicant details and where necessary conduct a site visit where investment type operations are proposed by the applicant
  - assess tax compliance details before payment of the grant.
  - conduct a verification of the applicant undertaking prior to payment of the grant
  - issue a formal agreement with applicant setting out the amount of grant, purpose of the grant and timeframe for completion
- 4) When the Leader Company has established the bone fides of the applicant and they are satisfied that it is in order to pay the grant, payment by way of a cheque or an EFT to the applicant's bank account should be executed.
- 5) The Leader Company should maintain a separate file for each applicant.
- 6) The Leader Company should maintain a separate administration record for the costs associated with implementing the scheme.

### **Successful Projects – Contract Agreement**

When the successful projects have been selected by each implementing body, a one year contract which outlines the terms and conditions of the Scheme will be signed by the implementing body and the Department of Communications, Energy & Natural Resources.

### **General Financial Guidelines**

The Implementing body should issue general financial guidelines to those applicants with successful projects, so as to ensure the financial resources allocated to the Scheme will be used effectively and prudently.