



Review of the European Fisheries Fund (EFF) in the UK 2014





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Investing in sustainable fisheries

The contribution of commercial fishing to coastal communities and local economies across the UK is significant. However, this industry is facing a number of challenges. A decline in fish stocks, damage to marine ecosystems and habitats, changing market demands along with other social and economic factors are all affecting the industry's sustainability.

The European Fisheries Fund (EFF) is a driver of development. It is helping fishermen, fish processing and aquaculture businesses to adapt to these changing needs. It is supporting necessary infrastructure projects and improvements which benefit groups of people working in the fishing sector. It also supports the development of economies in fisheries areas.

The EFF scheme is implemented in the UK by the following organisations; Marine Management Organisation (England), Marine Scotland, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (Northern Ireland) and the Welsh Government. The delivery of the EFF scheme across the UK has been, and will continue to be, at the heart of these organisations and this shows a clear commitment to supporting the fishing sector and communities towards a sustainable future.

This report builds on the previous reviews of the EFF and outlines the achievements and benefits of EFF investment and public funding provided in the UK fishing sectors in 2014.

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Introduction to the European Fisheries Fund in the UK 2014



The European Fisheries Fund (EFF) was introduced by the European Union (EU) to support the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). The fund, which runs from 2007 to December 2015, provides €4.3 billion to help the European fisheries sector to adapt to the regulations set out in the CFP. It provides support towards a range of activities, including:

- Ensuring the long-term future of fishing activities and the sustainable use of fishery resources.
- Reducing pressure on stocks by matching EU fleet capacity to availability.
- Promoting the sustainable development of inland fishing.
- Boosting economically viable enterprises in the fisheries sector and making operating structures more competitive.
- Helping to protect the environment and the conservation of marine resources.
- Encouraging sustainable development of areas with an active fishing industry.

EU Member States were each required to submit an Operational Programme (OP) in order to secure assistance from the EFF. These strategies set out in more detail the countries' priority areas for awarding funds.

Around £106 million (€130 million) has been made available through the EFF for the UK.

This has been used towards the following priorities, which are explained in more detail in the UK OP:

- To boost the balance between fishing effort and opportunity.
- To boost profitability by obtaining increased returns from the same inputs, and
- To increase profitability compared to other EU Member States.

To access the funding available, people, businesses, organisations and fishing communities have applied through one of four funding streams, or 'Axes,' which are each covered in more detail in this document.

In order to measure the effectiveness of EFF funding in the UK a range of result indicators were developed to assess the achievements of funding allocations across the priority axes. A summary of these is provided at annex 1 including the original baseline 2014 update (where available) and a target for 2015.

From the start of the programme in 2007 to 31 December 2014, £101.8 million (96 per cent) of the total budget has been committed from EFF on 2,774 projects in the UK.

EFF investment together with other government and private match contributions provide investment to the industry of £340 million.



Axis 1

Measures for the adaptation of the community fishing fleet (Axis 1)



Objective:

The main objective of Axis 1 is to contribute to the sustainable development of fishing resources and to improve performance and profitability of the fishing fleet.

Key measures:

The key measures for the UK in this Axis include ensuring fishing vessels are able to operate competitively and efficiently, enabling fishing effort to match opportunities and maintaining small-scale coastal fishing activity. Axis 1 is complemented by Axis 3 in that they jointly deliver a holistic range of support to the sea fisheries sector. This complementarity between the two axes has seen culture and behaviour changes, as a number of Pilot Projects involving groups of fishermen, scientists and research institutions working together to develop innovative methods and approaches towards fishing activities.

Eligibility:

When the EFF scheme launched in the UK the average age of vessels in the fleet was 23 years. Consequently, critical projects for support through Axis 1 include adapting the fleet to make vessels safer, more fuel efficient and have lower maintenance requirements. Upgrading safety, working conditions, hygiene, conservation, energy efficiency or adopting more sustainable fishing methods may all qualify for funding through this Axis of the EFF scheme providing the activities above don't increase the vessel's capacity to catch fish.

Progress:

As at 31 December 2014, a total of £12.1million was committed from the EFF on 1,319 Axis 1 projects in the UK.

Vessel modernisation

Through Axis 1 fishermen may receive support to modernise their vessels in order to improve safety and working conditions, reduce costs and increase energy efficiency.

Improving crew safety

The number of UK fishermen fatalities or injuries increased from 33 in 2013 to 46 in 2014, evidencing the need for safety on board to remain a key focus of the EFF scheme.

Examples of grants awarded to help improve safety on board fishing vessels include:

- A project in Cornwall was awarded grant assistance of £5,529 to upgrade the crew quarters, including the provision of bunks to provide rest facilities and heating for the crew. The fish room will also be insulated to increase the quality of catch.
- A project in Belfast was awarded £31,340 to install a catch handling system to improve efficiency, safety on board the vessel, as well as the improving quality of the catch to attract better prices. The system included a blast freezer to freeze the catch at sea and a cold storage area.
- A project in Northern Ireland was awarded £110,615 to install a top line winch to improve safety on board and also a vacuum pump to improve the quality of the catch and a generate set to improve efficiency on board the pelagic vessel.
- A project in Mallaig, Scotland was awarded £6,762 to install an Automatic Identification System and a marine crane. These investments will increase the safety of the crew and the quality of the catch when landed.

Gear selectivity

Funding of £7,600 was awarded to a project in Fraserburgh, to allow the purchase of a new selective white fish net to reduce the cod catch and improve the quality of fish caught. This gear is designed to reduce cod mortality in line with the EC Cod Recovery Plan.

Energy efficiency and fuel consumption

Fuel prices remained high in 2014 with costs in the UK remaining one of the highest in Europe. The EFF is helping the industry by providing funding towards projects which deliver more fuel efficient working methods such as installing new engines and generators thereby reducing the costs to the fleet. A total of 41 projects were approved in 2014.

A vessel in Whitby was awarded £3,816 to purchase a new engine to reduce emissions and this more reliable and efficient engine resulted in greater fuel economy and improved safety conditions on board. Projects like this have resulted in benefits to the environment and the costs faced by fishermen through:

- Reduced emissions
- Reduced fuel consumption
- Increased reliability of operations
- Less maintenance costs

Axis 2

Aquaculture, inland fishing, processing and marketing of fishery and aquaculture products



The main objective of Axis 2 is to improve the profitability and competitiveness of aquaculture, processing and marketing of fishery and aquaculture products.

Key measures:

Through the key measures set out in the Operational Programme, the UK aims to achieve this in a number of ways, including enabling improvements in production and welfare, supporting projects which respond to changing consumer demand and contributing to lifelong learning in the aquaculture, fish processing and marketing sectors.

Eligibility:

Funding is available to support investments in the construction, extension, modernisation and equipping of fish processing companies enabling them to extend their product ranges and move into new markets. This can include processing machines and other associated equipment and facilities used by the trade.

The EFF scheme also supports the development of aquaculture production sites for species where demand is currently exceeding supply and for companies to diversify into new species for human consumption which aren't widely produced in the UK.

Progress:

As at 31 December 2014, a total of £27.2 million was committed from the EFF on 460 projects in the UK.

Processing & Marketing

Spiral Freezer

JCS Fish Ltd, based in Grimsby was awarded £131,440 to improve production by eliminating an inefficient freezing process with the purchase of a spiral freezer, associated refrigeration plant and stainless steel conveyor system to add to the existing production line. This project will increase turnover in the business, create two new jobs and reduce electricity consumption and plastic waste. The project will improve processing times therefore improving the volume and quality of fish processed.

Prawn Processing Equipment

An award of £114,697 was made to Whitelink Seafood's, based in Fraserburgh towards the purchase of prawn shelling and processing equipment along with additional freezing capacity to allow the company to produce whole tail scampi.

The shelling equipment will allow the company to undertake the process in-house rather than outsourcing it to China reducing the carbon footprint of production. The project will create three full-time jobs and allow the company to increase sales by 140 tonnes, enabling the business to meet increased demand from export markets.

Enhanced Automated processing facility

Kilkeel Kipperage Ltd, based in Newry was granted £125,800 to install a pelagic processing line, complete with conveyor system, soft separator, water purifier and scales. This will allow the company to reduce costs, improve profit margins and increase production.

Fish Processing Project

An award of £95,400 was made to Capestone Organic Ltd, based in Wales to assist in the processing of organic Salmon sourced from Scotland into a baby food product. This project is to create a dedicated processing facility with accompanying cold storage which will increase the processing capacity and create four new jobs.

Aquaculture

Sidescan Sonar to Improve Mussel Farm Operation and Management

Pembrokeshire Seafarms Ltd based in Swansea were awarded £5,380 towards the purchase of Sidescan sonar equipment, to maximise mussel growth, farm output and profitability and provide Welsh Government Fishery Managers with detailed information on seed mussel distribution, abundance and habitat data.

Dundrum Bay site development plan

DOMA NI (Ltd), based in County Down was granted £47,188 for the purchase of Oyster trestles and bagging machinery to expand the business and increase the amount of Oysters produced, alongside improving working conditions on site.

Integrated Multi Trophic Aquaculture (IMTA) project

Loch Fyne Oysters Ltd was awarded £46,286 for a project involving the cultivation of seaweed, oysters, mussels and sea urchins adjacent to an existing Salmon farm. The IMTA species help reduce the environmental impact of the salmon farm by removing excess nutrients from the water and at the same time providing commercially marketable crops. This project aims to trial IMTA techniques and produce the first commercially marketable seaweed crop in UK waters.





Objective:

Axis 3 supports the sustainable development of the fishing industry, its competitiveness and profitability.

Key measures:

Through this Axis, the scheme aims to support projects which contribute to the conservation of resources, improving the services offered by fishing ports, strengthening markets for fishery products, promoting partnerships between scientists and fishermen and innovative pilot schemes.

Eligibility:

Grants from this part of the EFF can be used to help pay for improvements to facilities and working conditions, including regeneration projects in ports around the UK. Smaller projects can also be funded through this part of the EFF including lifting and handling equipment (landing davits, forklift trucks and boat hoists), storage facilities (fuel tanks, secure areas and ice systems) and landing facilities (pontoons, jetties and slipways).

Progress:

As at 31 December 2014 a total of £50.3 million was committed from the EFF on 444 projects in the UK.

Port and harbour redevelopments

Mains power points for fishing vessels

A project by Fraserburgh Harbour Commissioners was granted £250,000 for the provision of a mains shore power hook up points on the quay side for use by fishing vessels, which means they do not have to use auxiliary engines to power the vessels while in port.

This project will meet demand from fishermen and help secure the sustainability of harbour operations. The reduction in the use of auxiliary engines will reduce emissions and noise and provide safety benefits for crews on board, reduce the costs for fishing vessels and be of a financial benefit to the harbour from additional revenue.

Fishing vessel ice delivery and land facilities

An award of £233,581 was made to Grimsby Fish Dock Enterprises Ltd to modernise the ice delivery, storage system and fishing vessel landing facilities, including new lifting equipment in the form of a hydraulic outreach arm, adaptable to deal with the variation in vessel types.

A self-service option has been made available to vessels to deliver their own ice (24 hours a day) along with a new system which will take fish direct from the vessel to the grading area. The project aims to create ten jobs alongside safeguarding existing employment.

Portavogie Small Vessel Pontoon

A project by Northern Ireland Fishery Harbour Authority was awarded £250,000 to install a pontoon with 20 additional berths for under 12 metre fishing vessels to accommodate the increasing number of smaller vessels in the port, improve safety through a designated area for these vessels and to increase annual revenue.

Remote Auction bidding system

An award of £12,516 was made to Brixham Trawler Agents Ltd to design and create an electronic remote bidding system that will integrate into the existing system allowing licenced and approved buyers to purchase fish from remote locations. The project will enable international fish buyers to purchase off the market remotely bringing in new or additional buyers with a view to increasing the value of fish landed.

Collective Actions

Lobster science partnership

An award of £188,614 was made to Agri-Food and Bioservices Institute who will work in partnership with lobster fishermen, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (Northern Ireland) and Queens University to develop a partnership and deliver work packages to gather data to produce a report with recommendations for the future management of the lobster fishery in Northern Ireland, work includes DNA testing and lobster tagging and tracking.

Fishing gear landing davits

Padstow Harbour were awarded £22,107 to develop the landing facilities within the harbour by installing two new davits to improve efficiencies, health and safety and support the fishing fleet which is vital to Padstow.

Evidence gathering in support of sustainable Scottish inshore fisheries

Seafish Industry Authority was awarded £1.4 million to undertake a series of pilot studies that test approaches to improving the evidence base for the management of Scottish inshore fisheries.

The project will benefit the Scottish inshore fisheries industry by addressing data and information requirements to ensure the fishery and the marine environment can be managed sustainably in the long term. A total of seven pilot studies will be delivered throughout the Scottish coastal areas. These will help establish the location of fishing activities within inshore areas, identify catch composition and associated fishery impacts, define the footprint and activities of the inshore sector to further develop economic value.

Development of new markets

European Seafood Expo (ESE) export & growth

Seafood Scotland was granted £172,283 for a project which aims to support export and growth in the Scottish seafood sector through attendance at the European Seafood Expo.

The project will establish and build closer links between fishers and the processing industry by encouraging attendance of vessel owners at the event and to raise awareness of the Scottish seafood sector, reinforcing Scotland's position as one of Europe's main seafood producing nations and creating an awareness of the quality and sustainability improvements which have taken place in the Scottish Seafood industry.

Sustain - The Alliance for better food and farming – Sustainable Fish Universities

An award of £39,352 was made to a promotional project aimed at the higher education sector working towards generating a significant increase in demand and a larger and more reliable market for sustainable fish.

The project engaged with 20 UK universities and 165 higher education institutions to sign up to the Sustainable Fish City Pledge and adopt a sustainable fish buying policy with 8 universities becoming Beacon Sustainable Fish Universities, with a range of promotional materials being created and promoted within the educational sector.





Objective:

The objective of Axis 4 is to support the sustainable development of fisheries areas and is delivered through local groups who represent the area. A total of 22 areas across the UK were chosen to become Fisheries Local Action Groups (FLAGs) as part of the scheme. The groups, comprising local councils, private sector businesses, fishermen's associations and education and conservation organisations have been set up in the following areas and will each use a share of the funding to help diversify their local economies.

England

Cornwall, Hastings, North Devon, North & West Cumbria, Holderness Coast and North Norfolk

Scotland

Highlands, Western Isles, Aberdeenshire, Angus, Fife, East Lothian, Scottish Borders, Dumfries and Galloway, Moray, Argyll & Bute and South Ayrshire,

Wales

Swansea, Pembrokeshire, Ceredigion, and Gwynedd & Anglesey

Northern Ireland

South East Flag (SEFLAG).

As at 31 December 2014 £10.2 million was committed from the EFF on 424 projects across the UK, led by a number of different bodies including the private sector, public bodies, third sector, voluntary and community groups.

The FLAGs have been developing both practical and innovative ideas – projects have been developed to support local brands and new markets for fish products, maximising fishing-related opportunities provided for tourists, encouraging co-operation and communication within the fishing industry and working with partners on initiatives to help people learn more about their local marine environment and fishing.

Axis 4 projects include:

The Anglesey Sea Salt Company - Halen Môn Sea Salt Visitor Tour Project (Gwynedd and Anglesey FLAG)

A grant of £28,544 was awarded to establish a Saltcote visitors centre in South West Anglesey. The visitor centre development will provide the tourism infrastructure to allow the business to provide guided tours around Halen Mons new production facility and promote it as one of the top manufacturers of sea salt for sale around the world.

The project aims to enhance the tourism benefits at Halen Mon by offering a range of new tour activities and educational information and should provide new opportunities for employment and an alternative tourist attraction in the locality for the winter season.

Copas Technologies Ltd - Copas diversification project (South East FLAG, Northern Ireland)

An award of £144,830 was made towards a diversification project in Kilkeel, to purchase a new tooling machine and associated quality machinery, with the aim of increasing turnover by entering new markets and attracting a new customer base and creating three new operating jobs.

Moray Firth Partnership, Seafood See Here

This co-operation project across 3 FLAG areas (Highland, Moray and Aberdeenshire) was awarded £45,730 to promote local seafood to local restaurants, to encourage local suppliers of seafood and promote produce through local events, website & pilot 'hubs'.

The project aims to encourage greater use of local seafood, reducing food miles, encouraging year round tourism, promoting healthier eating, and encouraging food businesses to add value and develop new products.

Stornoway Port Authority, Ice plant (Western Isles FLAG)

An award of £351,000 was made towards a project to purchase and install a new ice machine to provide an easily accessible operational ice supply in Stornoway Harbour. The new ice machine will retain the local fishing industry in the islands. It will avoid the need for vessels to travel long distances to obtain ice, reducing cost and environmental impact, providing ice for west coast and visiting vessels and other local users.

Women's Voice – Global Kitchen (Hastings FLAG)

An award of £5,804 was made towards conducting five international cuisine workshops to sample and use local, seasonal fish, fruit and vegetables in a range of culturally diverse recipes.

The workshops focussed on the preparation and use of local ingredients including the less 'popular' fish species, particularly those not subject to quota restrictions.

Whitehaven Youth Project – Coastal Sport and Recreation (North West Cumbria FLAG)

An award of £6,930 was made to a project aiming to engage with at least 1,300 young people from various organisations, increasing their interaction and relationship with the coastline through sport or leisure facilities, including kayaking, coastal cycling, coastal art, coastal running and kite flying.

These opportunities for personal development will result in them gaining transferable skills and accredited outcomes that will support them into adult life and future career choices, two bronze Duke of Edinburgh training and assessment expeditions will also be achieved using the coastline.



Summary of Operational Programme Indicators



Table 1: Axis 1 Operational Programme Indicators and Results

Indicator	Source of data	Baseline (2007)	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Target (2015)
Total UK fleet capacity (tonnage of vessels)	MMO	212,844	208,025	207,424	202,048	200,697	197,283	195,121	195,000
Value of fish landed per vessel (tonnes)	MMO	£95,000 €140,000	£103,489 €113,249	£112,118 €132,841	£128,775 €150,852	£120,254 €148,365	£112,143 €134,763	£112,559 €142,117	£111,000 €164,000
Total UK fleet capacity (kilowatts)	MMO	858,011	832,284	826,668	808,887	804,208	797,661	789,714	746,000
Turnover of the UK fishing sector	Office for National Statistics	£613 m (2006 baseline)	£664m €760m	£753m €892m	£797m €934m	£882m €1,088m	£937m €1,126m	Figures available November 2015	£766m €920m

Table 2: Axis 2 Operational Programme Indicators and Results

Indicator	Source of data	Baseline (2006)	2008	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Target (2015)
Turnover of UK aquaculture sector	Office for National Statistics	£509m €755m	£514m €615m	£516m €617m	£647m €757.9m	£652m €804.4m	£808m €971m	Figures available November 2015	£600m €852.5m
Turnover of UK processing sector	Office for National Statistics	£2,248m €3,334m	£2,381m €2,849m	£2,811m €3,293m	£2,590m €3,034m	£2,510m €3,097m	£2,985m €3,769m	Figures available November 2015	£2,900m €3,587m

Table 3: Axis 3 Operational Programme Indicators and Results

Indicator	Source of data	Baseline (2006)	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Target (2015)
Training uptake (numbers attending training courses)	Sea Fish Industry Authority	6,130	4,395	6,708	6,835	8,266	8,848	8,121	7,278	8,000
Gross Value Added	Office for National Statistics	£1,008m €1,495m	£995m €1,190m	£1,066m €1,173m	£1,116m €1,323m	£1,143m €1,339m	£1,102m €1,360m	£1,100m €1,322m	Available November 2015	£1,464m €1,715m

Note:

The analysis in Axis 2 and 3 relies on statistics from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and report 2013 performance. 2014 figures are unavailable until November 2015.



Table 4: Axis 4 Operational Programme Indicators and Results

Indicator	Actual	Target 2015
Total size of FLAG area (Km2)	51,342	51,342
Total Population of FLAG area]	2,450,967	2,450,967
	Total Approved projects at 31.12.2014	Total number of Projects to be funded by Flag Groups:
(a) strengthening the competitiveness of fisheries areas	149	77
(b) restructuring and redirecting economic activities, in particular by promoting eco-tourism, provided that these activities do not result in an increase in fishing effort	30	22
(c) diversifying activities through the promotion of multiple employment for fishers through the creation of additional jobs outside the fisheries sector	19	39
(d) adding value to fisheries products	30	63
(e) supporting small fisheries and tourism related infrastructure and services for the benefit of small fisheries communities	149	78
f) protecting the environment in fisheries areas to maintain its attractiveness, regenerating and developing coastal hamlets and villages with fisheries activities and protecting and enhancing the natural and architectural heritage (1)	18	24
(g) re-establishing the production potential in the fisheries sector when damaged by natural or industrial disasters	3	2
(h) promoting inter-regional and trans-national cooperation among groups in fisheries areas, mainly through networking and disseminating best practice (1)	4	15
(i) acquiring skills and facilitating the preparation and implementation of the local development strategy	14	8
(j) contributing to the running costs of the groups	8	23
Total	424	351

Note:

Axis 4 projects could span a number of the measures listed above. In terms of allocating eligible projects to the measures above, the project will be aligned to the measure with the greatest impact.



Cumulative number of EFF funded projects across the UK



Axis	Measure	England	Scotland	Wales	Ireland	Total
1	Permanent cessation	59	42	0	0	101
	Temporary cessation	0	0	0	0	0
	Security/Safety on board	72	118	0	164	354
	Working conditions	29	54	0	13	96
	Hygiene on board	3	12	0	3	18
	Products quality	46	186	0	25	257
	Energy efficiency	13	89	0	13	115
	Improved selectivity	23	52	0	13	88
	Changed engine	61	16	0	5	91
	Changed gear	110	54	0	0	164
	Other changes onboard	13	1	0	0	15
	Small scale coastal	0	0	0	3	3
	Socio econ. compensation	0	17	0	0	17
	Total	429	641	0	259	1319
2	Construction aquaculture	9	11	1	0	21
	Modernised aquaculture	7	60	3	10	80
	Diversification aquaculture	2	1	0	2	5
	Aqua environmental	4	2	0	0	6
	Construction processing	43	61	3	21	128
	Modernised processing	111	59	10	7	187
	Construction fish trading	6	0	0	0	6
	Modernised fish trading	22	5	0	0	27
	Total	204	199	17	40	460
3	Collective actions	71	75	20	34	200
	Protection aquatic resources	3	1	6	2	12
	Fishing harbours	94	40	3	23	160
	Promotion – new markets	17	18	1	0	36
	Pilot projects	15	19	2	0	36
	Total	200	153	32	59	44
4	Development of fishing areas	251	126	26	21	424
5	Technical assistance	26	56	14	26	122
	Studies	2	3	0	0	5
	Total	28	59	14	26	127
Total		1112	1178	99	385	2774



More information about the EFF and its successor scheme, the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund can be found in the fisheries section in the appropriate regional website or can be obtained by calling:

England www.GOV.UK/mmo 0300 123 1032

Northern Ireland www.dardni.gov.uk 0300 200 7852

Wales www.wales.gov.uk 0300 062 2218

Scotland www.scotland.gov.uk 0300 244 4000



