

Fish Fund Project Grant Application Form – Category 1

Project Information	
1. Project Title	Needs Assessment for Strengthening Oman's Fisheries Management and Compliance with WTO Fisheries Subsidies Agreement
2. Project Summary	This project aims to conduct a comprehensive needs assessment of Oman's fisheries sector in relation to the disciplines of the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies (AFS). The assessment will identify institutional, legislative, and technical gaps (if any), focusing on monitoring of subsidies, combatting IUU (Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated) fishing, and strengthening data collection. The assessment will also support the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources to fulfill the obligations under the different articles of the Agreement. The results will inform the preparation of a larger Category 2 project
3. Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess Oman's compliance readiness with AFS disciplines. • Identify gaps in fisheries management, data collection, and subsidy reporting. • Develop a roadmap for a full project proposal (Category 2 funding).
4. Context	Oman's fisheries sector is vital for food security, employment, and export revenues. Therefore, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Water Resources has made numerous efforts to achieve the sustainability of fishery resources through sustainable management, practices, including licensing systems, stock monitoring, and restrictions on destructive practices. Significant investment has been made to improve infrastructure and production capacities and promoting aquaculture.

	<p>Fish Stock monitoring is an important management measure taken annually by Ministry in order to manage the fisheries resources in a sustainable manner. Based on the annual report produced by the Marine Science & Fisheries Centre, stock status of main fish resources were identified and recommendations were given based on the status of the stock.</p> <p>Oman is among the first countries in Near East region to ratify the IUU agreement and this was in 28 April 2013 and this reflect the commitment and efforts of Oman to combat the IUU fishing</p> <p>Oman Officially joined the WTO agreement on fisheries subsidies on 11 September 2025 after depositing the accession document. This also reflect the commitment of Oman on environment sustainability of fisheries.</p> <p>This proposal will help Oman to align its regulations and procedures with the Fisheries subsidies agreement through a comprehensive assessment current regulation and management system.</p>
5. Expected Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A national needs assessment report on AFS implementation gaps. • Identification of priority areas for reform (e.g., subsidy notification systems, data on IUU fishing, legal updates). • Enhanced domestic capacity through knowledge transfer and use of national consultants. • A project concept note for a Category 2 funding application.
6. Implementing entities	Implementing Entity Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources (MAFWR), Sultanate of Oman

7. Contact Information	<p>Dr. Dawood Alyahyai DG of Fisheries Research Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources Email: dawood.alyahyai@mafwr.gov.om Phone:+968-99350730</p>
8. Partnerships	<p>The implementation of this project will involve collaboration among national and international partners to ensure technical robustness, knowledge sharing, and alignment with global best practices under the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies (AFS). These include, but not limited to the following:</p> <p>1. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) – Oman Office</p> <p>The FAO will provide technical guidance for the design and execution of the needs assessment, drawing on its extensive experience in fisheries management, stock assessment, and policy reform. FAO's involvement will ensure that the assessment methodology is consistent with international standards and complements existing FAO-supported initiatives in Oman, such as the Blue Transformation framework and the regional fisheries data programs.</p> <p>2. Sultan Qaboos University</p> <p>This University through its different colleges may support the project through the available expertise in fisheries, economics and trade. Students also may support in the field collecting data.</p> <p>3. Ministry of Trade & Commerce and Investment Promotion</p> <p>This ministry is the national focal point for WTO and could help in the project to align the national fisheries regulation with WTO Fisheries Subsidies Agreement.</p> <p>4. WTO Fish Fund Secretariat</p> <p>The Secretariat will provide oversight and methodological support in line with the Fish Fund's Log Frame. It will also ensure that the outputs from this grant project meet the standards required for subsequent Category 2 funding, particularly in aligning Oman's fisheries governance and subsidy-reporting systems with AFS disciplines.</p>

	<p>5. Local Fisheries Committees and Private-Sector Stakeholders</p> <p>In Oman, there are local Fishermen Committees in every coastal region and these committees along with the private sector companies can be engaged in consultative workshops to ensure the assessment reflects the realities of the fishing sector. Their input will contribute to identifying practical, socially balanced solutions for implementing AFS disciplines.</p>
Budget Information	
9. Total Amount of the Project Grant	US\$ 50000
Key Elements of Implementation	
10. Monitoring & Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outputs: Completion of a national needs assessment report that details Oman's implementation gaps related to the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies (AFS). Indicators include the number and type of gaps identified (e.g., legislative, technical skills, data collection). Intermediate Outcome: Improved understanding among Oman's fisheries authorities and stakeholders of compliance gaps and possible solutions, measured through workshop feedback and self-assessment. Outcome: A clear roadmap and evidence base to prepare a Category 2 funding proposal, demonstrating readiness to address identified gaps. <p>2. Reporting Mechanism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> End-of-Project (EOP) Report: Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources (MAFWR) will submit an EOP report within one month of project closure, as required by the Fish Fund. This report will document

	<p>deliverables, quality, and timeliness against the Terms of Reference (ToR).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learning Feedback: The report will also capture lessons learned, challenges, and capacity-building impacts, consistent with the Fund's emphasis on transparency and accountability. <p>3. Monitoring Tools</p> <p>Indicators will be monitored through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultant outputs (reports, gap analysis). Records from stakeholder workshops and consultations. Validation by MAFWR technical teams. <p>Quality of deliverables will be assessed against the agreed ToR benchmarks (e.g., timeliness, comprehensiveness, relevance).</p> <p>4. Evaluation Approach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluation will emphasize immediate results (improved understanding of compliance needs and roadmap creation), not long-term impacts, in line with the ToC's focus for Category 1 grants. Progress will be reviewed by both national authorities and the Fish Fund Secretariat to ensure alignment with AFS disciplines.
11. Communication & Outreach	<p>1. Communication about the Project and Fish Fund Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MAFWR will publicly acknowledge the support of the WTO Fish Fund in all official project communications, including press releases, media interviews, and during stakeholder workshops. Regular project updates will be shared through MAFWR's official website and social media platforms, highlighting milestones and achievements in alignment with the objectives of the WTO Fisheries Subsidies Agreement. <p>2. Stakeholder Engagement and Knowledge Sharing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry will organize consultative workshops and technical meetings involving key national stakeholders — including Fishermen Committees, private-sector representatives, and research institutions — to discuss progress and preliminary findings.

- Engagement with regional and international partners (e.g., FAO, WTO Secretariat) will be maintained through periodic reports and virtual briefings to ensure coordination and alignment.

3. Dissemination of Project Results

- The final **needs assessment report** and summary findings will be shared with the WTO Fish Fund Secretariat and made publicly available through MAFWR's website.
- A **summary policy brief** will be prepared in English to facilitate knowledge sharing with international partners and in Arabic to reach national stakeholders.