

Citizen's summary (*Article 50(9) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013*)

Citizens Summary for the UK European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) 2018.

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 EMFF 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) Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based fisheries:

A total budget of €67.5million (28%) is available with the aim of 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.

Since the UK opened for applications in 2016, 1295 projects with an EMFF value of €56.1million (£49.6million) were approved, representing 83% of the EMFF budget allocation of €67.5million (£60.2million).

The majority of approved projects fall under Health and Safety, with 455 projects approved (35% of all UP1 projects), Limiting the impact of fishing on the marine environment, with 297 projects approved (23%) and Added value, product quality and use of unwanted catches, which has 193 approved projects (15%).

Of the total of 1295 operations selected, 70 (5%) are under implementation, 809 (62%) are completed, 415 (32%) are covered by a decision granting aid where no expenditure has been declared and 1 (1%) operation is fully implemented but not all expenditure has been paid to the beneficiary.

In relation to the gender of applicants, 1220 (94%) are male, 61 (5%) female with 6 (1%) other and 8 (1%) beneficiaries are organisations, not individuals. Size of the operators requesting assistance were 1096 micro enterprises, 128 small, 35 medium and 36 large. There are no beneficiaries who are Non-SME's.

The best performing indicators are those related to increasing net profits (1.3), employment maintained (1.8) and reducing injuries and accidents (1.9a).

Union Priority 2 (UP2) Fostering environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based aquaculture:

A budget of €19.3 million (8%) is available to focus 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.

Since the UK opened for applications in 2016, 101 projects with an EMFF value of €16.2million (£14.3million) were approved, representing 84% of the EMFF budget allocation of €19.3million (£17.2million).

The majority of approved projects fall under Productive investments in aquaculture with 72 projects approved (71% of all UP2 projects). Following industry engagement throughout 2017 a good level of applications have now been approved across England (36), Scotland (47) and Northern Ireland (13).

Of the 101 operations have been selected, 37 (36%) are completed, 32 (32%) are under implementation and 32 (32%) are covered by a decision granting aid where no expenditure has been declared.

In relation to the gender of applicants, 76 (75%) were male, 23 (23%) female and 2 (2%) beneficiaries are organisations, not individuals. Size of the operators requesting assistance were 67 (67%) micro enterprises, 24 (24%) small, 5 (5%) medium and 5 (5%) large.

The best performing indicators are those related to change in volume and value of aquaculture production (2.1 and 2.2) along with increase of net profits (2.3) and Employment Maintained (2.9).

Union Priority 3 (UP3) Fostering the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy:

A budget of €97.6 million (40%) is available towards the implementation of control, inspection and enforcement system as required by the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) as well as the collection, management and use of data required by the CFP.

Since the UK opened for applications in 2016, 12 projects with an EMFF value of €14.5million (£11.3million) were approved, which is 15% of the total EMFF budget allocation of €97.6million (£86.2million).

Since the UK opened for applications in 2016, 35 projects with an EMFF value of €54.0million (£47.7million) were approved, which is 55% of the total EMFF budget allocation of €97.6million (£87.0million).

A total of 35 operations have been selected, of these 8 (23%) are under implementation, 4 (11%) are completed and 23 (66%) are covered by a decision granting aid where no expenditure has been declared.

As outlined in the OP work on Data Collection is concentrating on;

- the collection, management and use of data for the purpose of scientific analysis and implementation of the CFP and validation and quality control;
- biological sampling of stocks covered by the CFP;
- research surveys at sea;
- at-sea monitoring of commercial and recreational fisheries, including monitoring of by-catch of marine organisms such as marine mammals and birds;
- collection of economic and socio-economic data;
- development and improvement of data collection and data management systems.
- coordination and support for research on the marine environment; and
- participation in regional and other coordination meetings; meetings of regional fisheries management organisations.

There were no significant compliance issues in 2018. An updated National Work Plan for 2016 to 2019 was submitted on 31 October 2018 and was adopted by the Commission with no amendment required.

The DCF Annual Report for 2017 will be submitted on 31 May 2019 for a separate evaluation and adoption by the European Commission. A wide range of initiatives are being progressed which include;

- redeveloping IT as an enabler to improve compliance;
- developing training programmes for compliance officers; and
- upgrading patrol vessels to monitor inshore fisheries and funding surveillance activities in Specific Control & Inspection Programme areas.

Union Priority 4 (UP4): Increasing employment and territorial cohesion

A budget of €13.6 million (6%) is available 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.

In the UK a total of 19 FLAGs have approved local development strategies (LDS). FLAGs approved are as follows; 8 in Scotland (Argyle and Ayrshire, Dumfries and Galloway, Forth, Highland Moray, North East of Scotland, Orkney, Outer Hebrides and Shetland), 6 in England (Dorset and East Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly, Holderness, Hastings, North of Tyne and North Thames), 4 in Wales (North Wales, Pembrokeshire, Swansea and Cardigan Bay) and 1 in Northern Ireland (South East Area).

Since the UK opened for applications in 2016, 237 projects with an EMFF value of €8.1million (£7.2million) have been approved, which is 45% of the total EMFF budget allocation of €18.1million (£16.1million).

Of this, 120 projects with declared EMFF expenditure of €3.2million (£2.3million) have been submitted to the Managing Authority, which is 18% of the total EMFF budget allocation.

A total of 237 selected operations, of these 55 (23%) are under implementation, 64 (27%) are completed and 118 (50%) are covered by a decision granting aid where no expenditure has been declared.

In relation to the gender of applicants, 179 (76%) were male with 42 (18%) female, 1 (1%) other with 15 (5%) not applicable. Size of the operators requesting assistance were 161 (68%) micro enterprises, 43 (18%) small, 9 (4%) medium, 15 (6%) large and 9 (4%) non SME.

The best performing indicator is employment created (4.1) which is expected to exceed its target. However, the indicator for businesses created (4.3) is showing positive progress towards achieving the 2023 target.

Union Priority 5 (UP5) Fostering marketing and processing:

A budget of €27.2million (11%) is available to 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.

Since the UK opened for applications in 2016, 161 projects with an EMFF value of €18.5million (£16.4million) have been approved, which is 68% of the total EMFF budget allocation of €27.2million (£24.3m).

There are 134 projects with declared EMFF expenditure of €11.0million (£10.5million) which have been submitted to the Managing Authority, which is 45% of the total EMFF budget allocation of €27.2million (£24.3million).

The majority of approved projects fall under Processing of fishery and aquaculture products, with 135 projects approved (84% of all UP5 projects). Progress has been made under Marketing measures and Production and Marketing plans, with 23 approved applications.

A total of 161 operations have been selected, 26 (16%) are under implementation, 108 (67%) are completed and 27 (17%) are covered by a decision granting aid where no expenditure has been declared.

In relation to the gender of applicants, 142 (88%) are men, 17 (11%) female and 1 (1%) other. Size of the operators requesting assistance were 55 (34%) micro enterprises, 62 (39%) small and 44 (27%) medium.

All indicators have positive expected results against them, the best performance being those related to change in value and volume of first sales in non-Producer Organisations (5.1.c and 5.1.d).

Budget allocated to Storage Aid of €600 thousand has not being utilised, as such this budget has now been decommitted.

Union Priority 6 (UP6) Fostering the implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy:

A budget of €5.3 million (3%) is available to 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.

Since the UK opened for applications in 2016, 19 projects with an EMFF value of €1.8million (£1.6million) have been approved, which is 34% of the total EMFF budget allocation of €5.3million (£4.8million).

A total of 6 projects with declared EMFF expenditure of €0.3million (£0.3million) have been submitted to the Managing Authority, which is 6% of the total EMFF budget allocation of 5.3million (£4.8million).

A total of 19 operations have been selected, 5 (26%) are under implementation, 1 (5%) is completed and 13 (69%) are covered by a decision granting aid where no expenditure has been declared.

In relation to the gender of applicants, 11 (58%) are men, 6 (32%) female and 2 (11%) are not applicable. Size of the operators requesting assistance were 14 (74%) micro enterprises, 4 (21%) large and 1 (5%) non-SME.

There are currently no contributions to any of the indicators relating to change in coverage of Natura 2000 areas designated or other spatial protection measures (6.2.a and 6.2.b).

Under Union Priority 6, across the UK financial implementation has been low. Despite €1.8million EMFF being committed to operations, only 6 of these have declared EMFF expenditure, totalling €0.3m (£0.3m). This slow recovery of expenditure has resulted in significant failure (<65%) of the financial indicator under this priority (€1.7m). The UK will now need to reallocate the 6% held in the Performance Reserve for Union Priority 6 to another performing Union Priority.

Union Priority 7 (UP7) Technical Assistance:

A budget of €12.5 million (4%) is allocated to support the UK delivery bodies in implementing and managing the scheme. This will include reinforcing the implementation system, ensuring efficient administration of the EU funding, including support to reduce the burden on beneficiaries, improving e-administration and publicity and information measures.

Since the start of the EMFF scheme, 32 projects with an EMFF value of €6.9million (£6.1million) have been approved, which is 55% of the total EMFF budget allocation of €12.5million (£11.2million).