



The European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) 2021-2027

State of play

- 4 December 2020: political agreement between the Council and the Parliament (text publicly available)
- First semester 2021: legal revision
- Mid July 2021 (tbc): entry into force
- 2021 and 2022: preparation and approval of national programmes

Scope of EMFAF

Key contributor to the European Green Deal

Achieving the objectives of the common fisheries policy (CFP)

- Sustainable and low-impact fishing
- **Efficient market for fishery products**
- Sustainable aquaculture
- Structural management of fisheries and fleets
- Competitiveness of the fishery and aquaculture sector
- Fair standard of living in coastal areas
- Collection of scientific data for fisheries management
- Control of fishing activities

Contributing to the EU maritime policy

- Sustainable blue economy
- Integrated governance and management of the maritime policy (e.g. maritime spatial planning)
- Maritime surveillance and security
- International ocean governance

Contributing to the Biodiversity Strategy

- Protection and restoration of aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems
- Achievement of a good environmental status in the marine environment
- Implementation of marine protected areas
- Promotion of the circular economy

Contributing to EU climate and environmental objectives

- Contribution to the overall target of 30% of expenditure under the EU budget spent on climate objectives
- Contribution to the overall target of expenditure under the EU budget spent on biodiversity objectives
(7.5% of annual spending in 2024 and 10% of annual spending in 2026 and 2027)

General framework

- **Shared management:** national programmes prepared by Member States and approved by the Commission
- **Direct management:** work programmes prepared by the Commission and approved by the EMFAF Committee (i.e. national experts)

Financial framework

General framework

- **Overall budget** for 2021-2027: EUR 6.108 billion in current prices
- Budgetary resources for **shared management**: EUR 5.311 billion – 87%
 - *National allocations established on the basis of the 2014-2020 distribution key*
- Budgetary resources for **direct management**: EUR 797 million – 13%

Financial framework

Intensity of public aid

**Standard maximum rate of public aid under shared management:
50%**

Derogations based on the added value of the operations

Specific maximum rates for certain categories of operations or beneficiaries, e.g:

- 40% for certain fleet measures (i.e. first acquisition of a vessel, engine replacement, increase in gross tonnage)
- 100% for operations related to small-scale coastal fishing
- 100% for operation related to the protection of biodiversity and ecosystems
- 100% for operations which are (1) of collective interest, (2) have a collective beneficiary and (3) have innovative features or ensure public access to their results (cumulative conditions)
- 75%-100% for certain operations related to the landing obligation
- **75% for operations implemented by producer organisations**

Conditions of support

A broad scope of support

- **Focus on ends (objectives)** rather than means (eligibility rules)
- Flexibility for Member States to define eligibility rules (subject to conditions for certain investments in the fishing fleet to avoid 'harmful subsidies')
- Discontinuation of the pre-defined measures of the 2014-2020 framework
- Example with marketing:
 - 2014-2020: 4 measures (= 4 detailed articles)
 - 2021-2027: one broad Specific Objective mirroring the objectives of the common market organisation

Conditions of support

General principles of eligibility

General principle in the Common Provisions Regulation:

The eligibility of expenditure is determined on the basis of national rules, except where specific rules are laid down in the EU legal framework

General principles for shared management in the EMFAF:

Member States may select operations which:

- ✓ *fall under the scope of the Priorities and Specific Objectives*
- ✓ *are not explicitly ineligible (e.g. construction of new fishing vessels, increase of fishing capacity)*
- ✓ *are in accordance with applicable EU law*

Specific Objective on markets

Legal basis

Article 26 (shared management)

1. Support (...) shall cover interventions that contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the CFP as set out in Article 2 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013, through the following specific objectives:

(...)

(b) promoting marketing, quality and added value of fishery and aquaculture products, as well as processing of those products.

(...)

4. Support under point (b) of paragraph 1 of this Article may also contribute to the achievement of the objectives of common organisation of the markets in fishery and aquaculture products as provided for in Article 35 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013, including the production and marketing plans as described in Article 28 of Regulation (EU) No 1379/2013.

Article 50 (direct management)

The EMFAF shall support the development and dissemination of market intelligence for fishery and aquaculture products by the Commission in accordance with Article 42 of Regulation (EU) No 1379/2013.

Specific Objective on markets

Examples of eligible actions

- Creation of producer organisations
- Implementation of production and marketing plans
- Development of new market outlets
- Promotion of traceability and consumer information
- Valorisation of products (e.g. through labelling on quality, sustainability or geographical origin)
- Dissemination of market intelligence throughout the supply chain
- Modernisation of auction halls

➤ *Operations can be implemented by collective or individual beneficiaries*

Programming under shared management

Main elements of national programmes

- A **SWOT analysis** (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) to identify the **needs**
- A description of the **types of actions** envisaged for each Specific Objective to address the needs
- A **performance framework** along output and result indicators
- A **financing plan** showing the distribution of financial resources across the Specific Objectives