1973. No. 500

FISH INDUSTRY

Assistance to Fish Farming Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1973

Made . . . . . 14*th December* 1973

Coming into operation . . . 1*st March* 1974

To be laid before the Parliament of the United Kingdom under paragraph 4(5)(*b*) *of the Schedule to the Northern Ireland* (*Temporary Provisions*) *Act* 1972.

The Ministry of Agriculture (hereinafter called "the Ministry") on behalf of the Secretary of State and in exercise of the powers conferred on it by section 1 of the Fish Industry Act (Northern Ireland) 1972(**a**) and of every other power enabling it in that behalf and with the approval of the Ministry of Finance hereby makes the following Scheme:—

1. This Scheme may be cited as the Assistance of Fish Farming Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1973 and shall come into operation on 1st March 1974.

2. In this Scheme—

"approved expenditure" in relation to any grant or loan means expenditure approved by the Ministry for the purposes of the grant or, as the case may be, the loan;

"fish farming" means an undertaking involving the hatching, breeding, rearing, harvesting or marketing of fish for the purposes of human consumption for which a fish culture licence is in force under section 11 of the Fisheries Act (Northern Ireland) 1966(**b**);

"length" in relation to a boat means its length as calculated for the purpose of registration under the Merchant Shipping Acts 1894 to 1970.

3(*a*) Subject to the provisions of this Scheme the Ministry may make a grant or loan to a person carrying on or proposing to carry on the business of fish farming in Northern Ireland in respect of approved expenditure incurred by that person for the purpose of—

(i) carrying out any excavations, demolitions, scrub clearance, drainage, flood protection or weir construction; or

(ii) providing any buildings, roads, water supply, cool or cold storage facilities or other fixed equipment or facilities; or

(iii) providing any feeders, hatchery trays, oyster rafts or trays or other equipment or facilities; or

(iv) preparing or laying shellfish beds; or

(v) providing fencing or predator prevention equipment; or

(vi) providing boats under 80′ in length and equipment for use with such boats for use in connection with that business.

(**a**) 1972. c. 4 (N.I.). (**b**) 1966. c. 17 (N.I.).

(*b*) Subject to the provisions of this Scheme the Ministry may make a loan to a person carrying on or proposing to carry on the business of fish farming in Northern Ireland in respect of approved expenditure incurred by that person for the purpose of acquiring second-hand boats, fish food, or stock fish or the eggs of fish.

(*c*) Applications for grants or loans under this Scheme shall be made in writing in such form and subject to such conditions as the Ministry may from time to time require.

4. Applications for grants or loans under this Scheme may be made only by persons resident in Northern Ireland or companies incorporated under the laws of Northern Ireland.

5. Applicants for grants or loans under this Scheme shall be required to satisfy the Ministry that they have the ability to manage and sufficient financial resources for the purposes of the business of fish farming.

6. The amount which may be paid under this Scheme by way of grant by the Ministry shall be 30 per cent of approved expenditure.

7. Applications for grants or loans under this Scheme shall be based on actual costs and shall be accompanied by the appropriate plans and specifications and the completed tender or tenders relating to the expenditure to be incurred and the form of contract or contracts to be entered into between the applicant and the builder, supplier or other contractor and no contract shall be placed without the prior approval of the Ministry.

8. The Ministry may require any applicant for a grant or loan to provide more than one tender.

9. Any person authorised by the Ministry shall have the right to inspect any building, premises, boat, equipment or facility in respect of which a grant or loan has been or is to be made—

(*a*) in respect of a grant, at all reasonable times within the control period;

(*b*) in respect of a loan, at all reasonable times during the currency of the loan.

10. If any person makes a false statement or furnishes false information in respect of any of the matters required to be disclosed in connection with an application for a grant or loan or if any of the conditions relating to the payment of grants or loans are not complied with by an applicant, any payment of or on account of a grant or loan to the applicant may at any time be refused and any such payment already made in relation to that application may be recovered by the Ministry.

11. Any person whose application for a grant under this Scheme is approved by the Ministry may be required to give such undertakings as the Ministry may consider appropriate and in particular shall be required—

(*a*) where the grant exceeds £300, to insure any premises, building, boat, equipment or facility in respect of which a grant has been made and keep them insured against such risks and in such sums as required by the Ministry during the control period;

(*b*) to keep and make available for inspection by the Ministry at all reasonable times during the control period any books, records or other documents necessary to enable the Ministry to satisfy itself that the conditions of the grant have been complied with;