

Selection Criteria for the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) in the United Kingdom

Date of approval of this Selection Criteria by the UK EMFF PMC: 14 December 2015

1. Overview of the EMFF Scheme in the UK

- The EMFF scheme in the UK is one of the European Structural Investment Funds (ESIF) which seek to support a broad range of priorities across the European Union (EU).
- The UK EMFF scheme has a total budget of €243m which will be used to contribute to the Europe 2020 strategy and to the implementation of Common Fisheries Policy (CFP).
- The UK EMFF scheme will pursue the following Union priorities for the sustainable development of fisheries and aquaculture:
 - Union Priority 1 - Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource-efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge-based fisheries by pursuing the following specific objectives
 - Union Priority 2 - Fostering environmentally sustainable, resource-efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge-based aquaculture by pursuing the following specific objectives
 - Union Priority 3 - Fostering the implementation of the CFP by pursuing the following specific objectives:
 - Union Priority 4 - Increasing employment and territorial cohesion by pursuing the following specific objective: the promotion of economic growth, social inclusion and job creation, and providing support to employability and labour mobility in coastal and inland communities which depend on fishing and aquaculture, including the diversification of activities within fisheries and into other sectors of maritime economy.
 - Union Priority 5 - Fostering marketing and processing by pursuing the following specific objectives
 - Union Priority 6 - Fostering the implementation of the IMP.
- In pursuing the above Union priorities, the UK has agreed the UK EMFF Operational Programme (OP) with the European Commission (EC). This OP is a description of the strategy for the use of EMFF funding in the UK as well as a description of the desired

outputs and results that will be achieved throughout, and by the end of, the EMFF programming period.

- All of the Union priorities are underpinned by Specific Objectives and Result Indicators (listed in Annex III). The Objectives and Indicators provide a clear framework to which EMFF supported operations should contribute. The Objectives and Indicators each have a different focus and support the three pillars of sustainability (Economic, Social and Environmental) in different ways and to different degrees.

2. Legal basis for the UK EMFF scheme and the Selection Criteria

- The UK EMFF scheme is underpinned by three key EU regulations:
 - The Common Provisions Regulation – EU 1303/2014.
 - The EMFF Regulation – EU 508/2014
 - The Financial Regulation – EU 966/2015
- The EU regulations are enacted into domestic legislation through Statutory Instruments in the UK Parliament, and also in the Devolved Administrations.
- Article 125(3) of Common Provisions Regulation detail that:

“As regards the selection of operations, the managing authority shall:

(a) draw up and, once approved, apply appropriate selection procedures and criteria that:

- (i) ensure the contribution of operations to the achievement of the specific objectives and results of the relevant priority;
- (ii) are non-discriminatory and transparent;
- (iii) take into account the general principles set out in Articles 7 and 8”

- Article 113 of the EMFF Regulations detail that the monitoring committee shall

“be consulted and shall approve, within six months of the decision approving the programme, the selection criteria for the financed operations; the selection criteria shall be revised in accordance with programming needs”

3. Purpose of Selection Criteria

- The Selection Criteria are used to ensure that operations which are selected to receive funding under the EMFF scheme support the aims of the OP.
- As per section 2, the Selection Criteria must be approved by the EMFF Programme Monitoring Committee (PMC). This is to ensure that the bodies approving funding applications (i.e. the Intermediate Bodies) have a clear direction from the PMC as to the criteria against which EMFF funding applications should be assessed in the pursuit of achieving the objectives of the OP.

4. Role of the Managing Authority and Intermediate Bodies

- The functions of the Managing Authority are clearly set out in the Common Provisions Regulation under Article 125. Article 125(3)(b), concerning the selection of operations, states that the Managing Authority shall “ensure that a selected operation falls within the scope of the Fund or Funds concerned and can be attributed to a category of intervention or, in the case of the EMFF, a measure identified in the priority or priorities of the operational programme”
- Under the UK EMFF programme, all decisions with regard to the Selection of Operations are delegated by the Managing Authority to the Intermediate Bodies (as allowed for under Common Provision Regulation Article 123(7)).

5. Selection and Eligibility Assessment

- All applications for EMFF funding are assessed by the Intermediate Bodies against two key areas:
 - Eligibility assessment – this is an assessment which seeks to determine whether an application for funding is eligible i.e. meets all of the basic criteria to qualify to be considered for funding under the EMFF scheme. Detailed eligibility rules will be available to applicants.
 - Selection Criteria – these enable a qualitative assessment that seeks to determine whether the EMFF application merits being awarded funding from the EMFF scheme based the support for the objectives and results outlined in the OP.
- All applications are assessed by suitably qualified and/or experienced individuals from within the Intermediate Bodies or from other organisations who can add value to the application assessment process. These individuals may form a selection panel. Depending on the financial size and/or the complexity of the application for funding, the assessment may be supported by a range of individuals which may include external expert input. These processes are set out in the Intermediate Body Desk Instructions.

6. Selection Criteria

6.1. The selection criteria will be applicable to all measures, except the following for which specific criteria are established: CLLD (Articles 62-64); Production and Marketing Plans (Article 66); Control and Enforcement (Article 76); Data Collection (Article 77) and technical assistance (Article 78).

- The Selection Criteria are broken down into four areas:
 - Assessment against relevant Union priority Specific Objective supported by the non exhaustive list of aims of the measures outlined in the section 3.3 of the EMFF OP
 - Assessment against Union priority Specific Result Indicator(s)
 - Assessment against other Union priorities and other Result Indicators
 - Assessment of Deliverability of the operation
- The list of EMFF Article specific Selection Criteria is outlined in Annex I
- All four areas of the Selection Criteria are assessed on a High, Medium or Low basis which is further outlined in Annex II
- The list of EMFF OP Result Indicators is listed in Annex III
- The assessment against the Selection Criteria will support a summary decision either to provide EMFF financial assistance to the operation, or not.

6.2. Specific selection criteria

6.2.1 Production and Marketing Plans (Article 66)

6.2.2.1 Support is granted to the recognised Producers Organisation for the preparation and implementation of their production and marketing plans (PMP) referred to in article 28 of Regulation no 1379/2013 (CMO Regulation).

6.2.2.2 The approval by the competent national authorities of the production and marketing plans overrides the need for an operation to be assessed against OP Objectives and Result Indicators when assessing support for the PMPs and implementation of activities included in these plans.

6.2.2.3 These operations will also to be assessed against the Deliverability Criteria outlined in Annex I

6.2.3. Control and enforcement (Article 76)

The operations for the Control and enforcement activities are designed and assessed against the following areas:

- coherence with the EU priorities, as set out in COM decision 2014/464/EU
- coherence with the UK's strategy on control, as set out in the EMFF OP in section 12, in particular with reference to the list of selected types of operations set-up in section 12.4 of the OP .

6.2.4. Data Collection (Article 77)

The data collection activities to be selected under the EMFF OP will be those foreseen under the National Programme for data collection 2014-2016 (approved by COM Dec C(2013) 5568 of 30 August 2013) and thereafter under the Work Plans for data collection as referred to in Art 21 of the EMFF Regulation.

The applications will be assessed having regard to the objectives of the intervention and the coherence with UK's strategy on data collection as set out in the EMFF OP under section 13.

6.2.5 Community Led Local Development (CLLD)

6.2.5.1 CLLD Preparatory Support (Article 62(1)(a))

The activities selected under Article 62(1)(a) are deemed to be selected for support if they relate to the development of a Local Development Strategy or other CLLD preparatory support areas which are consistent with section 5 of the EMFF OP.

6.2.5.2 CLLD Running Costs and Animation (Article 62(1)(d))

The activities selected under Article 62(1)(d) are deemed to be selected where it can be evidenced that the activities support the delivery of an approved CLLD Local Development Strategy (LDS)

6.2.5.3 CLLD Implementation of CLLD Strategies and Cooperation Activities (Article 63 and Article 64)

The operations selected under Articles 63 and 64 should be assessed in line with Annex II of this document.

In addition, the operations should also be assessed against their contribution to the achievement of the relevant CLLD LDS. This assessment should be made using the following scoring criteria:

HIGH	Operation significantly contributes to the achievement of the relevant Local Development Strategy.
MEDIUM	Operation reasonably contributes to the achievement of the relevant Local Development Strategy.
LOW	Operation has limited or no contribution to the achievement of the relevant Local Development Strategy.

6.2.6 Technical Assistance (Article 78)

These operations will be assessed to confirm their compliance with section 4.8 of the EMFF OP which outlines how the UK will use EMFF Technical Assistance.

7. Rates of Public Aid Intensity

- The maximum levels of Public Aid which can be awarded to operations under the EMFF scheme are set out in Article 95 of the EMFF Regulation. These maximum levels may be reduced depending on National Policy priorities. The maximum levels of Public Aid which are available in the UK are set out in the Guidance Notes of each Intermediate Body.
- When assessing an application for EMFF funding, the Intermediate Body may decide to award less funding than is set out in the National Guidance Notes if it is assessed that the proposed project does not warrant the maximum level of funding available.

8. Future amendments to Selection Criteria document

- Revisions can be made to the EMFF Selection Criteria at any point during the programming period, but all revisions must be approved by the PMC.

Annex I - EMFF Article specific Selection Criteria

Measures to assess against Specific Objectives and Specific Result Indicators	Specific objectives, as set out in the EMFF OP supported by the aims of the action in EMFF OP section 3.3	Specific Result Indicators, as set out in the EMFF OP
Union Priority 1		
Article 26 Innovation (+ art. 44.3 Inland fishing)	5. Provision of support to strengthen technological development and innovation, including increasing energy efficiency, and knowledge transfer	1.3
Article 27 Advisory services (+ art. 44.3 Inland fishing)	4. Enhancement of the competitiveness and viability of fisheries enterprises, including of small scale coastal fleet, and the improvement of safety or working conditions	1.3, 1.5, 1.8, 1.9a or 1.9b
Article 28 Partnerships between fishermen and scientists (+ art. 44.3 Inland fishing)	5. Provision of support to strengthen technological development and innovation, including increasing energy efficiency, and knowledge transfer	1.3
Article 29.1 + 29.2 Promoting human capital and social dialogue - training, networking, social dialogue; support to spouses and life partners (+ art. 44.1.a Inland fishing)	6. Development of professional training, new professional skills and lifelong learning	1.3
Article 29.3 Promoting human capital and social dialogue – trainees on board of SSCF vessels / social dialogue	6. Development of professional training, new professional skills and lifelong learning	1.3
Article 30 Diversification and new forms of income (+ art. 44.4 Inland fishing)	4. Enhancement of the competitiveness and viability of fisheries enterprises, including of small scale coastal fleet, and the improvement of safety or working conditions	1.3, 1.5, 1.8, 1.9a or 1.9b
Article 31 Start-up support for young fishermen (+ art. 44.2 Inland fishing)	4. Enhancement of the competitiveness and viability of fisheries enterprises, including of small scale coastal fleet, and the improvement of safety or working conditions	1.3, 1.5, 1.8, 1.9a or 1.9b
Article 32 Health and safety (+ art. 44.1.b Inland fishing)	4. Enhancement of the competitiveness and viability of fisheries enterprises, including of small scale coastal fleet, and the improvement of safety or working conditions	1.3, 1.5, 1.8, 1.9a or 1.9b

Article 33 Temporary cessation of fishing activities	4. Enhancement of the competitiveness and viability of fisheries enterprises, including of small scale coastal fleet, and the improvement of safety or working conditions	1.3, 1.5, 1.8, 1.9a or 1.9b
Article 34 Permanent cessation of fishing activities	3. Ensuring a balance between fishing capacity and available fishing opportunities	1.3 or 1.6
Article 35 Mutual funds for adverse climatic events and environmental incidents	4. Enhancement of the competitiveness and viability of fisheries enterprises, including of small scale coastal fleet, and the improvement of safety or working conditions	1.3, 1.5, 1.8, 1.9a or 1.9b
Article 36 Support to systems of allocation of fishing opportunities	3. Ensuring a balance between fishing capacity and available fishing opportunities	1.3 or 1.6
Article 37 Support for the design and implementation of conservation measures and regional cooperation	1. Reduction of the impact of fisheries on the marine environment, including the avoidance and reduction, as far as possible, of unwanted catches;	1.4.b or 1.5
Article 38 Limiting the impact of fishing on the marine environment and adapting fishing to the protection of species (+ art. 44.1.c Inland fishing)	1. Reduction of the impact of fisheries on the marine environment, including the avoidance and reduction, as far as possible, of unwanted catches;	1.4.b or 1.5
Article 39 Innovation linked to the conservation of marine biological resources (+ art. 44.1.c Inland fishing)	1. Reduction of the impact of fisheries on the marine environment, including the avoidance and reduction, as far as possible, of unwanted catches;	1.4.b or 1.5
Article 40.1.a Protection and restoration of marine biodiversity – collection of lost fishing gear and marine litter	1. Reduction of the impact of fisheries on the marine environment, including the avoidance and reduction, as far as possible, of unwanted catches;	1.4.b or 1.5
Article 40.1.b-g, i Protection and restoration of marine biodiversity – contribution to a better management or conservation, construction, installation or modernisation of static or movable facilities, preparation of protection and management plans related to NATURA2000 sites and spatial protected areas, management, restoration and monitoring marine protected areas, including NATURA 2000 sites, environmental awareness, participation in other actions aimed at maintaining and enhancing	2. Protection and restoration of aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems	1.5, 1.10a or 1.10b

biodiversity and ecosystem services (+ art. 44.6 Inland fishing)		
Article 40.1.h Protection and restoration of marine biodiversity – schemes for the compensation of damage to catches caused by mammals and birds	4. Enhancement of the competitiveness and viability of fisheries enterprises, including of small scale coastal fleet, and the improvement of safety or working conditions	1.3, 1.5, 1.8, 1.9a or 1.9b
Article 41.1.a, b, c Energy efficiency and mitigation of climate change – on board investments; energy efficiency audits and schemes; studies to assess the contribution of alternative propulsion systems and hull designs (+ art. 44.1.d Inland fishing)	5. Provision of support to strengthen technological development and innovation, including increasing energy efficiency, and knowledge transfer	1.3
Article 41.2 Energy efficiency and mitigation of climate change - Replacement or modernisation of main or ancillary engines	5. Provision of support to strengthen technological development and innovation, including increasing energy efficiency, and knowledge transfer	1.3
Article 42 Added value, product quality and use of unwanted catches (+ art. 44.1.e Inland fishing)	4. Enhancement of the competitiveness and viability of fisheries enterprises, including of small scale coastal fleet, and the improvement of safety or working conditions	1.3, 1.5, 1.8, 1.9a or 1.9b
Article 43.1 + 3 Fishing ports, landing sites, auction halls and shelters - investments improving fishing port and auctions halls infrastructure or landing sites and shelters; construction of shelters to improve safety of fishermen (+ art. 44.1.f Inland fishing)	4. Enhancement of the competitiveness and viability of fisheries enterprises, including of small scale coastal fleet, and the improvement of safety or working conditions	1.3, 1.5, 1.8, 1.9a or 1.9b
Article 43.2 Fishing ports, landing sites, auction halls and shelters – investments to facilitate compliance with the obligation to land all catches	1. Reduction of the impact of fisheries on the marine environment, including the avoidance and reduction, as far as possible, of unwanted catches;	1.4.b or 1.5
Union Priority 2		
Article 47 Innovation	1. Provision of support to strengthen technological development, innovation and	2.1, 2.2 or 2.3

	knowledge transfer	
Article 48.1.a-d, f-h Productive investments in aquaculture	2. Enhancement of the competitiveness and viability of aquaculture enterprises, including improvement of safety or working conditions, in particular of SMEs	2.1, 2.2 or 2.3
Article 48.1.e, i, j Productive investments in aquaculture - resource efficiency, reducing usage of water and chemicals, recirculation systems minimising water use	3. Protection and restoration of aquatic biodiversity and enhancement of ecosystems related to aquaculture and promotion of resource-efficient aquaculture	2.4, 2.5, 2.6 or 2.7
Article 48.1.k Productive investments in aquaculture - increasing energy efficiency, renewable energy	3. Protection and restoration of aquatic biodiversity and enhancement of ecosystems related to aquaculture and promotion of resource-efficient aquaculture	2.4, 2.5, 2.6 or 2.7
Article 49 Management, relief and advisory services for aquaculture farms	1. Provision of support to strengthen technological development, innovation and knowledge transfer	2.1, 2.2 or 2.3
Article 50 Promoting human capital and networking	5. Development of professional training, new professional skills and lifelong learning	2.9
Article 51 Increasing the potential of aquaculture sites	3. Protection and restoration of aquatic biodiversity and enhancement of ecosystems related to aquaculture and promotion of resource-efficient aquaculture	2.4, 2.5, 2.6 or 2.7
Article 52 Encouraging new sustainable aquaculture farmers practising sustainable aquaculture	2. Enhancement of the competitiveness and viability of aquaculture enterprises, including improvement of safety or working conditions, in particular of SMEs	2.1, 2.2 or 2.3
Article 53 Conversion to eco-management and audit schemes and organic aquaculture	3. Protection and restoration of aquatic biodiversity and enhancement of ecosystems related to aquaculture and promotion of resource-efficient aquaculture	2.4, 2.5, 2.6 or 2.7
Article 54 Aquaculture providing environmental services	4. Promotion of aquaculture having a high level of environmental protection, and the promotion of animal health and welfare and of public health and safety	2.1, 2.2, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7
Article 55 Public health measures	4. Promotion of aquaculture having a high level of environmental protection, and the promotion of animal health and welfare and of public health and	2.1, 2.2, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7

	safety	
Article 56 Animal health and welfare measures	4. Promotion of aquaculture having a high level of environmental protection, and the promotion of animal health and welfare and of public health and safety	2.1, 2.2, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7
Article 57 Aquaculture stock insurance	4. Promotion of aquaculture having a high level of environmental protection, and the promotion of animal health and welfare and of public health and safety	2.1, 2.2, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7
Union Priority 4		
Article 63 Implementation of local development strategies (incl. running costs and animation)	Promotion of economic growth, social inclusion and job creation, and providing support to employability and labour mobility in coastal and inland communities which depend on fishing and aquaculture, including the diversification of activities within fisheries and into other sectors of maritime economy	4.1 or 4.3
Article 64 Cooperation activities	Promotion of economic growth, social inclusion and job creation, and providing support to employability and labour mobility in coastal and inland communities which depend on fishing and aquaculture, including the diversification of activities within fisheries and into other sectors of maritime economy	4.1 or 4.3
Union Priority 5		
Article 67 Storage aid	1. Improvement of market organisation for fishery and aquaculture products	5.1a, 5.1b, 5.1c or 5.1d
Article 68 Marketing measures	1. Improvement of market organisation for fishery and aquaculture products	5.1a, 5.1b, 5.1c or 5.1d
Article 69 Processing of fisheries and aquaculture products	2. Encouragement of investment in the processing and marketing sectors	5.1a, 5.1b, 5.1c or 5.1d

Union Priority 6		
Article 80.1.a Integrating Maritime Surveillance	Development and implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy	6.1, 6.2a or 6.2b
Article 80.1.b Promotion of the protection of marine environment, and the sustainable use of marine and coastal resources	Development and implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy	6.1, 6.2a or 6.2b
Article 80.1.c Improving the knowledge on the state of the marine environment	Development and implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy	6.1, 6.2a or 6.2b

Annex II – Selection Criteria Assessment Rankings

Assessment Rankings for:

- Union priority Specific Objective
- Union priority Specific Result Indicator(s)
- Other Union priorities and other Result Indicators

NOTE: As per guidance from the EC Fisheries and Aquaculture Monitoring and Evaluation (FAME) Unit, the assessment of an operation's contribution to a Result Indicator can be made in absolute or relative terms.

HIGH	Operation delivers significant benefits for the level of investment and/or significantly contributes to the achievement of the Specific Objective and/or Result Indicator.
MEDIUM	Operation delivers reasonable benefits for the level of investment and/or reasonably contributes to the achievement of the Specific Objective and/or Result Indicator.
LOW	Operation delivers poor benefits for the level of investment and/or has limited or no contribution to the achievement of the Specific Objective and/or Result Indicator.

Assessment Rankings for Deliverability

HIGH	The application provides a significant level of assurance that that the operation and the benefits, targets, objectives and outcomes will be achieved. Assurance can be assessed by reviewing evidence such as, but not exclusively, the rationale for the application, the experience of the applicant and the achievability of the targets and outcomes.
MEDIUM	The application provides a reasonable level of assurance that that the operation and the benefits, targets, objectives and outcomes will be achieved. Assurance can be assessed by reviewing evidence such as, but not exclusively, the rationale for the application, the experience of the applicant and the achievability of the targets and outcomes.
LOW	The application provides a poor level of assurance that that the operation and the benefits, targets, objectives and outcomes will be achieved. Assurance can be assessed by reviewing evidence such as, but not exclusively, the rationale for the application, the experience of the

	applicant and the achievability of the targets and outcomes.
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Annex III – UK EMFF Operational Programme (Version 1.0 approved December 2015) Result Indicators

Result indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit
1.3 - Change in net profits	893	thousand Euros
1.4.b - Change in unwanted catches	-12%	%
1.5 - Change in fuel efficiency of fish capture	-13	litres fuel/tonnes landed catch
1.6 - Change in the % of unbalanced fleets	0	%
1.8 - Employment maintained (FTE) in the fisheries sector or complementary activities	280	FTE
1.9.a - Change in the number of work-related injuries and accidents	-3	Number
1.9.b - Change in the % of work-related injuries and accidents in relation to total fishers	-5	%
1.10.a - Change in the coverage of Natura 2000 areas designated under the Birds and Habitats directives	25,000	Km ²
1.10.b - Change in the coverage of other spatial protection measures under Art. 13.4 of the Directive 2008/56/EC	10,000	Km ²
2.1 - Change in volume of aquaculture production	3100	Tonnes
2.2 - Change in value of aquaculture production	7900	thousand Euros
2.3 - Change in net profit	3290	thousand Euros
2.4 - Change in the volume of production organic aquaculture	0	Tonnes
2.5 - Change in the volume of production recirculation system	0	Tonnes
2.6 - Change in the volume of aquaculture production certified under voluntary sustainability schemes	0	Tonnes
2.7 - Aquaculture farms providing environmental services	25	Number

2.9 - Employment maintained	26	FTE
3.A.1 - Number of serious infringements detected	0.01	Number
3.A.2 - Landings that have been the subject to physical control	12	%
3.B.1 - Increase in the percentage of fulfilment of data calls	0	%
4.1 - Employment created (FTE)	55	FTE
4.3 - Businesses created	22	Number
5.1.a - Change in value of first sales in POs	16500	thousand Euros
5.1.b - Change in volume of first sales in POs	0	Tonnes
5.1.c - Change in value of first sales in non-POs	0	Tonnes
5.1.d - Change in volume of first sales in non-POs	0	Tonnes
6.2.a - Change in the coverage of Natura 2000 areas designated under the Birds and Habitats directives	25,000	Km ²
6.2.b - Change in the coverage of other spatial protection measures under Art. 13.4 of the Directive 2008/56/EC	10000	Km ²