

News story: Improvements to Countryside Productivity Small Grants scheme



The popular productivity funding scheme, which help farmers to buy the equipment they need to boost productivity, save time and increase yields.

The scheme has proved popular so far, with more than 3,500 grants worth £23.5 million being awarded to successful applicants.

However, Defra is aware that some farmers are experiencing issues with the delivery of a small number of items for livestock handling within the scheme's 150 day deadline.

From today, farmers who are facing difficulties with these items can pay for them in full and submit their claims within the 150 day deadline. They can then take delivery of their equipment after the 150 days and will receive payment once the item has been delivered. The Rural Payments Agency will be writing to those affected within the next few days.

Defra will also be opening a second round of funding, due to open in the Autumn, giving farmers who withdrew their applications, the option to have it reinstated now or in the next round. The Rural Payments Agency will be contacting grant recipients who have an offer for livestock handling equipment but have withdrawn because of issues with livestock handling equipment, to inform them of this option. Any other supply issues should be discussed with the RPA separately.

Most of the items offered through the scheme are readily available from different stockists, so applicants are encouraged to shop around when looking for items so that they can claim as quickly as possible.

More detail on the second round of grants will follow in the coming months. For more detail on the Countryside Productivity Scheme please see [here](#).

Published 12 June 2018

Last updated 14 June 2018 [+ show all updates](#)

1. 14 June 2018 Clarification on specific equipment that is affected by the

change.

2. 12 June 2018 First published.

Statutory guidance: Fisheries quota allocation 2018

Information about allocations is available for:

- UK
- England
- 10-metres-and-under pool, non-sector pool and producer organisations by fisheries administration

Allocations for [2014](#), [2015](#), [2016](#) and [2017](#) are also available.

Research and analysis: R131: Validating the origin of capture

As part of the MMO's ongoing work looking at enhancing provenance and traceability we are keen to investigate new methods of confirming where fish sold ashore was originally caught to support and verify other systems for managing compliance and enforcement. This applies to domestic caught fish and imported fish products requiring catch certificates.

Research and analysis: R130: Detecting berried lobsters

Updated: Text removed "Little work has been done on the European lobster"

To review and develop methodologies for establishing whether caught European lobsters (*Homarus gammarus*) had been carrying eggs prior to capture and had the trace removed.

Research and analysis: Displacement and habituation of seabirds in response to marine activities (MMO 1139)

This report provides a high-level overview of current knowledge of habituation of seabirds to disturbance impacts associated with anthropogenic marine activities in English territorial waters and subsequent habituation to those activities.

The report explores whether habituation is species or activity dependent and informs on the conditions and scales under which disturbance, displacement, habituation and attraction does or does not occur.