



PRACTICE ABSTRACT

Public Funding for Fish Farmers Converting to Organic Aquaculture in Germany

Problem

Conversion to organic fish farming often requires significant investments, which can be difficult for small and medium-sized farms to finance independently.

Solution

Fish farmers in Germany can access a range of public funding instruments (Table 1) to support the transition to organic farming.

Benefits

Access to funding can substantially reduce financial barriers and thus be an incentive for conversion to organic farming.

Applicability box

Theme

Farm management, standards, regulations and certification, animal husbandry, aquaculture

Keywords

Aquaculture, farm economics, costs, conversion factors

Context

Germany

Practical recommendations

- Contact the state fisheries authority (Landesfischereibehörde) or Managing Authority for European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) for information on current funding calls.
- Develop a conversion and investment plan aligned with EU organic regulations and national program requirements. The eligibility & contacts are state-specific.
- Combine investment support with training/consultancy on the organic certification process
- Managing authority is often the state ministry/Landwirtschaftskammer/Landesamt. Contact them to find the correct measure and check whether your project fits the “investment in aquaculture” or “environmental improvement/organic conversion” lines.
- Many states operate rolling applications for certain investment measures; others use discrete funding calls with fixed deadlines. Use the linked state page to confirm the current call and the list of eligible costs.

Table 1: Table of funding contacts & pages by federal state (Germany) – organic aquaculture/conversion relevance

State	Programme / landing page	Managing authority / contact	Deadlines / notes
Schleswig-Holstein	Landesprogramm «Fischerei und Aquakultur 2021–2027» (EMFAF implementation & investment rules). (schleswig-holstein.de)	Responsible: Landesamt für Landwirtschaft & nachhaltige Landentwicklung (LLnL), Dezernat 30 – Fischereiförderung. Contact listed on page (Ines John / Jan-Moritz Grohall). (schleswig-holstein.de)	Many measures: mostly rolling / no fixed deadlines for several measures; some calls have defined cut-offs – check the page. (schleswig-holstein.de)
Mecklenburg-Vorpommern	EMFAF / Landesförderung Aquakultur & Fischerei (Regierungsportal M-V). (Regierungsportal M-V)	Managing authority details on site (Ministerium / Ansprechpartner in den Seiten). See linked page. (Regierungsportal M-V)	Programme operational 2021–2027; specific calls & press releases posted on the site (follow call notices). (Förderdatenbank)
Niedersachsen	EMFAF / Binnenfischerei & Aquakultur information (ML Niedersachsen / LWK implementation). (Niedersachsen Ministerium Ernährung)	Umsetzung / Bewilligungsbehörde: Landwirtschaftskammer Niedersachsen (LWK) (since 01.03.2025). See LWK contact pages & LAVES info. (Niedersachsen Ministerium Ernährung)	Several measures available; application forms and guidance via LWK – some measures accept continuous applications, others via announced calls. (agrarfoerderung-niedersachsen.de)
Bremen	EMFAF information / Förderhinweise (Senate / Häfen-Bremen portal). (haefen.bremen.de)	Managing authority details on the Bremen Senate/ports pages (see linked PDF & portal). (Rathaus Bremen)	EMFAF-funds used for targeted measures; check the Bremen portal for current calls. (haefen.bremen.de)
Hamburg	Hamburg – official pages on fisheries / admin; IFB Hamburg handles many EU funds information (see Hamburg pages). (Hamburg.de)	IFB Hamburg and the relevant Hamburg ministry / Bukea pages – see linked contacts on the pages. (IFB Hamburg)	Hamburg handles EU funds via IFB and ministry channels; check IFB / ministry for open calls. (Hamburg.de)
Berlin	EMFAF / joint Berlin-Brandenburg aquaculture directive (see LELF / joint Richtlinie). (MLEUV)	Berlin/Brandenburg scheme: Antrags-/Bewilligungsbehörde is listed in the joint Richtlinie (see LELF/ML). (lelf.brandenburg.de)	Joint Richtlinie (Berlin + Brandenburg) valid (Richtlinie dated 7 May 2024) – follow the LELF page for calls and attachments. (MLEUV)
Brandenburg	Richtlinie zur Förderung der Aquakultur und Binnenfischerei (EMFAF) – LELF / MLEUV. (MLEUV)	Bewilligungsbehörde / Ansprechpartner in der Richtlinie (see linked PDF / LELF page). (lelf.brandenburg.de)	Guidelines runtime shown to 31.12.2029; calls / specifics published on LELF. (MLEUV)
Nordrhein-Westfalen (NRW)	EMFAF implementation pages (MLV & Landwirtschaftskammer NRW): EMFAF-Richtlinie + Förderaufrufe. (Landwirtschaftskammer)	Antragsstelle: Landwirtschaftskammer NRW (formulare & Ansprechpartner listed). Example contact: Claudia Kloth (LWK) referenced on guidance pages. (Landwirtschaftskammer)	NRW publishes specific Förderaufrufe (pdf list). Some measures for aquaculture/processing have fixed application windows – see the MLV pdfs. (MLV NRW)
Hessen	Regional pages: RP Darmstadt – Fischereiförderung / guidance for fishery support. (rp-darmstadt.hessen.de)	Regional authority (Regierungspräsidium / Landesministerium) contacts on the RP-site – see page. (rp-darmstadt.hessen.de)	Programme & rules apply under national EMFAF framework; check RP for deadlines & required forms. (rp-darmstadt.hessen.de)
Rheinland-Pfalz	Landesförderung / Förderprogramme list for Aquakultur & Fischerei (state portal / Förderdatenbank). (RLP Service)	Contact details & procedure are on the state service pages (see linked page). (RLP Service)	Regional calls & innovation funding run under state rules; check the state page for current deadlines. (Förderdatenbank)

State	Programme / landing page	Managing authority / contact	Deadlines / notes
Saarland	Saarland ministry pages / local fisheries funding information (state portal / MUKMAV guidance). (saarland.de)	See state portal / regional fishery association links for contacts; small local subsidy schemes may exist (contact Landesministerium). (fischereiverband-saar.de)	Many regional payments (e.g., agrar claims) follow national calendar; for aquaculture projects check with state ministry. (saarland.de)
Bayern	EMFAF landing page / Bayern EMFAF information (stmelf / EMFAF Bavaria, application guidance). (s.bayern.de)	Managing authority & LfL / STMELF guidance page – contact info and Merkblatt (application guidance) on the site. (Staatsministerium Bayern)	Bayern shows an application period (e.g., “Antragszeitraum 17.04.2023–31.12.2027” for many measures) and budget information – check the Bayern EMFAF page for current available budget & deadlines. (s.bayern.de)
Baden-Württemberg	Landesförderprogramm «Aquakultur und Fischerei» (FAF-BW guidance & press release for new programme 2023). (Baden-Württemberg.de)	State ministry / FAF-BW implementation office details on the announcement page (see link). (Baden-Württemberg.de)	New programme established (2023); follow ministry pages for calls & eligible measures. (Baden-Württemberg.de)
Thüringen	Thüringer Förderrichtlinie Aquakultur / EMFAF (TMIL / Richtlinie PDF). (umwelt.thueringen.de)	Contact & procedure: Thüringer Ministerium / TMIL (Richtlinie PDF includes Ansprechpartner und Antragsweg). (umwelt.thueringen.de)	Subsidies available for aquaculture / pond farming – typical co-financing rates & deadlines shown in directive; check PDF. (Förderdatenbank)
Sachsen	Förderrichtlinie Aquakultur und Fischerei (FRL AuF/2023) – SAB / Staatsministerium pages. (Sächsisches Amt für Besoldung)	Bewilligungsbehörde und Formularhinweise: SAB / sächsische Richtlinie – contact info on the page. (Sächsisches Amt für Besoldung)	FRL AuF/2023 active – check SAB for specific open calls and program windows. (Förderdatenbank)
Sachsen-Anhalt	Landesverwaltungsamt / Förderschwerpunkte Fischerei & Aquakultur (LVWA pages / Richtlinien). (Landesportal Sachsen-Anhalt)	Ansprechpartner / Förderabteilung: Landesverwaltungsamt (see LVWA page). (Landesportal Sachsen-Anhalt)	See LVWA page for local deadlines; some measures have fixed cut-offs, other funding is open via announced calls. (Landesportal Sachsen-Anhalt)



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About this practice abstract and the OrganicTargets4EU project

Publisher: Naturland e.V., Kleinhaderner Weg 1, 82166 Gräfelfing, Germany, <https://www.naturland.de/en/>

Author: Stefan Holler

Contact: S.Holler@naturland.de

Review: Pinja Pöytäniemi (IFOAM EU), Susanne Padel OPBRC (Organic Policy, Business and Research Consultancy), Boglarka Bozsogi (IFOAM EU), Ambra De Simone (IFOAM EU)



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