

WILD FISHERIES GOVERNANCE FUND

1. Marine Scotland has established a £200,000 'wild fisheries governance fund' (WFGF) to support the voluntary merger of District Salmon Fishery Boards (DSFBs) and/or the creation of new DSFBs in catchment areas where none currently exist.
2. Bids from DSFBs and/or proprietors must arrive by 2359hrs on 4 June 2018, using the template found at <http://gov.scot/Topics/marine/Salmon-Trout-Coarse/fishreform/Fund> and returning to DSFBGoodGovernance@gov.scot by email, or posting to Salmon and Recreational Fisheries Team, Marine Scotland, Area 1B North, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ.
3. Grant awards will be notified by 31 July 2018.
4. Four potential bid scenarios are envisaged:
 - i) A bid for two or more existing DSFBs to merge;
 - ii) A bid for an individual DSFB to widen its catchment area to include an area not covered by a DSFB;
 - iii) A bid for two or more existing DSFBs to merge and also widen their combined catchment area to include an area not covered by a DSFB; and
 - iv) A bid for the creation of a new DSFB in a catchment area where none currently exist.
5. Bids will be evaluated taking into account the value of the bid, the number of DSFBs to be merged and the size of the new catchment area proposed. For example, where bids propose merging the same number of DSFBs, the lower bid will be ranked higher. More weight will be given to bids proposing the merger of a greater number of DSFBs. Where these are the same, and in the case of the creation of a new DSFB, more weight will be given to bids proposing larger catchment area coverage.
6. Bids must not exceed the following thresholds:

Proposed outcome	Bid threshold
New DSFB created	£50,000
2 DSFBs merge	£50,000
3 DSFBs merge	£75,000
4 or more DSFBs merge	£100,000

7. A maximum of 25% of the grant awarded, which will be paid in advance, can be used to establish the business case and/or the planned outcome of the merger or new DSFB creation. This activity, if required, must be completed by 30 November 2018.
8. The remainder of the grant will be paid in instalments, according to specific milestones agreed between Marine Scotland and the grant recipients.

9. The DSFB mergers and/or the creation of new DSFBs (in catchment areas where none currently exist) must be completed by 15 March 2020, unless otherwise agreed by Scottish Ministers, with final grant payment made by Marine Scotland by 31 March 2020.

10. Failure to establish a merged or new DSFB, as proposed, within this timescale, unless due to the determination of Scottish Ministers, would result in the recovery of all grant payments made. This would exclude any grant awarded in advance, subject to satisfactory evidence that this element of the grant had been used to establish the business case and/or the planned outcome of the merger or new DSFB creation.

11. DSFBs must have, for a minimum period of three years, invited 'coarse' and 'brown trout' angling representatives on to the committee. This is to pilot the idea that such representatives would ensure that potential concerns that actions taken to recover salmon and sea trout stocks may have a negative impact on freshwater stocks can be highlighted and discussed.

Marine Scotland
March 2018