

## **Citizens Summary for the UK European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) 2015.**

### **Background**

The UK EMFF programme has a budget of €243 million and aims at achieving key national development priorities along with the "Europe 2020" objectives. The strategy for the use of the funding, contained within the Operational Programme (OP), addresses the general reform of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and the development of the Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP) .

The UK EMF programme objectives are defined under 4 main policy goals:

1. Adapting the fisheries sector to the requirements of the reformed CFP – focused on the transition of the fleet to sustainably managed and discard-free fisheries including innovation
2. Fostering growth potential across the fisheries, aquaculture and processing supply chains - through support for innovation, onshore and offshore investments in infrastructure
3. Supporting the increased economic, environmental and social sustainability of the sector – through efficient use of natural resources, support policies that will attract and maintain people in coastal areas and improving local governance.
4. Fulfilling the UK's enforcement and data collection obligations under the CFP – by developing IT tools and technologies to support control and enforcement, improving the traceability of fisheries products, adapting data collection to respond to the new requirements of the reformed CFP

### **Funding priorities**

The UK EMFF programme is organised around the following priorities:

Union Priority 1 (UP1): €67.5 million (28%) will aim at striking the right balance between fisheries activities, environmental protection and thus contributing to the sustainable development of the fisheries sector. The accent is put on innovative research projects whose outcomes will add value to the sector, energy savings and scientific knowledge.

Union Priority 2 (UP2): €19.3 million (8%) is focused on aquaculture and supporting innovative projects to help expand production while improving sustainability of the sector. Funding will also support greater profitability in the sector through improvements in predator control, the potential of new species being cultured, opening up of new aquaculture locations and diversification in income through complementary activities.

Union Priority 3 (UP3): €97.6 million (40%) will go towards the implementation of control, inspection and enforcement system as required by the CFP as well as the collection, management and use of data required by the CFP

Union Priority 4 (UP4): €13.6 million (6%) for fisheries and aquaculture dependent communities to diversify their economies and bring added value to their fishing activities through improved local marketing and supply chain logistics.

Union Priority 5 (UP5): €27.2 million (11%) will focus on investments in the development of new or improved fisheries and shellfish products, as well as marketing and promotional campaigns. The Producer Organisations will be supported to take a greater role in production and marketing.

Union Priority 6 (UP6): €5.3 million (3%) will support the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and an effective marine planning process. Funding will be used to establish baselines and monitoring to tackle more complex issues such as cumulative impacts, future analysis and filling knowledge gaps.

The remaining €12.5 million (4%) is allocated to technical assistance to support the UK delivery bodies in implementing and managing the scheme. This will include reinforce the implementation system, ensure efficient administration of the EU funding, including support to reducing burden on beneficiaries, improving e-administration and publicity and information measures.

### Activities in 2015

In 2015, the main activities under the United Kingdom European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) programme have focused on the development and in some cases the agreement of, the underpinning foundations of the scheme. These include:

(i) the Operational Programme (OP) – this was developed during the course of 2014 and 2015 and later versions were adapted to take into account feedback from various partners and stakeholders in the scheme. The OP, which took into account the domestic policies within each of the four UK Administrations, was approved by the European Commission (EC) on 3rd December 2015.

(ii) applicant facing tools – the UK EMFF delivery bodies put a significant amount of time and effort into the development of applicant facing tools such as e-Systems, Guidance Notes and a Communication Strategy ahead of the scheme opening for applications in 2016. These efforts were focused on trying to design a scheme that could be readily accessed by a wide range potential applicant to deliver the outcomes outlined in the OP. The work in this area drew from experience developed under the previous scheme, the European Fisheries Fund (EFF), external audits and evaluations as well as stakeholder feedback.

(iii) scheme governance - the UK EMFF delivery bodies have drawn on the significant experience developed under the EFF to aid the development of the underpinning governance structures for the new scheme. This has included the drafting of the Management and Control System (MCS) and supporting Desk Instructions to support designation of all bodies in 2016. In addition, all UK administrations worked together to support the laying of the UK EMFF Statutory Instrument.

(iv) the EMFF Programme Monitoring Committee (PMC) – a Shadow EMFF PMC was created and first met in November 2014. This drew on the experienced membership of the EFF PMC but also added new members to represent the new areas of the EMFF scheme. The Shadow EMFF PMC met three times (November 2014, June 2015 and November 2016) before the OP was approved. The Shadow EMFF PMC provided challenge and direction to Defra, the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) and the Devolved Administrations during the development phase of EMFF. After the approval of the EMFF OP, the Shadow EMFF PMC was formally constituted as the EMFF PMC by adopting the Terms of Reference for the group – this took place on 14th December 2016.

(v) Selection Criteria - the UK EMFF delivery bodies developed draft Selection Criteria which was reviewed by both the Shadow EMFF PMC and the EC. At the first EMFF PMC meeting, the final draft of the Selection Criteria was adopted with a commitment being provided to review the criteria following implementation in 2016.

While significant effort was directed towards the development of the scheme foundations, the UK EMFF delivery bodies have also focused activities on:

(a) Fisheries Local Action Groups (FLAGs) - the development of processes, and in some instances, the selection of FLAGs to deliver the Community Led Local Development strand of the UK EMFF programme.

(b) Data Collection Framework (DCF) funding - working with partners who deliver the UK obligations under the DCF to develop mechanisms to reclaim EMFF funding for their activities which represents a significant change in approach than under previous arrangements. The activities relate to the UK DCF Work Programme which was rolled forward to cover 2014 to 2016 activities.

(c) Control and Enforcement - further developing plans and policies for the use of EMFF funding to support the UK obligations for control and enforcement activities related to the reformed Common Fisheries Policy (CFP).

(d) Scheme Launch – developing and implementing plans to support the EMFF scheme opening for applications in parts of the UK while having the official EMFF Launch Event.