

25 January 2011

European Commission proposals on the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)

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Commission proposals on the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)

On 2nd December 2011 the European Commission published their proposals for the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) that will replace the European Fisheries Fund (EFF) from 1 January 2014 until 31 December 2020.

The EMFF is structured around four pillars:

- Smart, Green Fisheries; intended to help address discards, support fisheries which are less damaging to the marine environment, support innovation value added, and build resilience to external factors;
- Smart, Green Aquaculture; which aims to help aquaculture businesses achieve economic viability and competitiveness;
- Sustainable Development of Fisheries Areas; targeted at reversing the decline of many coastal and inland communities dependent on fishing; and
- Integrated Maritime Policy; which includes a number of cross cutting measures including maritime surveillance, data sharing, Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) and Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM). The funding under this pillar will be held by the Commission and centrally distributed.

The proposals for the EMFF aim at achieving the objectives of the reformed Common Fisheries Policy and of the IMP (the major difference between the EMFF and EFF is the inclusion of the IMP).

The UK is committed to ensuring that the EMFF supports a reformed Common Fisheries Policy, and which contributes to the EU2020 strategy objectives and help promote sustainable, competitive fishing and aquaculture, along with integration of wider environmental policies. The UK also believes it is essential that the EMFF offers greater flexibility and is more streamlined and proportionate than the existing EFF if it is to achieve its aims and objectives and support the reformed CFP in delivering the final package of measures.

We will now need to continue our work with the Commission, other Member States, the European Parliament, the fishing, aquaculture and processing industries, NGOs, and others with an interest in fisheries aquaculture and the marine environment to improve the package of proposals to make sure that the EMFF works effectively in delivering its objectives. We would like to hear what you think about the proposals to help us prioritise our approach to negotiations in Europe over the next 12 – 18 months.

The full list of documents associated with the EMFF proposals are below and you can view them by following the hyperlinks. In addition we have also included a number of questions that are aimed to help focus on the most important aspects of the proposals and the issues that matter most to the UK. Please send your responses to these questions, or any other points on the proposals to cfp@defra.gsi.gov.uk by 18April 2012.

- [COM\(2011\) 804](#) - Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund [repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1198/2006 and Council Regulation(EC) No 861/2006 and Council Regulation No XXX/2011 on integrated maritime policy
- [SEC\(2011\) 1416](#) - Impact Assessment

- [SEC\(2011\) 1417](#) - Executive summary of the Impact Assessment
- [Opinion of the Impact Assessment Board](#)

In addition to this process, we will also meet directly with groups of stakeholders to gather their views on the Commission proposals, and will continue to do this as the negotiations develop.

Questions – European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)

General

- Do you think that the Commission's proposals for the EMFF will contribute effectively to the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy for employment, innovation, education, social inclusion and climate change and energy?
-
- Do you agree with the specific Objectives for the Fund as set out in Article 5? Do you think the detail of the proposals meets these objectives?
-
- Do you think the Commission's proposals go far enough in improving delivery and simplification compared to the current EFF? What more do you think could be done?

Measures under EMFF

Articles 26 – 42 (Sustainable development of fisheries)

- The Commission has proposed a series of measures to support the sustainable development of fisheries, do you agree that the proposals will achieve this aim and will support Common Fisheries Policy Reform? If not what changes would you like to see?
- Do you think the Commission proposals do enough to improve environmental sustainability of fisheries? What more do you think could be done?
- Do you think that the Commission's proposals for innovation go far enough?

Articles 43 – 57 (Sustainable development of aquaculture)

- The Commission has proposed a series of measures to support the sustainable development of aquaculture, do you agree that the proposals will achieve this aim? If not, what changes would you like to see?
- Do you think the Commission proposals do enough to improve environmental sustainability of aquaculture? What more do you think could be done?
- Do you think that the Commission's proposals for innovation go far enough?

Articles 58 – 67 (Sustainable development of fisheries areas)

- The Commission has proposed a series of measures to support to the sustainable development of fisheries areas building on the Fisheries Local Action Group measures under the current EFF. Do you agree that the proposals will achieve this aim? If not what changes would you like to see?

Articles 68 – 72 (Marketing and processing related measures)

- The Commission has proposed a series of measures which relate to marketing and processing. Do you agree with these measures? Are there any changes you would like to see?

Articles 76 – 79 (Accompanying measures for the CFP under shared management)

- The Commission has proposed a series of measures to accompany the Common Fisheries Policy? Do you agree that the proposals are the right ones to support the implementation of CFP reform? What changes if any would you like to see to these EMFF articles?

Integrated Maritime Policy

Articles 80 – 90

- Do you think the Commission's proposals should include Integrated Maritime Policy? What changes would you like to see to improve the delivery of IMP if they are?

Monitoring and evaluation

Articles 131 – 149

- Do you think the Commission's proposals on the monitoring and evaluation framework are right? What do you think should be changed? Do you have any alternative suggestions?

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