



European Union

European Structural
and Investment Funds

**European Structural and Investment Funds
2014 - 2020**

Growth Programme for England

ESI Funds Growth Programme Board

European Maritime & Fisheries Fund (EMFF) Programme Update

<p>Purpose:</p> <p>To provide the Board with a progress report on EMFF implementation in England.</p>
<p>Recommendation(s):</p> <p>That the Growth Programme Board notes the report.</p>
<p>Summary:</p> <p>Good progress continues to be made, with 467 applications for projects received. Approved projects (274) have total project costs of more than £16.2m.</p>

1. There continues to be good take-up of the EMFF in England, with 467 applications for projects received under the 'core' programme (i.e. not including expenditure for control and enforcement activities, and data collection measures) totalling over £53m total project cost of which nearly £19m is EMFF
2. Out of the 467 applications, 274 have been approved, with total project costs of more than £18.8m, of which £7.9m is EMFF and £2.13m national match. Monies have also started to be paid out to projects, with over £2.7m already paid to applicants.
3. The most popular areas for funding are:
 - Health and safety – equipment and on-board vessel investments (81 projects attracting £640k EMFF);
 - Limiting the impact of fishing on the marine environment – more selective fishing gear and practices (72 projects, attracting £614k EMFF);
 - Processing and marketing – of fisheries and aquaculture products (32 projects, attracting £2.48m EMFF);
 - Adding value and quality – to caught and unwanted fish products (34 projects, attracting £284k EMFF);
 - Infrastructure investments – in ports, harbours, landing sites and auction halls (28 projects, £1.5m EMFF, £71,000 national);
 - Investments in aquaculture – new units, diversification of production and species, modernisation of existing units (5 projects, £605,000 EMFF, £285,000 national);
 - Promotion of human capital – job creation, improving social dialogue, training (4 projects, £793,000 EMFF, 0 national);

- Protection/restoration of marine biodiversity and ecosystems – collection of waste, Natura 2000 sites, increasing environmental awareness (5 projects, £468,000 EMFF, £151,000 national).
4. There are 193 projects with the Marine Management Organisation (which is both the UK Managing Authority and England Intermediate Body) awaiting approval at various stages of the process with an EMFF grant £8.3m.
 5. The most popular element of the scheme remains On board improvements to vessels, which tends to cluster claimants geographically around the larger ports. For example, in Cornwall 78 projects to improve vessels have been approved, whereas in Hampshire only two projects have been approved for that purpose.
 6. With regard to CLLD, the six Fisheries Local Action Groups have now launched and the MMO has received the first applications for specific projects. As the FLAG's are in the very early stages of delivery it is difficult to provide much information on progress to date. Each FLAG has a specific set of local issues they are looking to address through their strategies and business plans and the MMO's England delivery team are looking at their initial Expressions of Interest to see where possible new ideas can be linked to Articles and result Indicators.

Our current 'top challenge(s)' and how we are addressing them

7. The top challenge for delivery of the EMFF scheme remains ensuring that the seafood sector in England maximises its use of the scheme, in particular where take up is not in line with the current budgets specified in the Operational Programme. One area that has not been as popular has been Article 37 (Design implementation of conservation measures & Regional cooperation) which has a budget of £2m but few applications to date. The Marine Management Organisation has contacted various stakeholders to improve awareness of this element of the scheme, for example the Rivers Trust, the Thames Estuary Partnership, and the Sustainable Eel Group, and the first projects with significant value (£300k) have been submitted in recent weeks.
8. The MMO has used various platforms like the annual conference of the Shellfish Association of Great Britain and an event at the British Ports & Harbours Association to promote the availability of EMFF grants. The MMO is continually working with bodies like CEFAS and Seafish as well as universities to engage with potential applicants in the less popular areas of the scheme which tend to be research/science/conservation led.

Challenges in different areas of the country/Can we learn from delivery in different areas?

9. Unlike the other Structural Funds, delivery of EMFF projects in England is not delivered by regional teams as the number of projects is small and the applications require some degree of technical knowledge of the seafood sector; all English applications are

processed by the MMO's EMFF team at their headquarters in Newcastle. Data is not categorised on a regional basis.

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EMFF Programme Monitoring Committee
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