



Environmental Certification Fund

Purpose and Information



New Zealand Government

Environmental Certification Fund

Purpose

MFish's Environmental Certification Fund provides grants to assist the seafood industry with the costs of seeking an independent environmental certification or assessment for their fisheries or aquaculture activities.

Its objective is to promote environmental certification and other independent sustainability assessments as a tool to:

- Enable the New Zealand seafood industry to respond to growing pressure for environmental sustainability
- Promote and improve the management and environmental performance of New Zealand fishing and aquaculture, including impacts of fishing and aquaculture on the aquatic environment
- Build public confidence in the management of New Zealand fishing and aquaculture
- Raise the profile of New Zealand's seafood sector

Who can apply?

Any individual, organisation or group of organisations who are seeking independent environmental certification or assessment of a New Zealand aquaculture activity or New Zealand fishery within the EEZ or High Seas may apply.

What can the environmental assessment relate to?

The assessment can relate to:

- The sustainability of the target stock
- The ecological impacts of fishing and aquaculture
- Pollution associated with the seafood sector
- Waste management
- Energy conservation
- Climate change issues associated with seafood harvest, production and transport
- Organic issues and labelling

The assessment scheme must be independent and credible.

Eligible costs

Grants can be made to cover up to 75% of the assessment fee. This includes fees for pre-assessments, first time assessments and re-assessments. It **does not** include fees or costs relating to:

- Annual audits
- Logo licensing
- Traceability assessments
- Corrective actions
- Appeals or objections processes
- In kind expenses such as staff time

How to apply

The Ministry runs at least one funding round per year. See the Ministry web site for timeframes.

Those interested in applying may also register their interest between funding rounds by emailing certificationfund@fish.govt.nz

Application forms and guidelines can be found on the MFish web site <http://www.fish.govt.nz/en-nz/commercial/ecf.htm>

Assessment criteria

Applications are assessed relative to each other using the following criteria and weightings:

- Contribution to fund objectives (40%): Whether the assessment would further the purpose of the fund
- Cost effectiveness (30%): The overall value for money based on an assessment of the benefits, opportunities, costs and risks
- Ability to deliver (30%): The ability, knowledge and commitment of the applicant to complete the process and the level of support from others with an interest in the assessment

Contract reporting and Expectations

Successful applicant must sign a grant contract and provide progress reports on the assessment process.

Contact details

Environmental Certification Fund
c/- Corporate Monitoring Unit
Ministry of Fisheries
PO Box 1020
Wellington

Email: certificationfund@fish.govt.nz

Website: <http://www.fish.govt.nz/en-nz/commercial/ecf.com>