



Virtual Fisheries Forum 03/03/21 – The Get Fishing Fund

Q&A Session with James Roche

Q. The funding that is on offer, would it be possible to claim for Electro Netting of our four pools three of which we inherited last year and are not sure of fish stock and we would like to progress maintaining these pools responsibly?

A. This isn't something that the Get Fishing Fund can cover, but it's worth contacting your local Environment Agency Fisheries Officer to see if they can assist. They may do the survey work for you if you are under the right circumstances. If you don't already know who that EA Officer is, please get in touch and we will point you in the right direction.

Q. Can volunteer time be classed as match funding?

A. Yes, definitely. It's a great way to show there is a contribution towards the overall cost of the project, so I strongly recommend that this is included as part of the application. On both the large & small grants forms there is a section to record this. If you need any guidance on the value around volunteer funding please drop me or Dean a line and we can give you an accurate figure.

Q. Can the small grants fund be used to purchase bait for use in activities for coaching new junior members?

A. Yes, this is something we'd be happy to consider.

Q. We have 3 fishing lakes which are open daily dusk until dawn and would like to launch coaching programs to a variety of ages. However we don't want to upset the regular users who come along as and when and enjoy the freedom they have. I'm interested to hear how have successful programs been run alongside regular fishermen and women? Just sectioning off an area? I'm more thinking about safety if children attend courses.

A. This will often need to be approached on a case by case basis – we work with a variety of clubs, fisheries and volunteers to deliver these sort of programmes, all of whom are in different circumstances. Some have looked at the time around the school holidays, when it might be a bit quieter through the week, which also creates a nice window from the fisheries point of view as it keeps people visiting through these quieter times. It has also been suggested

that this creates a less intimidating atmosphere for new anglers who can relax and catch fish without the pressure of a busy lake. Ultimately it's about finding the times that work best for you. We have an opportunity around coaching bursaries at the moment so it's the perfect time to start having that conversation with myself and Dean about what you'd like to achieve.

Q. Please can you give examples of Delivery Resources?

A. It depends on the project but broadly speaking these will be the things you'll need to deliver a coaching session or project. For example hand sanitiser would be an important delivery resource in the current climate of covid-19. Banners, tackle etc are things we are looking to support.

Q. Which fund should we apply to for some drysuits to carry out habitat improvements? Also, we need a dissolved oxygen meter.

A. This is more relevant to the Fisheries Improvement Programme (FIP). There is an expression of interest form on our website [here](#) which will be sent to your local EA fisheries team.

Q. Do you have any funds to help with re-stocking of fish?

A. Great question. In a normal year then yes definitely – Sport England (SE) manage a fund called the 'small grants' which is the largest pot of money available to sports clubs. This is currently being sidelined as an *emergency* fund however to support sports clubs impacted by the pandemic, but we are in dialogue with SE and are expecting normal service to resume around May for things like stocking and facility development. This 'small grants' is for applications up to £10,000 and we have supported a number of applications for fish to date. It's also worth mentioning the [Environment Agency's Calverton Fish Farm](#). Although the majority of Calverton fish are used to restock rivers following pollution incidents, they also produce stillwater fish species such as crucians and have supplied to clubs in certain circumstances. Speak to your local Fisheries Team for more details.

Q. I run a group called Sussex Socials we aim to run a number of socials each year when we are allowed. We started the group with the intention of giving people with mental and physical disabilities somewhere they can feel part of a group - but what grant would you say would be best we are trying to open to people that don't have the gear?

A. We've already had similar applications from wellbeing/ not-exclusively-fishing orientated groups who want to run fishing sessions alongside other activities. Wellbeing strongly relates to the latest National Angling Strategy in

how angling can be used as an activity to benefit people's mental health. I'd strongly recommend having a conversation with Dean about this formalise your ideas and see what funding we can tap into to support these sessions.

Q. If a club has had funding this year for predation control but would now like to improve the fishery for better coaching, pegs etc which funding stream could be used before the deadline?

A. Things like pegs would fall under the Fisheries Improvement Programme (FIP). The Fisheries Improvement Programme, Get Fishing Fund & AIF all run in parallel to one another, so if you've been successful in one it doesn't stop you from applying for others.

Q. Can we get funding for 'matched' sets of tackle so that all participants are using the same kit? This makes coaching easier.

A. Yes – this is quite typical of the applications we're seeing e.g 10 sets of whips. Providing it fits within the budgets then it is something we can fund.

Q. I may have missed something, but is it possible to apply for a sum between 500 and 5000?

A. Yes - £500 and below is classed as the small grant, £500 and above is the large. The latter has a more detailed application process to ensure value for money.

Q. We want to build a website can the funds be used for that?

A. Unfortunately not – we've had a couple of requests in past, but these have had to be turned down. There has been an ongoing conversation about how other local pots of funding can be used though. It's worth noting that the need for a website is often a good opportunity to approach younger club members who are au fait with technology and able to put together a simple wordpress website fairly quickly.

Q. Apologies if I missed the answer to this, but if funding is granted, what is the time frame on using the money to launch the projects?

A. With the current uncertainty, we maintain a regular contact with the recipients of funding. We understand that tackle etc is in short supply at present, so we don't want to put strict dates on when everything should be delivered by.

Q. Our Club has the potential to engage with local School for fishing tasters and associated education at our Club owned premises. Can we obtain any funding for the transportation costs between School and Our premises eg. Mini Bus hire?

A. It might be difficult. I don't think we've funded any transport costs so far, and it's unlikely we will in future. It might be difficult to prove how sustainable it is in the long term. If the school is willing to put something towards transport costs however, then we can provide funding for everything else involved the practical delivery of the fishing sessions. Transport is a difficult one though given its clear importance for participants. If transport is a significant barrier to getting the school involved, then we can discuss options to incentivise them further, such as getting involved in the Get Fishing Award. Please contact myself or Dean if you'd like to discuss this further.

Q. The deadline is fast approaching. As long as we register for a fund before the 12th deadline, can we complete the application after that date, if so by how long?

A. Applications need to be submitted by 23.59pm on the 12th of March for the Get Fishing fund. The good news is we are currently in discussion with the EA to relaunch the fund after Easter. If it is possible to get an application in now however, I would recommend it. If you have any questions please get in touch with myself or Dean.

Q. Is it permissible to pay licensed AT angling coaches from the funding?

A. Yes, but only a contribution and not the full amount. What we're looking to fund are sustainable projects that are repeatable year on year even if funding structures change. Funding towards equipment that can be used in perpetuity for example demonstrates this kind of sustainability.

Q. I have 3 people who want to be qualified to level 1. Can we get funding for this?

A. Yes, there is funding available now and into the next financial year – please speak to either myself or Dean.

Q. Is it possible to apply twice to the same fund? We've already submitted one project for youngsters but we also intend to have wellbeing projects for older people. The equipment we have is not suitable for adults.

A. We generally will only look to fund a project once but if it's something very different to the previous then it's something we can talk about.

Q. We have received TIF funding this year. Can we apply for the small grants for the juniors?

A. Yes – the Tacking Inequalities Fund is managed by Sport England so won't impact you applying to the Get Fishing Fund.

Q. To create an 'identity' - Is it possible to obtain funding for 'branded' clothing for our Coaches and Volunteers, and also Caps for Junior participants?

A. Unfortunately not. Banners etc yes – but clothing can't be funded as it stands.

Q. is there anywhere we can see what other projects that have been successful to get some more inspiration?

A. This is something we've been working on. If you'd like to know more in the short term please get in touch and we can share some more ideas about what other people are doing.

Q. Just following on from the clothing question. Would inexpensive waders be allowable?

A. Unfortunately not unless you can demonstrate that they form a vital part of how your project is delivered. (for example you require them to safely deliver the coaching sessions).

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