

PROGRAM GUIDELINES

OYSTER PROCESSORS INVENTORY MITIGATION PROGRAM

Program Policy: *Supporting the oyster industry in times of great difficulty in partnership with industry and government.*

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The threats of oyster diseases (i.e., MSX and Dermo) in PEI have significantly increased the potential financial risks oyster processors must endure to purchase and hold oysters prior to selling to markets. The Oyster Processors Inventory Mitigation Program is designed as a grant program which aims to reduce and offset financial risks for oyster processors by de-risking the purchasing and holding of oysters prior to selling to markets. This will assist in reducing disruptions in the purchasing of oysters from growers and fishers by mitigating potential financial impacts to PEI's oyster industry as a result of the threats of oyster diseases.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

To participate in the Oyster Processors Inventory Mitigation Program, an applicant must be:

- A minimum of 18 years of age;
- A commercial oyster processing enterprise (company or self-employed) that operates in PEI and holds a valid fish processing license for oysters;
- In good standing with applicable federal, provincial and municipal legislation;
- Not in default of any provincial government program obligations; and
- Able to provide documentation of oyster purchases and sales in 2025.

PROGRAM DETAILS

The Oyster Processors Inventory Mitigation Program will provide a grant equal to 30% of oysters purchased but not sold. Payments will be based on the processor's unsold oyster inventory, determined by subtracting oysters sold from oysters purchased in 2025. The grant amount will be calculated at 30% of this figure, which may include oysters not salable (i.e., oysters disposed of and not going to market).

The application period will be open from January 5 to January 31, 2026.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

The Proposal Application will be assessed on the following criteria:

- Application package is complete and all supporting documentation have been received;
- Applicant eligibility;
- Grant eligibility; and
- Clear details on how oyster inventories, oyster purchases and oyster sales are recorded and reported.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND CLAIM PROCESS

- Department officials may consult with the applicant to obtain clarification on details of the proposal and/or for additional information, where deemed necessary for the assessment.
- The applicant must agree to allow access to the operation by the Minister or his representative for the purpose of verification of information, if deemed necessary.
- The information provided in the completed Proposal Application will be used to assess the applicant eligibility under provincial requirements, along with any additional information that may be requested by the Department.
- In addition to the applicant requiring all necessary permits, licenses, leases, certifications and/or other authorizations that may be required depending upon the nature of the proposal, it is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure all required, updated, approvals are submitted with the completed Proposal Application.
- **Incomplete applications will not be assessed until all required information is received.**
- **Proposal applications with false, misleading, or inaccurate information may not be considered.**
- Once the completed Proposal Application assessment is complete and if the proposal is approved by the Department, a funding agreement will be sent to the applicant specifying the amount of the grant and outline the conditions that will apply.
- The applicant shall indemnify and hold harmless the Government of Prince Edward Island, its agents, representatives and employees from and against all claims, demands, losses, costs, damages, actions, suits or proceedings of every nature and kind whatsoever arising out of or resulting from the performance of the Work (herein called the "Claim"), provided that any such Claim is caused in whole or in part by any act, error or omission, including, but not limited to, those of negligence, of the applicant or anyone directly or indirectly employed by the applicant or anyone for whom the applicant may be liable arising out of this Program and the applicant's participation in it.

HOW TO APPLY

The application period will open on January 5, 2026 and close on January 31, 2026. A complete Proposal Application and all necessary documentation may be submitted to the attention of the **Program Officer** in two ways:

Regular Mail:

PEI Department of Fisheries, Tourism, Sport and Culture
Aquaculture Division
5th Floor, Jones Building
11 Kent Street
Charlottetown, PE
C1A 1M7
Please include the program name on the package.

Online portal system:

The online portal system can be accessed at the [Submit Application and Financial Information for Oyster Grower and Processor Support Programs](#) webpage.

****To note, applications or information related to an application submitted via email WILL NOT be accepted.****

For more information on the Oyster Processors Inventory Mitigation Program, please visit the [Supports for Prince Edward Island Oyster Industry](#) webpage or for questions, please contact the PEI Department of Fisheries, Tourism, Sport and Culture at oystersupports@gov.pe.ca.