



**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**

#### **Purpose:**

This progress report describes implementation of EMFF.

#### **Recommendation(s):**

That the Board notes the report.

#### **Summary:**

The fisheries sector has taken reassurance and certainty from the guarantees provided by Treasury.

Since the EMFF programme opened, more than 260 applications have been received. Approved applications (129) have total project costs of more than £10.6m.

1. The announcement on 3<sup>rd</sup> October by the Chancellor that all structural and investment fund projects, including EMFF, will be fully funded to the point at which the UK departs the EU allayed immediate industry concerns that the UK fishing sector would they would lose access to funding that had previously been agreed
2. In addition, confirmation that projects securing EMFF funding before we exit, and payments made, will be guaranteed even after the UK has left the EU, also provided further reassurance to those fishers, seafood businesses and other industry organisations seeking EU support. Like the other ESIF funds, these projects must meet domestic strategic priorities, and deliver value for money.
3. The MMO has been communicating these messages across the fisheries and aquaculture sectors, and to prospective applicants.
4. With regard to the 'core' English EMFF programme (i.e. not including expenditure for control and enforcement data collection activities) 266 applications for projects have been received, with total project costs of £33.5 million, of which £11.28million is EMFF.
5. Out of the 266 applications, 129 have been approved, with total project costs of £10.62million, of which £3.48million is EMFF and £3.62million is other public matched funding (including £1.3m from the MMO).

6. Of those 129 applications, we are seeing the majority of projects under only 5 priorities for funding. These are:
7. Health and safety – equipment and on-board vessel investments (40 projects)
8. Limiting the impact of fishing on the marine environment – more selective fishing gear and practices (25 projects)
9. Processing and marketing of fisheries and aquaculture products (20 projects)
10. Infrastructure investments in ports, harbours, landing sites and auction halls (16 projects)
11. Adding value to caught, and unwanted, fish products (15 projects)
12. As we are now entering the winter months, we expect to see more applications for projects for more selective gear, particularly from the small-scale sector of the fleet (vessels that are under 10 metres in length) when weather and sea conditions dictate fishing activity.
13. Turning to CLLD, the 6 English Fisheries Local Action Groups are in the final stages of approval of their Local Development Strategies. We expect these to all commence early in 2017.
14. Finally the dates of the three English EMFF ‘Approvals Panels’ (applications for projects £100,000+) are due to be confirmed and communicated by mid-December.

Paul Little  
Secretary, EMFF Programme Monitoring Committee  
25 November 2016