

Frequently Asked Questions on the Aquaculture Development and Enhancement Programme (ADEP)

1. How do the new Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment Codes affect the application and claim, and is it a prerequisite for an applicant to be able to qualify for the scheme?

The new codes state that "every organ of state and public entity must apply any relevant Codes of Practice issued in terms of the B-BBEE Act as amended when determining criteria for the awarding of incentives in support of B-BBEE"; therefore projects must be compliant with those requirements

2. Does the applying entity need to retain the employees that are already employed or is there a need for the creation of new jobs in order to qualify for the incentive?

The scheme emphasises that projects should sustain existing jobs and create new ones as one of its core pillars.

3. Which species of fish are allowed to be farmed?

All species are allowed to be farmed except those listed in the Alien and Invasive Species Regulations by the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

4. Can any fish species be imported from other countries?

Brood stock and fingerlings can be imported provided the entity has the required permits.

5. Can the applying entity be assisted with the necessary infrastructure that is needed to set up and run the project as result of the energy challenges, especially generators?

The scheme covers bulk infrastructure costs, which include bulk water and electrification.

6. What is the turn-around time for applications and claims?

Sixty (60) days for applications and thirty (30) days for claims provided all relevant documents have been submitted.

7. Is financial assistance through the Aquaculture Development and Enhancement Programme a loan?

The incentive is a cost sharing grant and not a loan, it is therefore not refundable.

8. How and where can one get the required permits?

The different permits (i.e. fishing permits/rights, environmental permits, zoning permits, etc.) can be acquired by applying to the relevant department e.g. Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Environmental Affairs, Provincial Departments, Municipalities, etc.

9. Is the grant paid up-front or post investment?

The grant is paid post investment on a reimbursable basis and subject to achieving the relevant stage milestones.

10. Can one benefit from the scheme if they are capture fisheries?

The scheme is not open to people involved in capture fisheries but only those involved in farming or breeding.