

EMFF Annual Implementation Report, 2020

1. Identification of the annual implementation report

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2. Overview of the implementation of the Operational Programme (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) no 1303/2013)

2.1. Management of the Programme

UK Authorities and Intermediate Bodies (IBs) have been challenged by external factors impacting programme implementation throughout 2020, particularly the Coronavirus pandemic and EU Exit.

As at 31st December 2019, the UK anticipated that substantial progress would be made toward committing the full EMFF allocation in 2020. As a result of external factors, the actual commitments made to operations did not meet these expectations, the overall commitment position increased slightly from 80% to 84%. High spend forecasts have been similarly impacted, though good progress has been made increasing the UK performance toward spending its full allocation, rising from 49% to 59%.

2.2. Operational Programme

The UK have put forward two requests to modify the Operational Programme (OP), these requests were approved in 2020.

The first proposal was triggered by the need to reallocate the EMFF Performance Reserve (€320,080) for Integrated Maritime Policy (Union Priority 6) and sought to make further revisions to the financial allocations at a Union Priority level. The 2023 outcomes for outputs and result indicators were reviewed and stretch targets were formed using actual implementation data. This amendment was adopted by the EC on 26th March 2020, enabling the UK to maximise budget utilisation while reflecting the true value of the €243 million investment.

A second amendment was proposed in response to the Commission's implementation of Regulation 2020/560 which expanded the scope of EMFF measures to include support for fishery and aquaculture businesses affected by Coronavirus, simplified the OP amendment process and introduced flexibilities to move funding from previously ring-fenced budgets (notably €2.4million from Storage Aid). After receiving Monitoring Committee approval on 9th June 2020, the Covid-19 OP amendment was adopted by the Commission on 12th August 2020.

Following the OP amendments adopted in 2020, budget from Technical Assistance has increased the EMFF contribution to the Partnership Agreement by €1.9million, exploiting opportunities toward enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs in the fisheries and aquaculture sector and promotion of sustainable and quality employment.

The Managing Authority intend to submit a further amendment to the Commission in 2021 which will address the allocation to particular Union Priorities once the impact of the pandemic on approved operations, and wider OP impacts are established.

2.3. Calls for proposals

All UK measures were open for applications throughout the year. Due to budget exhaustion, a restricted number of measures were available in England and Scotland. All measures were available in Northern Ireland and Wales where good

progress toward committing the full allocation has been made; both IBs have sufficient proposals in the pipeline to ensure this. In Wales, calls were paused in December 2020 to assess budget availability, the IB will open a further window in 2021 to address remaining allocation. All UK IBs intend to subject their schemes to overbooking to maximise budget utilisation. The state of play for individual IBs is discussed throughout section 3.

Newly launched Covid-response measures required tailored calls for applications and were publicised on devolved government websites. Some IBs made use of their social media channels and encouraged industry stakeholders to share the availability of response funding with their audiences.

2.4. Financial Implementation, Output Indicators and Result Indicators at an OP level – assessment at 31 December 2020.

The cumulative value of operations selected for funding was €351.1million (£314.0million), of which €261.4million (£233.8million) was public funding, with an EMFF commitment of €204.1million (£182.6million), representing 84% of the overall EMFF budget of €243.1million (£217.5million). The total value of declared expenditure was €246.2million (£217.6million), of which €181.2million (£160.7million) was public funding, with EMFF expenditure of €140.6million (£124.3million), accounting for 59% of the overall EMFF budget.

A total of 2,690 operations have been selected; 262 (10%) are under implementation, 2,097 (78%) are completed, 326 (12%) are covered by a decision granting aid where no expenditure has been declared, 2 (<1%) operations are fully implemented but not all expenditure has been paid to the beneficiary and 3 (<1%) have been abandoned following partial implementation, with some expenditure paid.

In relation to the gender of beneficiaries, 1,776 (66%) are male, 69 (3%) are female and 22 (<1%) other. 823 (31%) of beneficiaries have not specified gender due to the project being in association with an organisation, not an individual.

The size of the operators requesting assistance were 1,869 micro enterprises, 251 small, 75 medium, 12 large and 483 non-SMEs.

The best performing result indicators are those related to increasing net profits (1.3 and 2.3), maintaining employment (1.8) and reducing accidents and injuries (1.9.a). Result indicators seeking to increase the volume (5.1.d) and value (5.1.c) of first sales in non-POs are among the most successful in the UK programme.

2.5. Implementation of measures

Information on the implementation of measures under the individual Union Priorities is included in Section 3.

2.6. Reporting requirements, experiences and difficulties in relation to the reporting requirements under the EMFF

The UK upheld its reporting requirements throughout 2020 but required flexibility to extend two of the deadlines applicable to the EMFF programme; the Infosys and Annual Implementing Reports, Articles 97 and 114 of the EMFF Regulation. These

reports were adversely impacted by the Coronavirus pandemic and the need to prioritise the simplified OP amendment.

2.7. External factors

The Coronavirus pandemic has impacted the performance of EMFF across the UK, with many delivery teams responsible for the administration of multiple, covid-response funding streams. In consultation with beneficiaries, UK IBs have reported that a number of operations will be delayed or scaled back due to uncertainty around long-term consequences. Unclear impacts on business cash flow and limited availability of raw materials are contributing factors.

The development of government projects, particularly in Control and Enforcement have been delayed while responsible parties were re-prioritised to support with IT projects facilitating trade arrangements with the EU and third countries after EU Exit.

In response to the pandemic and national lockdown periods, UK delivery partners have adapted their processes with a focus on prompt payments to industry, reduced administrative burden to applicants, facilitation of home working and reduction of physical contact with stakeholders. The delivery simplifications implemented in response to the pandemic have been captured in an Annex to the EMFF Management and Control System which has been approved by the UK Audit Authority.

3. Implementation of the Union priorities

3.1. Overview of the implementation (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Information provided as short and general commentary on the implementation of the Union Priorities and technical assistance for the year(s) concerned with reference to key developments, significant problems and steps taken to address these problems.

3.1.1 Union Priority 1 - Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based fisheries

From the 23 available measures under this Union Priority, 19 are selected after the OP amendments approved in 2020. Temporary Cessation was opened in response to Coronavirus, while Human Capital and Social Dialogue (Trainees) was excluded from the UK programme due to the popularity of funding offered with similar measures. The 2020 OP amendments facilitated an increase of €3.1million EMFF into UP 1.

Measures in England and Scotland were largely closed throughout 2020 due to oversubscription. The England IB re-opened Health and Safety and Ports and Harbours Initiatives for Covid-response purposes.

All measures were available in Northern Ireland and Wales. The Welsh Simplified Costs Scheme boosted commitments. Northern Ireland launched Temporary Cessation and progressed well toward committing their allocation.

Most projects fall under Health and Safety (726, 39% of UP 1 projects). 331 (18%) relate to Limiting the impact of fishing on the marine environment and 283 (15%) relate to Added value, quality and use of unwanted catches.

Figure 1; Union Priority 1 total number of approved projects.

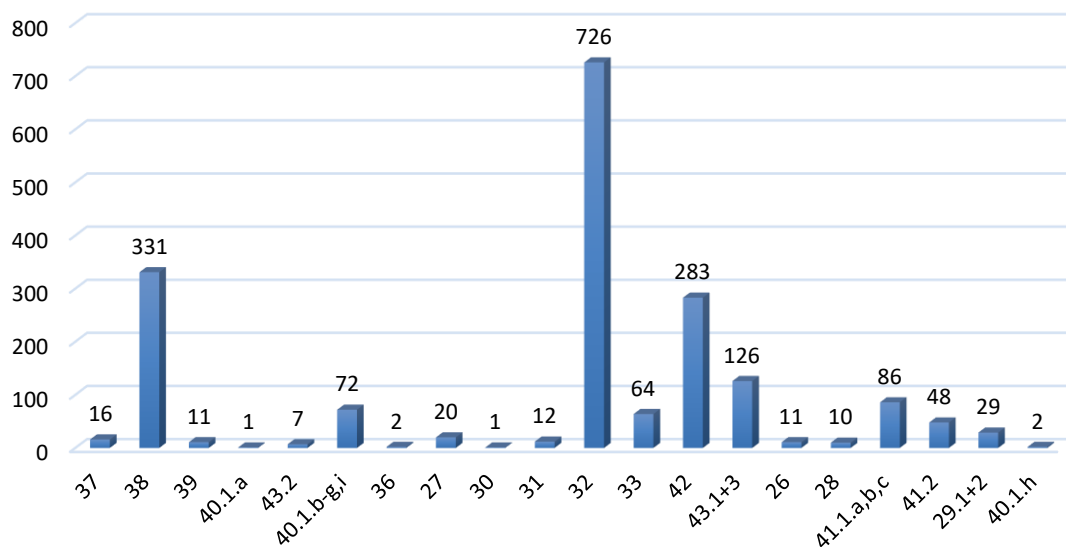
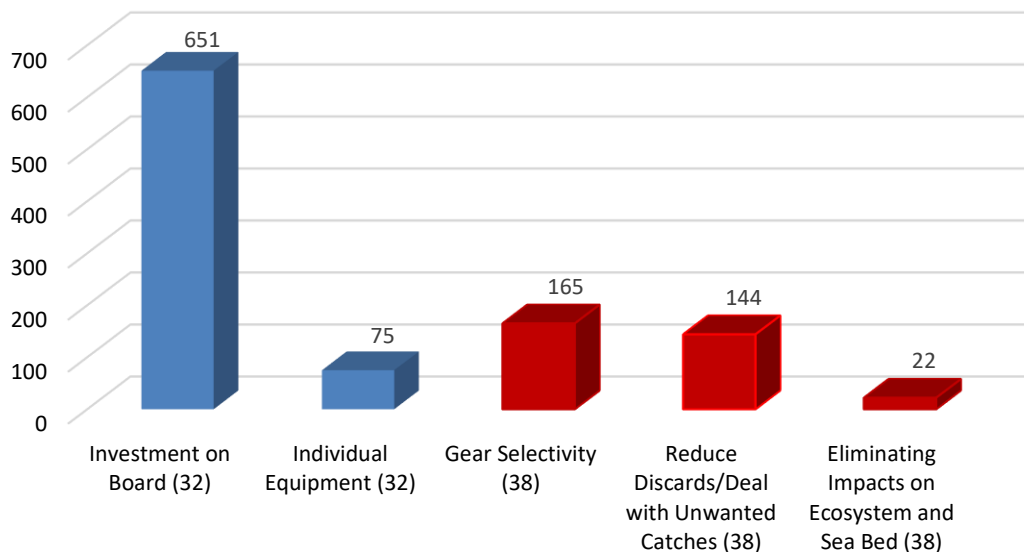


Figure 2; Further insight into approved projects under Health and Safety (Article 32) and Limiting the Impact of Fishing on the Marine Environment (Article 38).



The launch of Coronavirus-response schemes resulted in 86 operations seeking to mitigate the impacts of the pandemic. 64 (74%) relate to Temporary Cessation and provide income foregone for 282 fishers. 19 projects (22%) relate to Health and Safety and 3 (3%) to Ports and Harbours.

Progress towards the Operational Programme 2023 milestones

€67.8million of public expenditure has been certified to the Commission against the milestone of €94.3 million (72%).

Following the OP amendments adopted in 2020, the 2023 output indicator (OI) targets for 1.3, 1.4, 1.6, 1.7, 1.9 were increased while 1.1, 1.2 and 1.8 were reduced. The 2023 target for 1.10 was established to facilitate the launch of Temporary Cessation. The impact on UP 1 outputs is an increase from 901 to 1,887.

OI 1.1 – Innovation, Advisory Services and Partnerships with Scientists

41 operations have been selected. 37 have declared expenditure against a milestone of 54 (69%).

OI 1.2 – Systems of allocation of fishing opportunities

2 operations have been selected, both have declared expenditure against a milestone of 2, fulfilling the 2023 milestone.

OI 1.3 – Added Value, quality, use of unwanted catches, Fishing Ports, landing sites, auction halls and shelters

416 operations have been selected. 373 have declared expenditure against a milestone of 378 (99%).

OI 1.4 – Conservation measures

358 operations have been selected. 354 have declared expenditure against a milestone of 377 (94%).

OI 1.6 – Protection and restoration of marine biodiversity

73 operations have been selected. 65 have declared expenditure against a milestone of 76 (86%).

OI 1.7 – Energy efficiency, mitigation of climate change

86 operations have been selected. 83 have declared expenditure against a milestone of 89 (93%).

OI 1.8 – Replacement or modernisation of engines

48 operations have been selected. 45 have declared expenditure against a milestone of 47 (96%).

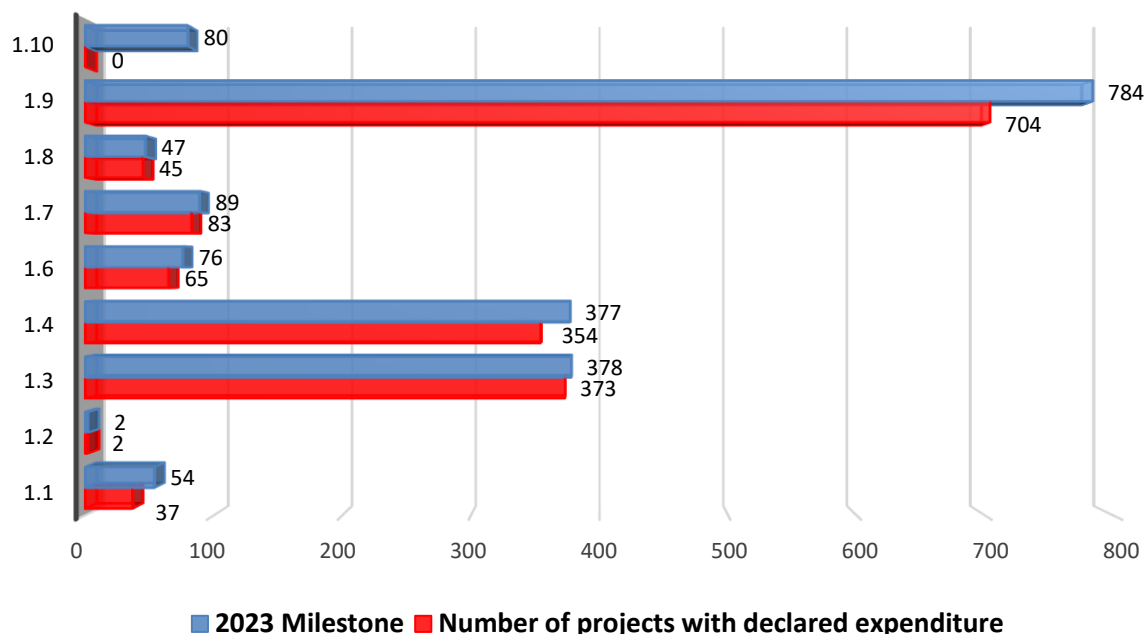
OI 1.9 – Promotion of human capital and social dialogue, diversification, start-ups and health/safety

768 operations have been selected. 704 have declared expenditure against a milestone of 784 (90%).

OI 1.10 – Temporary cessation

64 operations have been selected and are yet to declare expenditure to the MA; expenditure is expected during 2021 and will result in 80% achievement of the 2023 milestone (80). The MA intend to revise the milestone for Temporary Cessation within the planned 2021 OP amendment.

Figure 3; Output indicator progress against 2023 milestones.



Financial Implementation

1,858 projects with an EMFF value of €64.8million (£57.9million) have been approved representing 92% of the EMFF budget of €70.6million (£63.1million). Of the public budget of €94.3million (£84.4million), €86.5million (£77.3million) has been allocated to projects.

The total value of projects committed is €125.6million (£112.3million), of this, 69% (€86.5million/£77.3million) is public funding, whilst the remaining 31% (€39.1million/£35.0million) comes from private sources.

Of the public funding awarded, 75% (€64.8million/£57.9million) is EMFF representing an increase of £1.2million (2%) from the commitments reported up to 31st December 2019. The impact on the EMFF amount committed to projects is a decrease from €65.3million to €64.8million due to exchange fluctuation.

The total value of projects with declared expenditure is €97.3million (£86.2million), 70% (€67.8million/£60.1million) is public funding.

Of the public funding declared, 75% (€50.8million/£45.0million) is EMFF representing an increase of €12.3million/£11.3million (32%) against the revised position to 31st December 2019.

The financial indicators previously provided for 2017, 2018 and 2019 have been revised to reference the amounts certified to the Commission within each calendar year, excluding the amounts that inspections and/or management verifications have determined are ineligible. Amounts “under investigation” continue to contribute to the financial indicator for the year in which they were certified.

Output Indicators

A total of 1,858 operations have been selected, 105 (6%) are under implementation, 1,557 (84%) are completed, 194 (10%) are covered by a decision granting aid where no expenditure has been declared and 2 (<1%) operations are fully implemented with all expenditure paid.

In relation to the gender of beneficiaries, 1,502 (81%) are male, 18 (<1%) female, 6 (<1%) other and 332 (18%) have not specified. Size of the operators requesting assistance were 1,529 (82%) micro enterprises, 116 (6%) small, 19 (1%) medium and 1 (<1%) large. 193 (10%) of operators are non-SMEs. Previous reports have considered data on gender and size of enterprise where FAME Unit guidance indicates such information is not applicable, for example where the beneficiary is a public organisation.

Referring to table 2, the output indicators reported for 2019 have been revised, ensuring that only operations that have declared expenditure to the MA contribute to the achievement of the 2023 objective. The impact on UP 1 is a decrease to previously reported outputs, from 807 to 489.

Result Indicators

Following the OP amendment adopted in March 2020, UP 1 results have been modified to better reflect the value of the EMFF investment.

The UK approach toward reporting result indicators has been revised in line with guidance from the FAME Unit, subjecting the performance reported against UP 1 targets to change. Where the UK previously cited results for all projects, results are now specified for completed or fully implemented projects only. Previously reported results have been updated where post project monitoring activity by UK IBs has

replaced an indicative result with a validated outcome. Finally, performance against result indicators has been aggregated at the level of the specific objective.

The top performing result indicators in UP 1 are those related to increase in net profits (1.3) where the 2023 target is 80% achieved, employment maintained (1.8), 242% achieved and reduction to accidents and injuries (1.9.a), 117% achieved.

3.1.2 Union Priority 2 - Fostering environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based aquaculture

From the 13 available measures under this Union Priority, 10 are selected after the OP amendments approved in 2020, Public Health Measures were opened in response to Coronavirus, while Animal Health and Welfare Measures were excluded due to lack of interest. The OP amendments approved in 2020 increased the EMFF allocated to UP 2 by €2.2million.

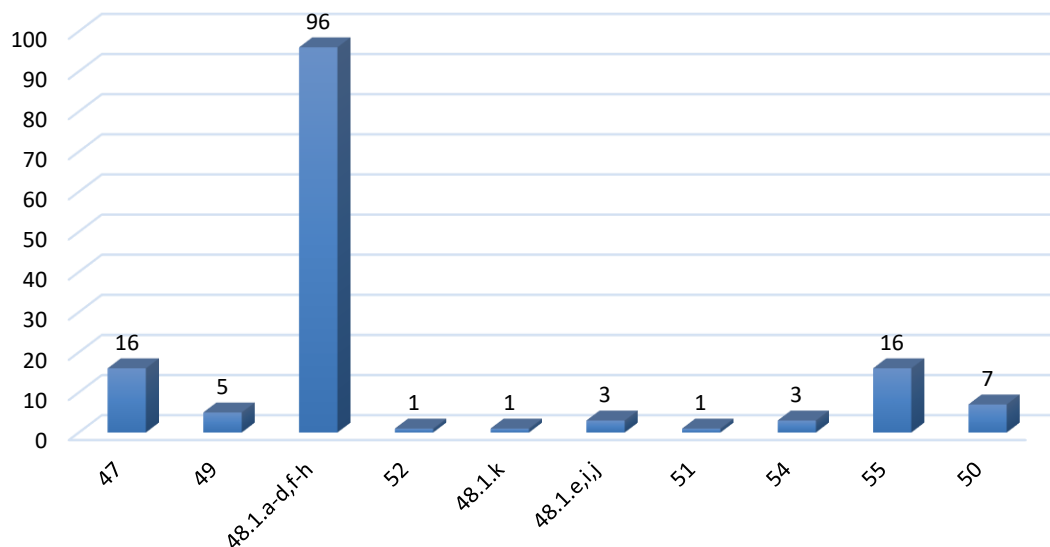
Measures in England were closed throughout 2020 due to oversubscription. In Scotland, UP 2 was largely closed with the exception of Public Health Measures. In Wales and Northern Ireland, all measures were available as referenced in Section 2, both IBs also launched Public Health Measures in 2020.

Since the UK opened for applications in 2016, 149 projects with an EMFF value of €16.9million (£15.1million) have been approved, representing 78% of the EMFF budget allocation of €21.6million (£19.3million).

135 projects with EMFF expenditure of €10.5million (£9.3million) were declared to the Managing Authority representing 49% of the total EMFF budget allocation.

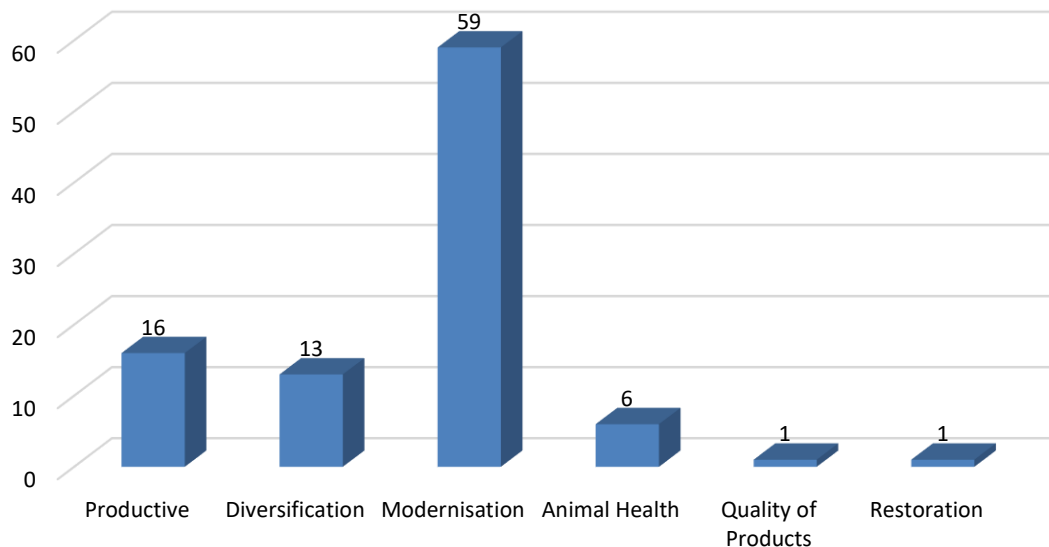
Most approved projects fall under Productive investments, with 96 projects approved (64% of UP 2 projects). A further 16 projects have been selected under Innovation and Public health measures respectively, each representing 11% of UP 2 projects.

Figure 4; Union Priority 2 total number of approved projects.



The productive investments selected primarily relate to modernisation (59). The remaining investments relate to improving productivity (16), diversification (13), animal health (6), quality of products (1) and restoration (1).

Figure 5; Approved projects under Productive investments in Aquaculture.



The launch of Public Health schemes resulted in the approval of 16 operations which benefit 59 employees. Of these projects, 15 (94%) were approved in Northern Ireland, with 1 (6%) approved in Scotland. A further investment will be forthcoming from Wales in 2021.

Progress towards the Operational Programme 2023 milestones

Financial Indicator – €14.0million of public expenditure was certified and declared to the Commission against the milestone of €28.8million (49%).

Following the OP amendments adopted in 2020, the 2023 output indicator targets for 2.2 and 2.4 were increased, while the remaining targets were reduced. The overall impact to UP 2 is a decrease from 200 to 187 outputs.

Output Indicator 2.1 – Innovation and Advisory Services

21 operations have been selected. 19 have declared expenditure against a milestone of 24 (79%).

Output Indicator 2.2 – Productive investments in aquaculture

100 operations have been selected. 89 have declared expenditure against a milestone of 109 (82%).

Output Indicator 2.3 – Limiting the impact of aquaculture on the environment

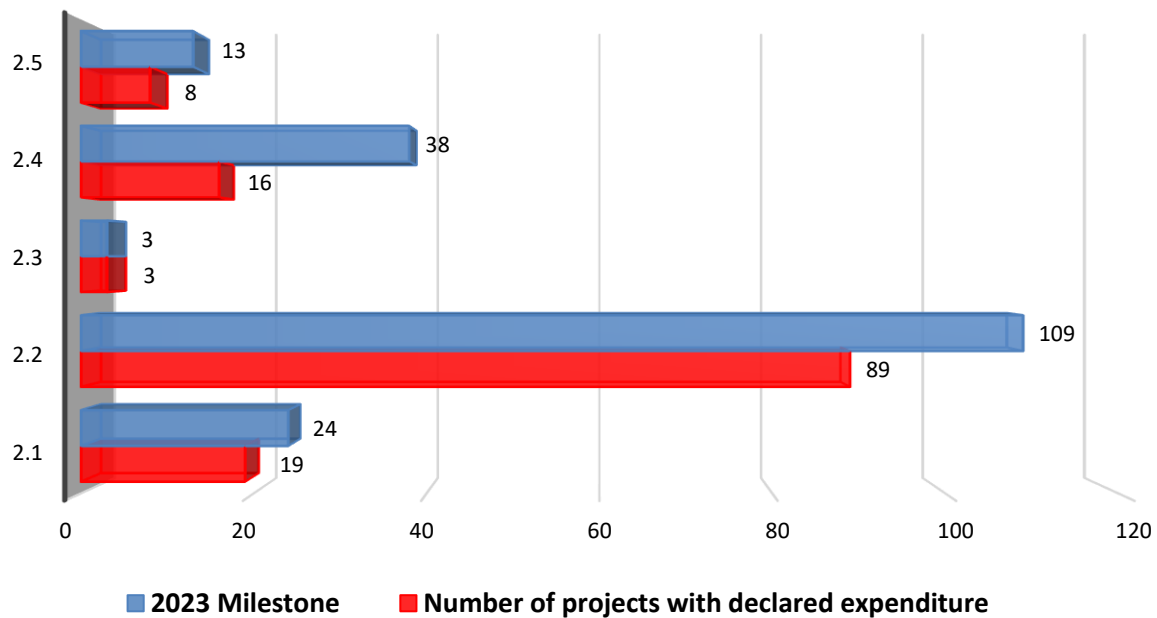
3 operations have been selected, all have declared expenditure against a milestone of 3, leading to fulfilment of the 2023 milestone (100%).

Output Indicator 2.4 – Increasing potential of aquaculture sites and measures on public and animal health

17 operations have been selected. 16 have declared expenditure against a milestone of 38 (42%).

Output Indicator 2.5 – Promoting human capital of aquaculture in general and of new aquaculture farmers
 8 projected have been selected, all have declared expenditure against a milestone of 13 (62%).

Figure 6; Output indicator progress against 2023 milestones.



Financial Implementation

Since the UK opened for applications in 2016, 149 projects with an EMFF value of €16.9million (£15.1million) have been approved, representing 78% of the EMFF budget allocation of €21.6million (£19.3million). Of the available public budget of €28.8million (£25.7million), €22.5million (£20.1million) has been allocated to projects.

The total value of projects committed is €41.1million (£36.7million), of this 55% (€22.5million/£20.1million) is public funding, whilst the remaining 45% (€18.6million/£16.6million) comes from private sources.

Of the public funding awarded 75% (€16.9million/£15.1million) is EMFF representing an increase of €0.4million (£0.7million) (5%) from the commitments reported up to the 31st December 2019. Due to exchange fluctuation, the impact on EMFF allocated is lower than anticipated.

The total value of projects with declared expenditure is €24.3million (£21.5million), of this, 58% (€14.0million/£12.4million) is public funding.

Of the public funding declared, 75% (€10.5million/£9.3million) is EMFF representing an increase of €1.9million/£1.8million (22%) in comparison with the revised position to the 31st December 2019.

Referring to table 3, the financial indicators previously provided for the years 2017, 2018 and 2019 have been revised to reference the amounts certified to the Commission within each calendar year, excluding the amounts that inspections or management verifications have determined are ineligible. Amounts “under investigation” continue to contribute to the financial indicator for the year in which they were certified.

Output Indicators

A total of 149 operations have been selected, of these 96 (64%) are completed, 39 (26%) are under implementation and 14 (9%) are covered by a decision granting aid where no expenditure has been declared.

In relation to the gender of beneficiaries, 86 (58%) are male, 15 (23%) female, 2 (1%) other and 46 (31%) have not specified. Size of the operators requesting assistance were 103 (69%) micro enterprises, 28 (19%) small, 4 (3%) medium, no large enterprises requested funding. 14 (9%) of operators are non-SMEs. Previous reports have considered data on gender and size of enterprise where FAME Unit guidance indicates such information is not applicable.

Referring to table 2, the output indicators previously provided for 2019 have been revised to ensure that only operations that had declared expenditure to the Managing Authority at the point of report can contribute to the achievement of the 2023 objective. The impact on UP 2 is a decrease to previously reported outputs, from 50 to 34.

Result Indicators

Following the OP amendment adopted in March 2020, Union Priority 2 results have been modified to better reflect the value of the EMFF investment. The revised 2023 targets and annual performance toward these are illustrated in Table 1.

The UK approach toward reporting result indicators has been revised in line with guidance from the FAME Unit, subjecting the performance reported against UP 2 targets to substantial change. Where the UK previously cited results for all active or completed projects, results are now specified for completed or fully implemented projects only. Previously reported results have been updated where post project monitoring activity by UK IBs has replaced an indicative result with a validated outcome. Finally, performance against result indicators has been aggregated at the level of the specific objective to prevent double counting.

Based on a combination of indicative and validated results on completed projects, the top performing result indicators in UP 2 are those related to increase in the volume and value of aquaculture production (2.1 and 2.2), the 2023 targets are 48% and 46% achieved with a number of projects still under implementation. Current achievements for increase in net profits (2.3) are 57% of the 2023 target.

3.1.3 Union Priority 3 - Fostering the implementation of CFP

Since the UK opened for applications in 2016, 72 projects with an EMFF value of €75.7million (£67.7million) have been approved, which is 78% of the total EMFF budget allocation of €97.6million (£87.3million).

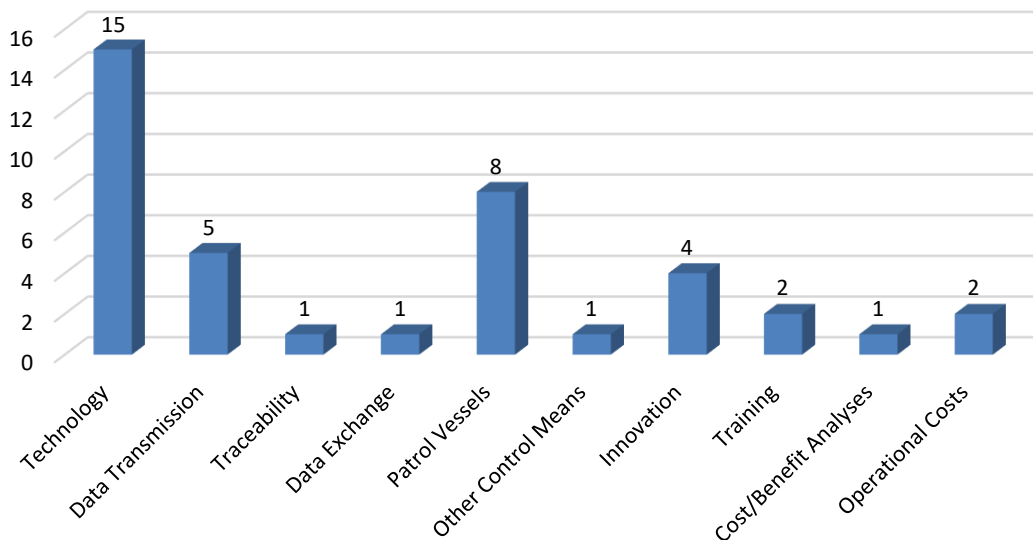
56 projects with declared EMFF expenditure of €49.0million (£43.0million) were submitted to the Managing Authority, which is 50% of the total EMFF budget allocation.

Control and Enforcement Update

Control and Enforcement accounts for 56% of Union Priority 3 projects, with 40 operations selected. Of these, most relate to the purchase, installation, and development of technology (15), while purchase and modernisation of patrol vessels is the next most popular measure, with 8 projects approved. Other investments in data transmission (5), innovation (4), operational costs (2) and training and exchange (2) have been approved. Traceability, data exchange, assessments and other control means each have one operation selected.

The development of Control and Enforcement operations remain on a slower trajectory than the core programme for the reasons cited in section 2.

Figure 7; Approved projects under Control & Enforcement.



Data Collection Framework Update

In response to the Coronavirus pandemic, the Commission extended flexibilities relating to the impacts of the pandemic on the DCF work programme, which allowed expenditure for partially completed or delayed surveys to be considered eligible under force majeure. UK DCF partners met all additional Commission requests for information on Covid impacts and mitigation measures.

Intermediate Bodies in the UK have continued to work closely with DCF partners on this basis, though spend forecasts for DCF throughout 2020 failed to achieve the projected figures; €3.5million (£3.2m) EMFF was certified to the Commission in 2020, accounting for approximately 50% of the associated forecast, this is largely attributed to the pandemic.

As outlined in the OP work 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 for marine fisheries, aquaculture and the processing industry;
- development and improvement of data collection and data management systems; and
- coordination and support for research on the marine environment

There were no significant compliance issues in 2020.

During 2020, the UK made some progress in developing its plans and approach for accessing EMFF funding to support the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy. The external factors influencing progress with Control projects are discussed in Section 2.

A key feature of the Control programme has been to focus on areas where the UK needs to improve levels of compliance. A wide range of initiatives are being progressed which include;

- Redevelopment of IT as an enabler to improve compliance;
- Developing training programmes for compliance officers;
- Upgrading patrol vessels to monitor inshore fisheries and funding surveillance activities in Specific Control & Inspection Programme (SCIP) areas.

All available measures under this UP are open across the UK.

Progress towards the Operational Programme 2023 milestones

Financial Indicator – €59.5million of public expenditure was certified and declared to the Commission against the milestone of €116.2million (51%).

Following the first Operational Programme amendment adopted in 2020, the 2023 milestone for the output indicator 3.2 was increased, the associated target for 3.1 was not adjusted. The overall impact on Union Priority 3 outputs is an increase from 8 to 46.

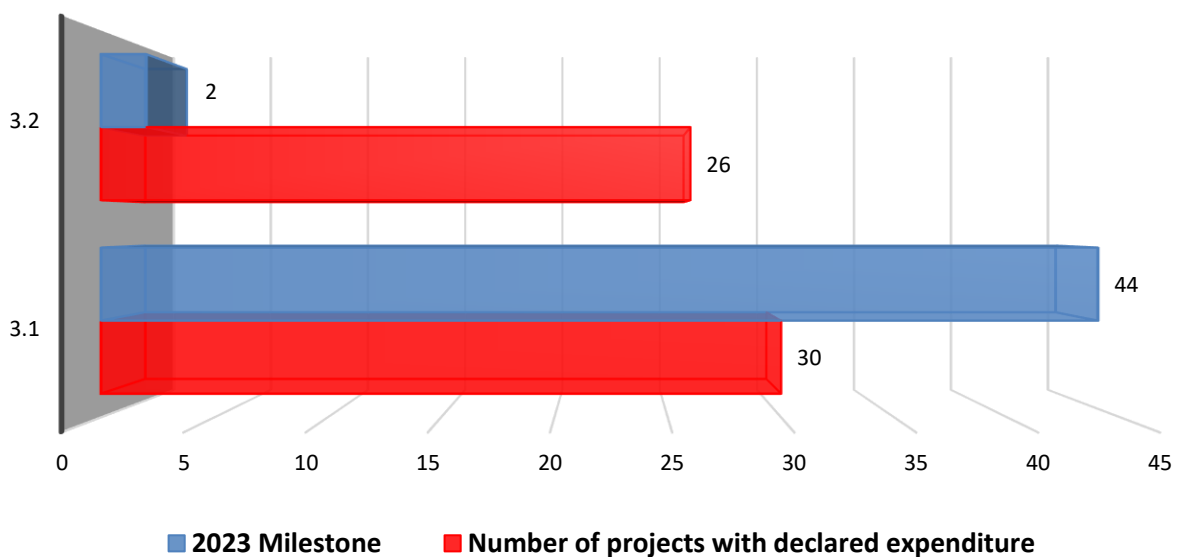
Output Indicator 3.1 – Implementing the Union's control, inspections and enforcement system

40 operations have been selected. Of these, 30 have declared expenditure against a milestone of 44 (68%).

Output Indicator 3.2 – Supporting the collection, management and use of data

32 operations have been selected. Of these, 26 have declared expenditure against a milestone of 2 (1,300%).

Figure 8; Output indicator progress against 2023 milestones.



Financial Implementation

Since the UK opened for applications in 2016, 72 projects with an EMFF value of €75.7million (£67.7million) have been approved, which is 78% of the total EMFF budget allocation of €97.6million (£87.3million). Of the available public budget of €166.2million (£103.9million), €90.0million (£80.5million) has been allocated to projects.

The total value of projects committed is €90.1million (£80.6million), of this, <99% is public funding, whilst the remaining <1% comes from other sources of funding.

Of the public funding awarded, 84% (€75.7million/£67.7million) is EMFF representing an increase of £5.1million (8%) from the commitments reported up to the 31st December 2019. Due to exchange fluctuation, the impact on the EMFF amount committed to projects is a decrease from €71.1million (as at the 31st December 2019) to €70.7million.

The total value of projects with declared expenditure is €59.6million (£52.3million). Of this, >99% is public funding.

Of the public funding declared, 82% (€49.0million/£43.0million) is EMFF representing an increase of €3.6million/£3.4million (8%) in comparison with the revised position to the 31st December 2019.

Referring to table 3, the financial indicators provided with previous annual implementing reports concerning 2018 and 2019 have been revised to reference the amounts certified to the Commission within each calendar year, excluding the amounts that inspections and/or management verifications have determined are ineligible. Amounts “under investigation” continue to contribute to the financial indicator for the year in which they were certified.

Output Indicators

A total of 70 operations have been selected, of these 17 (24%) are under implementation, 37 (53%) are completed and 16 (23%) are covered by a decision granting aid where no expenditure has been declared.

The implementation data relating to gender of beneficiaries and size of enterprise is not applicable to Union Priority 3 as all beneficiaries are public bodies.

Referring to table 2, the output indicators previously reported for 2019 have been revised, ensuring that only operations that have declared expenditure to the Managing Authority contribute to the achievement of the 2023 objective. The impact on Union Priority 3 is a decrease to previously reported outputs, from 50 to 34. This is attributed to the exclusion of projects that had been selected but had not declared expenditure to the Managing Authority by the 31st December 2019.

Result Indicators

Approved projects make no direct contribution to any of the three indicators. Number of serious infringements (3.A.1), landings that have been the subject to physical control (3.A.2) and increase in percentage of fulfilment of data calls (3.B.1) will be measured at a national level.

Union Priority 4 - Increasing employment and territorial cohesion

Since the UK opened for applications in 2016, 381 projects with an EMFF value of €11.2million (£10.0million) have been approved, which is 81% of the total EMFF budget allocation of €13.8million (£12.3million).

310 projects with declared EMFF expenditure of €8.2million (£7.3million) have been submitted to the Managing Authority, which is 59% of the total EMFF budget allocation.

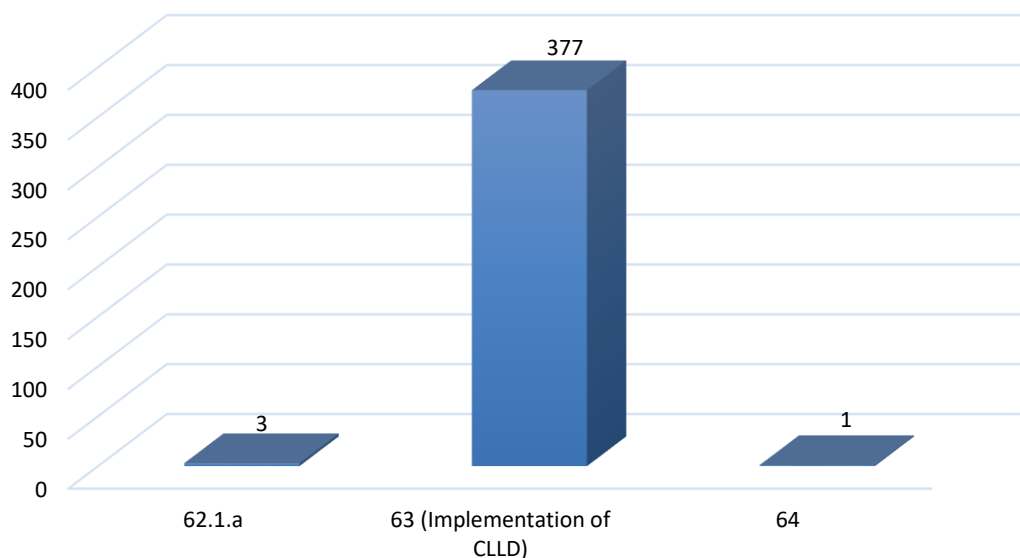
The UK Operational Programme amendments approved in 2020 resulted in a €0.2million increase in the Union Priority 4 allocation to meet an increased demand for budget in Northern Ireland and England.

As a result of the Coronavirus, there was no opportunity to hold a UK National Networking event for Fisheries Local Action Groups during 2020. Support for the FLAGs has remained available on a remote basis, both UK Intermediate Bodies and FARNET have provided advice and guidance to boost budget utilisation where funds remained.

Throughout 2020, Union Priority 4 budgets in Scotland and England remained closed as a result of budget exhaustion. As a result of regular engagement from their respective Intermediate Bodies, both Northern Ireland and Wales FLAGs continued to make progress during 2020. Welsh FLAGs have also benefitted from the previous change to national rules, which allows for the approval of small capital projects.

Of the 381 operations selected, which exclude approval of FLAG strategy measures, most approved projects fall under the implementation of local development strategies, with 377 projects approved (99% of all UP 4 projects), there are a further 3 approvals under preparatory support and 1 under cooperation.

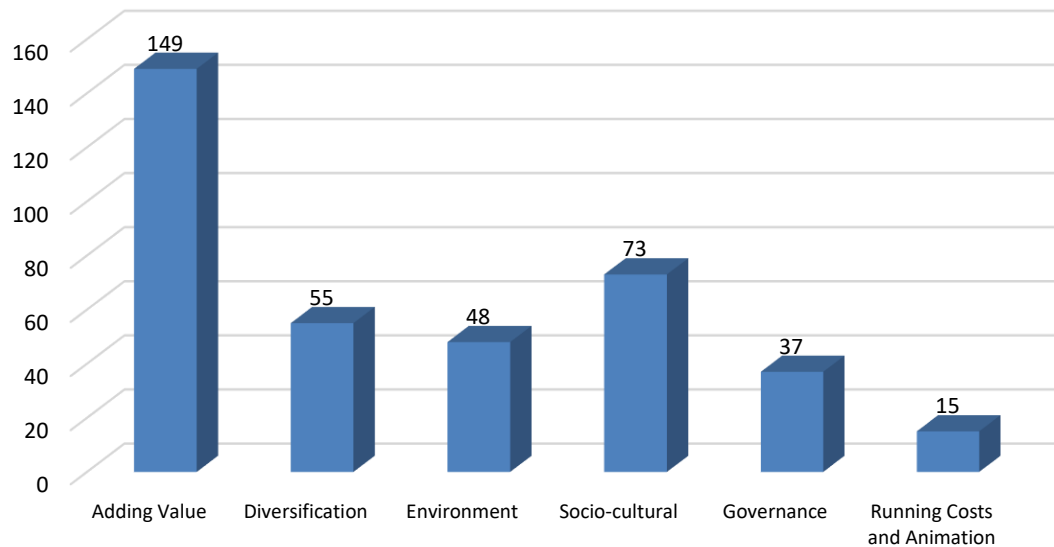
Figure 9; Union Priority 4 total number of approved projects.



Approved projects under Implementation of community-led local development strategies mainly relate to added value, with 149 projects approved. Socio-cultural

investments are also popular, with 73 projects approved. Investments covering diversification (55), environment (48) and governance (37) have also shown a good level of interest.

Figure 10; Approved projects under Implementation of local development strategies.



Progress towards the Operational Programme 2020 milestones

Financial Indicator – €10.9million of public expenditure was certified and declared to the Commission, an achievement of 59% against the milestone of €18.4million.

Following the first Operational Programme amendment adopted in 2020, the 2023 milestone for the output indicator 4.2 was increased while 4.3 was reduced. The overall impact on Union Priority 4 output indicators is a reduction from 40 to 31.

Output Indicator 4.1 – Local Development Strategies selected

This milestone has been met with the required 19 FLAG Local Development Strategies selected. A further 308 implementation of community-led local development operations have been facilitated by the UK FLAGs.

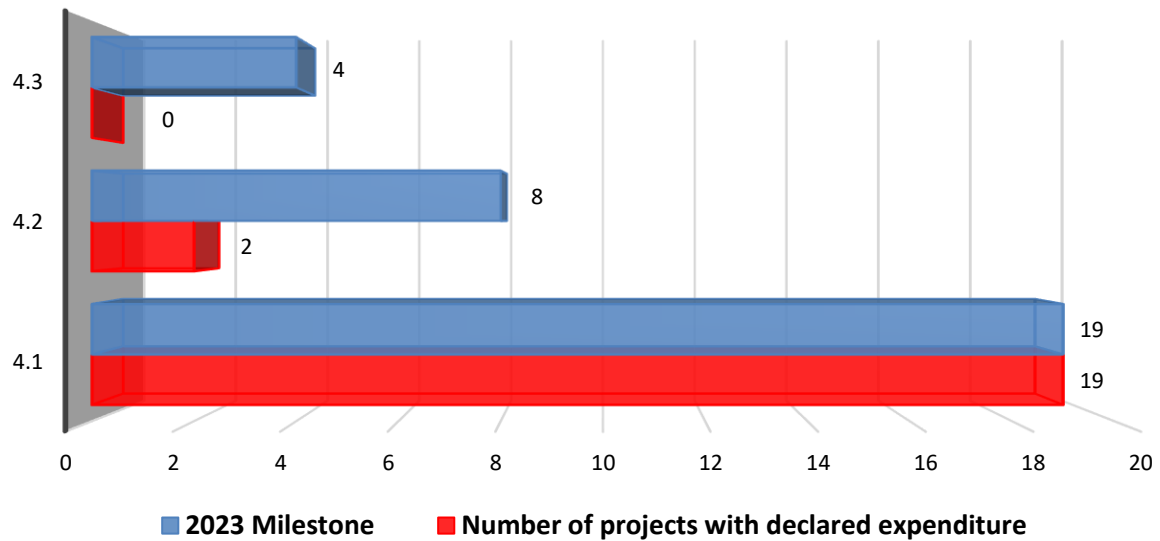
Output Indicator 4.2 – Projects on preparatory support.

3 operations have been selected. Of these, 2 have declared expenditure against the target of 8 (25%).

Output Indicator 4.3 – Number of cooperation projects

1 operation has been selected and has yet to declare expenditure, the associated milestone of 4 is not achieved (0%).

Figure 11; Output indicator progress against 2023 milestones.



Financial Implementation

Since the UK opened for applications in 2016, 381 projects with an EMFF value of €11.2million (£10.0million) have been approved representing 81% of the total EMFF budget allocation of €13.8million (£12.3million). Of the available public budget of €18.4million (£16.4million), €15.0million (£13.4million) has been allocated to projects.

The total value of projects committed is €20.0million (£17.9million), of this, 75% (€15.0million/£13.4million) is public funding, whilst the remaining 25% (€5.1million/£4.5million) comes from private sources of funding.

Of the public funding awarded, 75% (€11.2million/£10.0million) is EMFF representing an increase of €2.2million/£2.0million (27%) from the commitments reported up to the 31st December 2019.

The total value of projects with declared expenditure is €15.0million (£13.4million). Of this, 73% (€10.9million/£9.8million) is public funding.

Of the public funding declared, 75% (€8.2million/£7.3million) is EMFF representing an increase of €3.0million/£2.7million (57%) in comparison with the revised position to the 31st December 2019.

Referring to table 3, the financial indicators provided with previous annual implementing reports concerning 2017, 2018 and 2019 have been revised to reference the amounts certified to the Commission within each calendar year, excluding the amounts that inspections and/or management verifications have determined are ineligible. Amounts “under investigation” continue to contribute to the financial indicator for the year in which they were certified.

Output Indicators

A total of 381 operations have been selected. Of these, 54 (14%) are under implementation, 256 (67%) are completed and 71 (19%) are covered by a decision granting aid where no expenditure has been declared.

In relation to the gender of beneficiaries, 138 (36%) are male, 25 (7%) female, 13 (3%) other and 205 (54%) have not specified. Size of the operators requesting assistance were 176 (46%) micro enterprises, 42 (11%) small, 7 (2%) medium and 11 (38%) large. 145 (38%) of operators are non-SMEs. Previous reports have considered data on gender and size of enterprise where FAME Unit guidance indicates such information is not applicable. This report amends the previously provided data and is representative of the UK approach moving forward.

Referring to table 2, the output indicators reported for 2019 have been revised, ensuring that operations that have declared expenditure to the Managing Authority contribute to the achievement of the 2023 objective. The impact on Union Priority 4 is a decrease to previously reported outputs, from 1 to 0. This is attributed to the exclusion of projects that had been selected but had not declared expenditure to the Managing Authority by the 31st December 2019.

Result Indicators

Following the OP amendment adopted on the 26th March 2020, Union Priority 4 results have been modified to better reflect the value of the EMFF investment. The revised 2023 targets and annual performance toward these are illustrated in Table 1.

The UK approach toward reporting result indicators has been revised in line with guidance from the FAME Unit, subjecting the performance reported against Union Priority 4 targets to substantial change. Where the UK previously provided indicative results on all active or completed projects, results are now specified for completed or fully implemented projects only. Previously reported results have been updated where post project monitoring activity by UK Intermediate Bodies has replaced an indicative result with a validated outcome.

Based on a combination of indicative and validated results on completed projects, both of the result indicators applicable to Union Priority 4 are performing well. Employment created (4.1) and businesses created (4.3) have achieved 65% and 100% of their 2023 targets respectively.

3.1.4 Union Priority 5 - Fostering marketing and processing

Since the UK opened for applications in 2016, 172 projects with an EMFF value of €21.2million (£19.0million) have been approved, which is 88% of the total EMFF budget allocation of €24.0million (£21.5million).

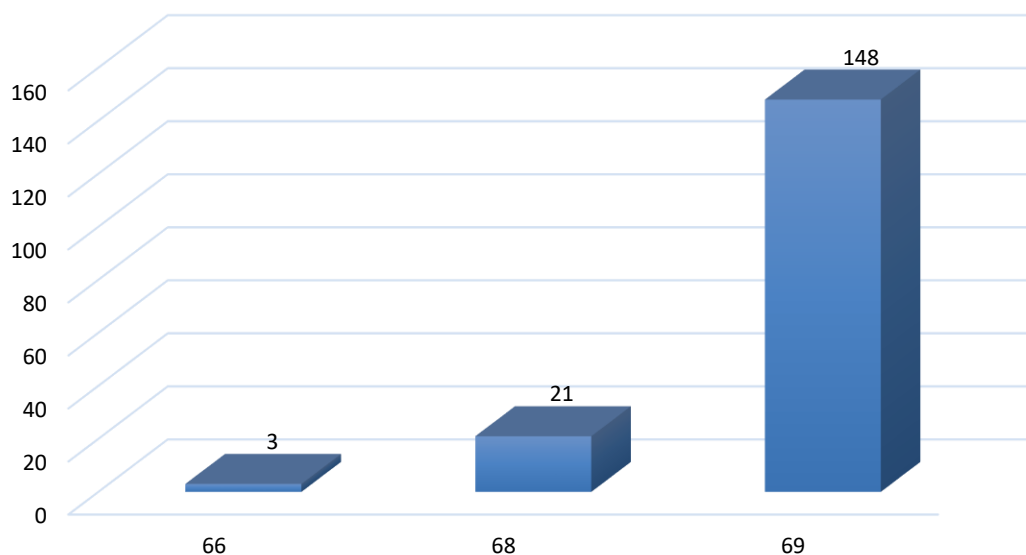
163 projects with declared EMFF expenditure of €16.1million (£14.2million) have been submitted to the Managing Authority, which is 67% of the total EMFF budget allocation.

From the 5 available measures under this Union Priority, 4 remain selected after the OP amendments approved in 2020. The amendments facilitated the movement of €3.2million from UP 5 to other Priorities, 67% of this was moved out of Storage Aid. Residual funding of €0.2million remains with Storage Aid and relates to the Wales IB. This funding will be reallocated with a future OP amendment leaving 3 measures available.

In England and Scotland, the budget under Union Priority 5 was fully exhausted prior to 2020 and all measures remain closed. In Wales and Northern Ireland, measures were open for applications as discussed in Section 2.

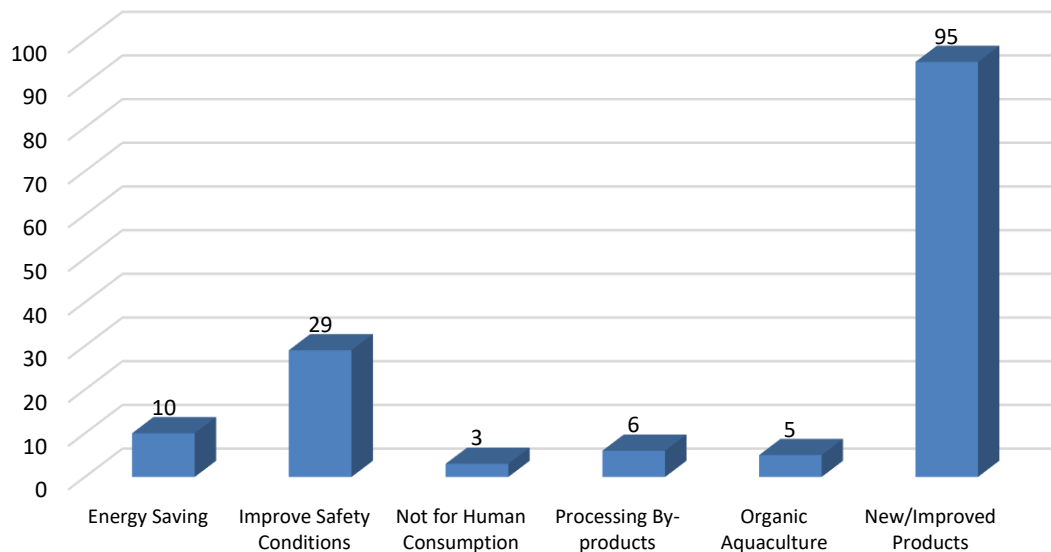
Most approved projects fall under the processing of fishery and aquaculture products, with 148 projects approved (86% of Union Priority 5 projects). The remaining projects relate to marketing measures (21) and production and marketing plans (3).

Figure 12; Approved projects under Processing and Marketing.



Approved projects under the processing of fishery and aquaculture products mainly relate to new or improved products or processes (95). Other investments relate to improving working conditions (29), energy savings (10), processing by-products (6), organic aquaculture products (5) and production not for human consumption (3).

Figure 13; Approved projects under Processing of fishery and aquaculture products.



The flow of funding to Union Priority 5 was interrupted by the Commission in 2018 linked to a potential risk of non-compliance of Producer Organisations with the Common Market of Fisheries and Aquaculture Products regulation. The UK have introduced checks to verify PO compliance at the project assessment stage. In 2020, Defra policy leads followed up with the Commission to report that the UK has fulfilled its compliance requirements for POs.

Progress towards the Operational Programme 2023 milestones

Financial Indicator – €21.5million of public expenditure was certified and declared to the Commission, against the milestone of €31.9million (67%).

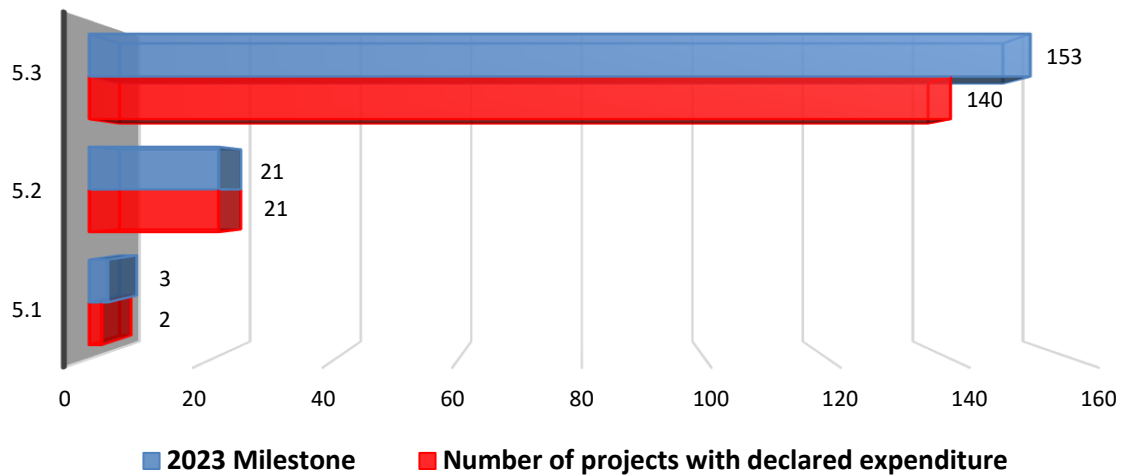
Following the OP amendment adopted in March 2020, the 2023 milestones for the output indicators 5.2 and 5.3 were increased while the milestone for 5.1 was reduced. The overall impact on Union Priority 5 output indicators is an increase from 150 to 177.

Output Indicator 5.1 – Number of producer organisations or associations of producer organisations supported for production and marketing plans
3 operations have been selected. Of these, 2 have declared expenditure against a milestone of 3 (67%).

Output Indicator 5.2 – Marketing measures and storage aid
21 operations have been selected, all have declared expenditure against a milestone of 21, leading to fulfilment of the 2023 milestone (100%).

Output Indicator 5.3 – Processing projects
148 operations have been selected. Of these, 140 have declared expenditure against a milestone of 153 (92%).

Figure 14; Output indicator progress against 2023 milestones.



Financial Implementation

Since the UK opened for applications in 2016, 172 projects with an EMFF value of €21.2million (£19.0million) have been approved representing 88% of the EMFF budget of €24.0million (£21.5million). Of the available public budget of €31.9million (£28.6million), €28.3million (£25.3million) has been allocated to projects.

The total value of projects committed is €55.2million (£49.4million), of this, 51% (€28.3million/£25.3million) is public funding, whilst the remaining 49% (€26.8million/£24.0million) comes from private sources of funding.

Of the public funding awarded, 75% (€21.2million/£19.0million) is EMFF representing a decrease of €1.6million/£1.1million (-5%) from the commitments reported up to the 31st December 2019.

The total value of projects with declared expenditure is €42.0million (£37.1million). Of this, 51% (€21.5million/£19.0million) is public funding.

Of the public funding declared, 75% (€16.1million/£14.2million) is EMFF representing an increase of €1.5million/£1.4million (10%) in comparison with the revised position to the 31st December 2019.

Referring to table 3, the financial indicators provided with previous reports have been revised to reference the amounts certified to the Commission within each calendar year, excluding the amounts that inspections and/or management verifications have determined are ineligible. Amounts “under investigation” continue to contribute to the financial indicator for the year in which they were certified.

Output Indicators

A total of 172 operations have been selected, 20 (12%) are under implementation, 143 (83%) are completed, 6 (3%) are covered by a decision granting aid where no expenditure has been declared and 3 (2%) have been abandoned following partial implementation, with some claims paid.

In relation to the gender of beneficiaries, 50 (29%) are male, 10 (6%) female and 1 (<1%) other. 111 (65%) have not specified. The size of the operators requesting assistance were 60 (35%) micro enterprises, 65 (38%) small and 45 (26%) medium. 2 operators (1%) are non SMEs. Implementation data has been revised in line with the FAME Unit requirements discussed earlier in the Section.

Referring to table 2, the output indicators previously reported for 2019 have been revised, ensuring that only operations that have declared expenditure to the Managing Authority contribute to the achievement of the 2023 objective. The impact on Union Priority 5 is a decrease to previously reported outputs, from 38 to 25. This is attributed to the exclusion of projects that had been selected but had not declared expenditure to the Managing Authority by the 31st December 2019.

Result Indicators

Following the OP amendment adopted on the 26th March 2020, Union Priority 5 results have been modified to better reflect the value of the EMFF investment. The revised 2023 targets and annual performance toward these are illustrated in Table 1.

The UK approach toward reporting result indicators has been revised in line with guidance from the FAME Unit, subjecting the performance reported against Union Priority 5 targets to substantial change. As discussed throughout the section, results are now specified for completed and/or fully implemented projects only. In addition, previously reported results have been updated where post project monitoring activity by UK Intermediate Bodies has replaced an indicative result with a validated outcome. Finally, performance against result indicators has been aggregated at the level of the specific objective to prevent double counting.

Based on a combination of indicative and validated results on completed projects, the top performing result indicators aligned with Union Priority 5 are related to increasing the volume and value of first sales in non-Producers Organisations (5.1.c and 5.1.d), the result indicators have achieved 78% and 73% of their respective 2023 targets.

3.1.5 Union Priority 6 - Fostering the implementation of Integrated Maritime Policy

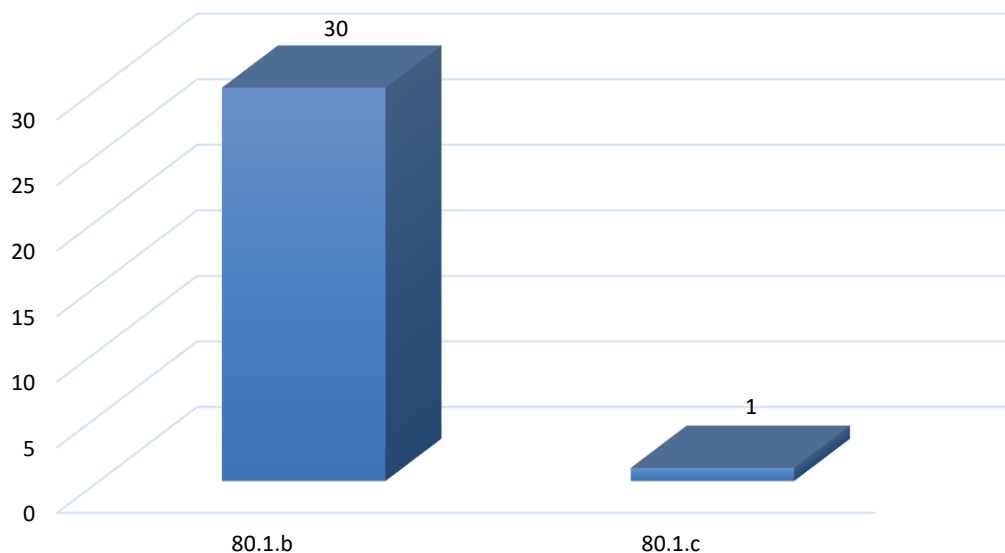
Since the UK opened for applications in 2016, 31 projects with an EMFF value of €5.1million (£4.6million) have been approved, leading to oversubscription in Union Priority 6, where 104% of the total EMFF budget allocation of €4.9million (£4.4million) is committed to projects. The high level of commitment achieved has resulted from the UK engagements with potential applicants and stakeholders throughout 2019, as well as a reduced allocation in Union Priority 6.

From the 3 available measures under this Union Priority, 2 remained selected after the Operational Programme amendments approved by the Commission in 2020, though the budget allocated to Union Priority 6 was reduced by €0.5million. Both of the selected measures are open across the UK as specified in Section 2.

17 projects with declared EMFF expenditure of €1.4million (£1.3million) have been submitted to the Managing Authority, which is 29% of the total EMFF budget allocation.

Most approved projects under Integrated Maritime Policy relate to promotion of the protection of the marine environment, and the sustainable use of marine and coastal resources (30, 97% of Union Priority 6 projects). A high volume of the operations selected relate to marine protected areas and Natura 2000 sites, with coverage of 465 thousand and 303 thousand kilometres squared respectively. One further investment is approved under improving knowledge on the state of the marine environment.

Figure 15; Approved projects under Integrated Maritime Policy.



Progress towards the Operational Programme 2023 milestones

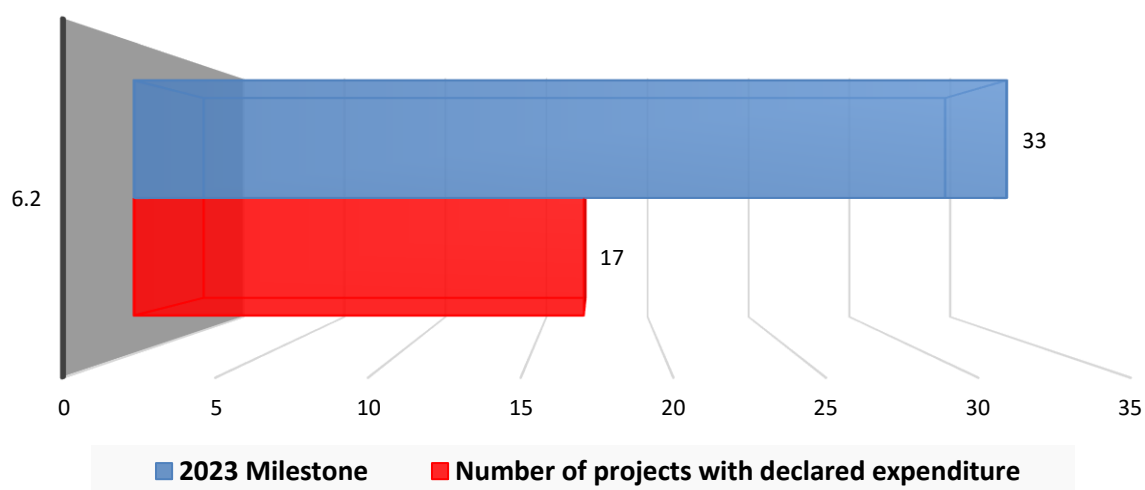
Financial Indicator – €1.9million of public expenditure was certified and declared to the Commission against the milestone of €6.5million (29%).

Following the first Operational Programme amendment adopted in 2020, the 2023 milestones for the output indicator 6.2 was increased from 26 to 33.

Output Indicator 6.2 – Protection and improvement of knowledge on marine environment

31 operations have been selected. Of these, 17 have declared expenditure against the above milestone of 33 (52%).

Figure 16; Output indicator progress against 2023 milestones.



Financial Implementation

Since the UK opened for applications in 2016, 31 projects with an EMFF value of €5.1million (£4.6million) have been approved representing 104% of the total EMFF budget allocation of €4.9million (£4.4million). Of the available public budget of €6.5million (£5.8million), €6.8million (£6.1million) has been allocated to projects.

The total value of funding allocated to projects is €6.8million (£6.1million), of this, 100% is public funding.

Of the public funding awarded, 75% (€5.1million/£4.6million) is EMFF representing an increase of €2.2million (£2.0million) (79%) from the commitments reported up to the 31st December 2019.

The total value of projects with declared expenditure is €1.9million (£1.7million), of this, 100% is public funding.

Of the public funding declared, 75% (€1.4million/£1.3million) is EMFF, representing an increase of €0.8million/£0.7million (127%) in comparison with the revised position to the 31st December 2019.

Referring to table 3, the financial indicators provided with previous annual implementing reports concerning 2018 and 2019 have been revised to reference the amounts certified to the Commission within each calendar year, excluding the amounts that inspections and/or management verifications have determined are ineligible. Amounts “under investigation” continue to contribute to the financial indicator for the year in which they were certified.

Output Indicators

A total of 31 operations have been selected, 12 (39%) are under implementation, 5 (16%) are completed and 14 (45%) are covered by a decision granting aid where no expenditure has been declared.

In relation to the gender of beneficiaries, 1 (3%) is female and 30 (97%) have not specified. Size of the operators requesting assistance were 1 (3%) micro enterprise and 30 (97%) non-SMEs. As discussed in Section 2, previous Annual Implementing Reports have considered data on gender and size of enterprise where FAME Unit guidance indicates such information is not applicable (for example, where the beneficiary is not an individual and/or where a the beneficiary is a public organisation, and as such an SME code is irrelevant). This report amends the previously provided data and is representative of the UK approach moving forward.

Referring to table 2, the output indicators previously reported for 2019 have been revised, ensuring that only operations that have declared expenditure to the Managing Authority contribute to the achievement of the 2023 objective. The impact on Union Priority 6 is a decrease to previously reported outputs, from 19 to 6. This is attributed to the exclusion of projects that had been selected but had not declared expenditure to the Managing Authority by the 31st December 2019. This revision has been made to facilitate coherence with the requirements for financial indicators.

Result Indicators

Indicators relating to change in the coverage of Natura 2000 areas designated under the Birds and Habitats directives (6.2.a) and change in the coverage of other spatial protection measures (6.2.b) did not report any results in 2020. Consultation with Intermediate Bodies has identified that the completed projects under Union Priority 6 largely facilitate an improved management of Natura 2000 or other spatial protection sites, as opposed to a change in their coverage.

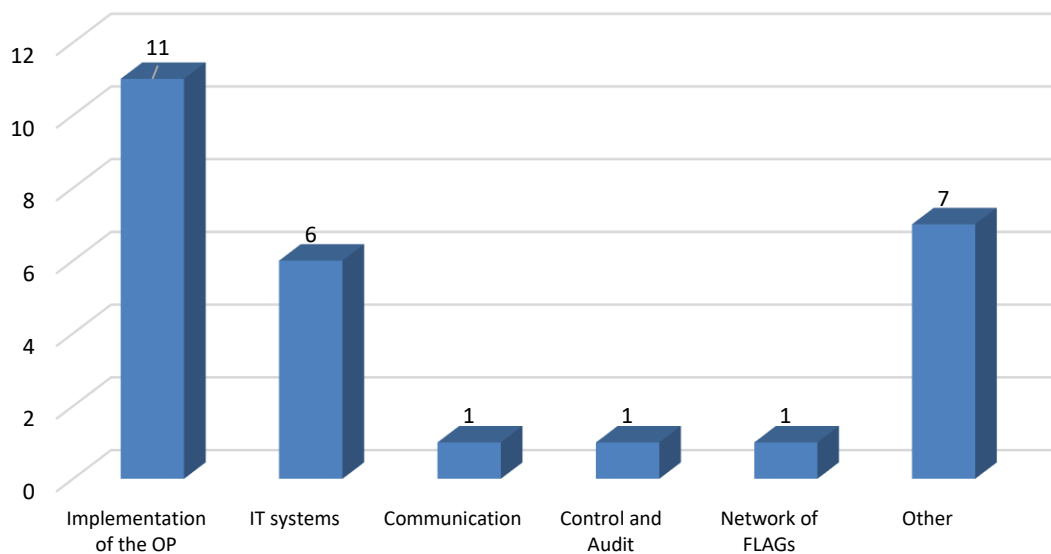
3.1.6 Union Priority 7 - Technical Assistance

The UK EMFF technical assistance budget is being used to fund the implementation and ongoing costs relating to the E-System which has been developed to assist in the funding process by making it easier for applicants to apply and increase efficiency within the delivery bodies. Staff costs across some of the UK will also be funded for the effective management and administration of the scheme. The Operational Programme amendments approved in 2020 facilitated a reduction in the funding allocated to Technical Assistance; €1.9million was reallocated to industry facing measures.

Since the start of the EMFF scheme, 27 projects with an EMFF value of €9.3million (£8.3million) have been approved, which is 87% of the total EMFF budget allocation of €10.7million (£9.5million).

Approved projects under Technical Assistance mainly relate to the implementation of the operational programme, 11 projects are approved for these purposes. Other (meetings/engagement) and IT systems are the next most utilised measures, with 7 and 6 projects approved respectively. Investments covering communication activities, control and audits and network of FLAG's each have one operation approved.

Figure 17; Approved projects under Technical assistance.



Financial Implementation

Since the EMFF scheme launched in 2016, 27 projects with an EMFF value of €9.3million (£8.3million) have been approved representing 87% of the total EMFF budget allocation of €10.7million (£9.5million). The total value of public funding allocated to these projects is €12.4million (£11.1million).

The total value of projects committed is €12.4million (£11.1million), all of which is publicly funded.

Of the public funding awarded, 75% (€9.3million/£8.3million) is EMFF, representing an increase of £0.2million (2%) against the commitments reported up to the 31st December 2019. Due to exchange fluctuation, there has been little impact on the EMFF amount committed in euros; an overall commitment level of €9.3million has been retained. UK Intermediate Bodies are monitoring exchange fluctuation closely.

The total value of projects with declared expenditure is €6.1million (£5.4million) which is 100% public funding. Of this, 75% (€4.6million/£4.1million) is EMFF, €0.7million/£0.7million of which was declared during 2020.

Referring to table 3, the figures provided with previous annual implementing reports concerning 2017, 2018 and 2019 have been revised to reference the amounts certified to the Commission within each calendar year, excluding the amounts that inspections and/or management verifications have determined are ineligible. Amounts “under investigation” continue to be referenced toward financial performance for the year in which they were certified.

3.2 Result, output and financial indicators for EMFF

TABLE 1 Result indicators for the EMFF

Union priority 1 - Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based fisheries														
Specific objective	Result indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Yearly value										Cumulative value
				2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
1 – Reduction of the impact of fisheries on the marine environment, including the avoidance and reduction, as far as possible, of unwanted catches	1.5 – Change in fuel efficiency of fish capture	Litres fuel/Tonnes landed catch	-33	0	0	-0.65	-309.23	-11.17	-39.41	-12.67				Not applicable
2 – Protection and restoration of aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems	1.5 – Change in fuel efficiency of fish capture	Litres fuel/Tonnes landed catch	-33	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				Not applicable
2 – Protection and restoration of aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems	1.10.a – Change in the coverage of Natura 2000 areas designated under the Birds and Habitats directives	Km ²	2,047.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				0
2 – Protection and restoration of aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems	1.10.b – Change in the coverage of other spatial protection measures under Art. 13.4 of the Directive 2008/56/EC	Km ²	25,884.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				0
3 – Ensuring a balance between fishing capacity	1.3 - Change in net profits	Thousand Euros	7,931.57	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				0

and available fishing opportunities														
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 – Change in net profits	Thousand Euros	7,931.57	0	0	186.66	866.05	630.04	900.08	289.44				2,872.27
4 – Enhancement of the competitiveness and viability of fisheries enterprises, including of small scale coastal fleet, and the improvement of safety or working conditions	1.5 – Change in fuel efficiency of fish capture	Litres fuel/Tonnes landed catch	-33	0	0	0	-3.57	-20.00	-16.00	-17.37				Not applicable
4 – Enhancement of the competitiveness and viability of fisheries enterprises, including of small scale coastal fleet, and the improvement of safety or working conditions	1.8 – Employment maintained (FTE) in the fisheries sector or complementary activities	FTE	1,405.0	0	0	138.0	324.0	694.0	809.0	1,350.3				3,315.3
4 – Enhancement of the competitiveness and viability of fisheries enterprises, including of small scale coastal fleet, and the improvement of safety or working conditions	1.9.a – Change in the number of work-related injuries and accidents	Number	-220	0	0	-17	-26	-78	-85	-50				-256

4 – Enhancement of the competitiveness and viability of fisheries enterprises, including of small scale coastal fleet, and the improvement of safety or working conditions	1.9.b – Change in the % of work-related injuries and accidents in relation to total fishers	%	-5	0	0	0	0	-50	0	0				Not applicable
5 – Provision of support to strengthen technological development and innovation, including increasing energy efficiency, and knowledge transfer	1.3 – Change in net profits	Thousand Euros	7,931.57	0	0	3.91	256.47	1,488.52	1,235.49	444.76				3,438.15
5 – Provision of support to strengthen technological development and innovation, including increasing energy efficiency, and knowledge transfer	1.5 – Change in fuel efficiency of fish capture	Litres fuel/Tonnes landed catch	-33	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				Not applicable
6 – Development of professional training, new professional skills and lifelong learning	1.8 – Employment maintained (FTE) in the fisheries sector or complementary activities	FTE	1,405.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	88				88
6 – Development of professional training, new professional skills and lifelong learning	1.9.a – Change in the number of work-related injuries and accidents	Number	-220	0	0	0	0	0	-1	0				-1

6. Development of professional training, new professional skills and lifelong learning	1.9.b - Change in the % of work-related injuries and accidents in relation to total fishers	%	-5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						Not applicable
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Union Priority 2 - Fostering environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based aquaculture

Specific objective	Result indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Yearly value										Cumulative value
				2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
1 – Provision of support to strengthen technological development, innovation and knowledge transfer	2.1 – Change in volume of aquaculture production	Tonnes	15,638.00	0	0	0	0	0	59.00	2.00				61.00
1 – Provision of support to strengthen technological development, innovation and knowledge transfer	2.2 – Change in value of aquaculture production	Thousand Euros	38,883.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				0
1 – Provision of support to strengthen technological development, innovation and knowledge transfer	2.3 – Change in net profit	Thousand Euros	9,149.00	0	0	0	0	0	14.42	0				14.42
2 – Enhancement of the competitiveness and viability of aquaculture enterprises, including improvement of safety or working conditions, in particular of SMEs	2.1 – Change in volume of aquaculture production	Tonnes	15,638.00	0	0	45.00	986.00	4,156.34	976.01	1,256.97				7,420.32
2 – Enhancement of the competitiveness and viability of aquaculture enterprises, including	2.2 – Change in value of aquaculture production	Thousand Euros	38,883.00	0	0	0	5,428.76	5,801.34	3,133.03	3,470.61				17,833.74

Union Priority 2 - Fostering environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based aquaculture

Specific objective	Result indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Yearly value										Cumulative value
				2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
improvement of safety or working conditions, in particular of SMEs														
2 – Enhancement of the competitiveness and viability of aquaculture enterprises, including improvement of safety or working conditions, in particular of SMEs	2.3 – Change in net profit	Thousand Euros	9,149.00	0	0	0	581.64	2,322.42	729.78	1,558.53				5,202.37
2 – Enhancement of the competitiveness and viability of aquaculture enterprises, including improvement of safety or working conditions, in particular of SMEs	2.9 – Employment maintained	FTE	74	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				0
3 – Protection and restoration of aquatic biodiversity and enhancement of ecosystems related to aquaculture and promotion of resource-efficient aquaculture	2.5 – Change in the volume of production recirculation system	Tonnes	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				0
3 – Protection and restoration of aquatic biodiversity and enhancement of	2.7 – Aquaculture farms providing environmental services	Number	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0				1

Union Priority 2 - Fostering environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based aquaculture

Specific objective	Result indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Yearly value										Cumulative value
				2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
ecosystems related to aquaculture and promotion of resource-efficient aquaculture														
3 – Protection and restoration of aquatic biodiversity and enhancement of ecosystems related to aquaculture and promotion of resource-efficient aquaculture	2.9 – Employment maintained	FTE	74	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				0
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 – Change in volume of aquaculture production	Tonnes	15,638.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				0
4 – Promotion of aquaculture having a high level of environmental protection, and the promotion of animal health and welfare and	2.2 – Change in value of aquaculture production	Thousand Euros	38,883.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				0

Union Priority 2 - Fostering environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based aquaculture

Specific objective	Result indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Yearly value										Cumulative value
				2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
of public health and safety														
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	2.5 – Change in the volume of production recirculation system	Tonnes	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				0
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	2.7 – Aquaculture farms providing environmental services	Number	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				0
5 – Development of professional training, new professional skills and lifelong learning	2.9 – Employment maintained	FTE	74	0	0	0	0	2	12	17				31

Union Priority 3 - Fostering the implementation of the CFP

Specific objective	Result indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Yearly value										Cumulative value
				2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
1 – Improvement and supply of scientific knowledge and collection and management of data	3.B.1 – Increase in the percentage of fulfilment of data calls	%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				Not Applicable
2 – Provision of support to monitoring, control and enforcement, enhancing institutional capacity and the efficiency of public administration, without increasing the administrative burden	3.A.1 – Number of serious infringements detected	Number	0.01	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				0
2 – Provision of support to monitoring, control and enforcement, enhancing institutional capacity and the efficiency of public administration, without increasing the administrative burden	3.A.2 – Landings that have been the subject to physical control	%	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				Not Applicable

Union Priority 4 - Increasing employment and territorial cohesion

Specific objective	Result indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Yearly value										Cumulative value
				2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
1 – 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 – Employment created (FTE)	FTE	186.0	0	0	0	4.0	22.5	52.2	40.1				121.8
1 – 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	4.3 – Businesses created	Number	15	0	0	0	1	1	6	7				15

Union Priority 5 - Fostering marketing and processing

Specific objective	Result indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Yearly value										Cumulative value
				2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
1 – Improvement of market organisation for fishery and aquaculture products	5.1.a – Change in value of first sales in PO's	Thousand Euros	5,340.00	0	0	0	38.76	274.84	28.45	0				342.06
1 – Improvement of market organisation for fishery and aquaculture products	5.1.b – Change in volume of first sales in PO's	Tonnes	6,130.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				0
1 – Improvement of market organisation for fishery and aquaculture products	5.1.c – Change in value of first sales in non-PO's	Tonnes	51,437.00	0	0	0	182.31	0	36.86	0				219.17
1 – Improvement of market organisation for fishery and aquaculture products	5.1.d – Change in volume of first sales in non-PO's	Tonnes	20,519.00	0	0	0	0	20.00	51.00	0				71.00
2 – Encouragement of investment in the processing and marketing sectors	5.1.a – Change in value of first sales in PO's	Thousand Euros	5,340.00	0	0	0	6.16	111.68	0	2,301.50				2,419.34
2 – Encouragement of investment in the processing and marketing sectors	5.1.b – Change in volume of first sales in PO's	Tonnes	6,130.00	0	0	0	180.00	2,712.33	0	-6.00				2,886.33
2 – Encouragement of investment in the processing and marketing sectors	5.1.c – Change in value of first sales in non-PO's	Tonnes	51,437.00	0	0	27.29	7,157.74	18,259.35	13,444.70	1,025.05				39,914.14

Union Priority 5 - Fostering marketing and processing

Specific objective	Result indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Yearly value										Cumulative value
				2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
2 – Encouragement of investment in the processing and marketing sectors	5.1.d – Change in volume of first sales in non-PO's	Tonnes	20,519.00	0	0	16.59	3,114.60	4,261.16	5,299.13	2,177.26				14,868.74

Union Priority 6 - Fostering the implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy

Specific objective	Result indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Yearly value										Cumulative value
				2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
1 – Development and implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy	6.2.a – Change in the coverage of Natura 2000 areas designated under the Birds and Habitats directives	Km ²	25,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				0
1 – Development and implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy	6.2.b – Change in the coverage of other spatial protection measures under Art. 13.4 of the Directive 2008/56/EC	Km ²	10,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				0

TABLE 2 Output indicators for EMFF

Union priority 1 - Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based fisheries												
1. Reduction of the impact of fisheries on the marine environment, including the avoidance and reduction, as far as possible, of unwanted catches												
Selected relevant measures	Thematic objective	Output indicators										Cumulative value
		Indicator	Included in performance framework	Target value (2023)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
Article 37 Support for the design and implementation of conservation measures	6	1.4 – N° of projects on conservation measures, reduction of the fishing impact on the marine environment and fishing adaptation to the protection of species	✓	13	0	0	0	4	4	3	4	15
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)	6	1.4 – N° of projects on conservation measures, reduction of the fishing impact on the marine environment and fishing adaptation to the protection of species	✓	354	0	0	0	96	101	105	27	329
Article 39 Innovation linked to the conservation of marine biological resources (+ art. 44.1.c Inland fishing)	6	1.4 – N° of projects on conservation measures, reduction of the fishing impact on the marine environment and fishing adaptation to the protection of species	✓	10	0	0	0	3	0	4	3	10

Union priority 1 - Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based fisheries

1. Reduction of the impact of fisheries on the marine environment, including the avoidance and reduction, as far as possible, of unwanted catches

Selected relevant measures	Thematic objective	Output indicators										Cumulative value
		Indicator	Included in performance framework	Target value (2023)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
Article 40.1.a Protection and restoration of marine biodiversity – collection of lost fishing gear and marine litter	6	1.6 – N° of projects on protection and restoration of marine biodiversity, ecosystems		1	0	0	0	1	0	-1	0	0
Article 43.2 Fishing ports, landing sites, auction halls and shelters – investments to facilitate compliance with the obligation to land all catches	6	1.3 – N° of projects on added value, quality, use of unwanted catches and fishing ports, landing sites, actions halls and shelters	✓	8	0	0	0	3	1	2	0	6

Union priority 1 - Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based fisheries

2. Protection and restoration of aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems

Selected relevant measures	Thematic objective	Output indicators										Cumulative value
		Indicator	Included in performance framework	Target value (2023)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
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 biodiversity and ecosystem services (+ art. 44.6 Inland fishing)	6	1.6 – N° of projects on protection and restoration of marine biodiversity, ecosystems		75	0	0	0	6	12	27	20	65

Union priority 1 - Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based fisheries

3. Ensuring a balance between fishing capacity and available fishing opportunities

Selected relevant measures	Thematic objective	Output indicators										Cumulative value	
		Indicator	Included in performance framework	Target value (2023)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020		
Article 36 Support to systems of allocation of fishing opportunities	2	1.2 – N° of projects on systems of allocation of fishing opportunities		2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2

Union priority 1 - Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based fisheries

4. Enhancement of the competitiveness and viability of fisheries enterprises, including of small scale coastal fleet, and the improvement of safety or working conditions

Selected relevant measures	Thematic objective	Output indicators										Cumulative value
		Indicator	Included in performance framework	Target value (2023)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
Article 27 Advisory services (+ art. 44.3 Inland fishing)	3	1.1 – N° of projects on innovation, advisory services and partnerships with scientists	✓	21	0	0	0	3	6	3	6	18
Article 30 Diversification and new forms of income (+ art. 44.4 Inland fishing)	3	1.9 – N° of projects on promotion of human capital and social dialogue, diversification and new forms of income, start-ups for fishermen and health/safety		1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Article 31 Start-up support for young fishermen (+ art. 44.2 Inland fishing)	3	1.9 – N° of projects on promotion of human capital and social dialogue, diversification and new forms of income, start-ups for fishermen and health/safety		13	0	0	0	6	4	1	0	11
Article 32 Health and safety (+ art. 44.1.b Inland fishing)	3	1.9 – N° of projects on promotion of human capital and social dialogue, diversification and new forms of income, start-ups for fishermen and health/safety		740	0	0	0	157	168	206	134	665

Union priority 1 - Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based fisheries

4. Enhancement of the competitiveness and viability of fisheries enterprises, including of small scale coastal fleet, and the improvement of safety or working conditions

Selected relevant measures	Thematic objective	Output indicators										Cumulative value
		Indicator	Included in performance framework	Target value (2023)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
Article 33 Temporary Cessation of Fishing Activities	3	1.10 – N° of projects on temporary cessation		80	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Article 42 Added value, product quality and use of unwanted catches (+ art. 44.1.e Inland fishing)	3	1.3 – N° of projects on added value, quality, use of unwanted catches and fishing ports, landing sites, actions halls and shelters	✓	247	0	0	0	87	65	49	52	253
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)	3	1.3 – N° of projects on added value, quality, use of unwanted catches and fishing ports, landing sites, actions halls and shelters	✓	123	0	0	0	30	29	39	16	114

Union priority 1 - Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based fisheries

5. Provision of support to strengthen technological development and innovation, including increasing energy efficiency, and knowledge transfer

Selected relevant measures	Thematic objective	Output indicators										Cumulative value
		Indicator	Included in performance framework	Target value (2023)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
Article 26 Innovation (+ art. 44.3 Inland fishing)	3	1.1 – N° of projects on innovation, advisory services and partnerships with scientists	✓	23	0	0	0	2	5	1	3	11
Article 28 Partnerships between fishermen and scientists (+ art. 44.3 Inland fishing)	3	1.1 – N° of projects on innovation, advisory services and partnerships with scientists	✓	10	0	0	0	1	4	1	2	8
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)	4	1.7 – N° of projects on energy efficiency, mitigation of climate change		89	0	0	0	35	14	27	7	83
Article 41.2 Energy efficiency and mitigation of climate change - Replacement or modernisation of main or ancillary engines (+ art. 44.1.d Inland fishing)	4	1.8 – N° of projects on replacement or modernisation of engines		47	0	0	0	10	9	15	11	45

Union priority 1 - Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based fisheries

6. Development of professional training, new professional skills and lifelong learning

Selected relevant measures	Thematic objective	Output indicators										Cumulative value
		Indicator	Included in performance framework	Target value (2023)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
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)	8	1.9 – N° of projects on promotion of human capital and social dialogue, diversification and new forms of income, start-ups for fishermen and health/safety		30	0	0	0	8	3	7	9	27

Union priority 2 - Fostering environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based aquaculture												
1. Provision of support to strengthen technological development, innovation and knowledge transfer												
Selected relevant measures	Thematic objective	Output indicators										Cumulative value
		Indicator	Included in performance framework	Target value (2023)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
Article 47 Innovation	3	2.1 – N° of projects on innovation, advisory services	✓	19	0	0	0	1	7	2	4	14
Article 49 Management, relief and advisory services for aquaculture farms	3	2.1 – N° of projects on innovation, advisory services	✓	5	0	0	0	1	2	1	1	5

Union priority 2 - Fostering environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based aquaculture												
2. Enhancement of the competitiveness and viability of aquaculture enterprises, including improvement of safety or working conditions, in particular of SMEs												
Selected relevant measures	Thematic objective	Output indicators										Cumulative value
		Indicator	Included in performance framework	Target value (2023)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
Article 48.1.a-d, f-h Productive investments in aquaculture	3	2.2 – N° of projects on productive investments in aquaculture	✓	106	0	0	0	25	24	24	13	86
Article 52 Encouraging new sustainable aquaculture farmers	3	2.5 – N° of projects on promoting human capital of aquaculture in general and of new aquaculture farmers		1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1

Union priority 2 - Fostering environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based aquaculture

3. Protection and restoration of aquatic biodiversity and enhancement of ecosystems related to aquaculture and promotion of resource efficient aquaculture

Selected relevant measures	Thematic objective	Output indicators										Cumulative value	
		Indicator	Included in performance framework	Target value (2023)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020		
Article 48.1.k Productive investments in aquaculture - increasing energy efficiency, renewable energy	4	2.2 – N° of projects on productive investments in aquaculture	✓	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Article 48.1.e, i, j Productive investments in aquaculture - resource efficiency, reducing usage of water and chemicals, recirculation systems minimising water use	6	2.2 – N° of projects on productive investments in aquaculture	✓	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
Article 51 Increasing the potential of aquaculture sites	6	2.4 – N° of projects on increasing potential of aquaculture sites and measures on public and animal health		1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1

Union priority 2 - Fostering environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based aquaculture												
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												
Selected relevant measures	Thematic objective	Output indicators										Cumulative value
		Indicator	Included in performance framework	Target value (2023)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
Article 54 Aquaculture providing environmental services	6	2.3 – N° of projects on limiting the impact of aquaculture on the environment (ecomanagement, audit schemes, organic aquaculture environmental services)		3	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	3
Article 55 Public health measures	3	2.4 – N° of projects on increasing potential of aquaculture sites and measures on public and animal health		37	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	15

Union priority 2 - Fostering environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based aquaculture												
5. Development of professional training, new professional skills and lifelong learning												
Selected relevant measures	Thematic objective	Output indicators										Cumulative value
		Indicator	Included in performance framework	Target value (2023)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
Article 50 Promoting human capital and networking	8	2.5 – N° of projects on promoting human capital of aquaculture in general and of new aquaculture farmers	✓	12	0	0	0	0	5	2	0	7

Union priority 3 - Fostering the implementation of the CFP

1. Improvement and supply of scientific knowledge and collection and management of data

Selected relevant measures	Thematic objective	Output indicators										Cumulative value
		Indicator	Included in performance framework	Target value (2023)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
Article 77 Data collection	6	3.2 – N° of projects on supporting the collection, management and use of data	✓	2	1	0	0	4	2	17	2	26

Union priority 3 - Fostering the implementation of the CFP

2. Provision of support to monitoring, control and enforcement, enhancing institutional capacity and the efficiency of public administration, without increasing the administrative burden

Selected relevant measures	Thematic objective	Output indicators										Cumulative value
		Indicator	Included in performance framework	Target value (2023)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
Article 76 Control and enforcement	6	3.1 – N° of projects on implementing the Union's control, inspections and enforcement system		44	0	0	0	1	5	19	5	30

Union priority 5 - Fostering marketing and processing												
1. Improvement of market organisation for fishery and aquaculture products												
Selected relevant measures	Thematic objective	Output indicators										Cumulative value
		Indicator	Included in performance framework	Target value (2023)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
Article 66 Production and marketing plans	3	5.1 – N° of producers organisations or associations of producers organisations supported for production and marketing plans		3	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
Article 67 Storage aid	3	5.2 – N° of projects on marketing measures and storage aid		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Article 68 Marketing measures	3	5.2 – N° of projects on marketing measures and storage aid	✓	21	0	0	0	9	6	5	1	21

Union priority 5 - Fostering marketing and processing												
2. Encouragement of investment in the processing and marketing sectors												
Selected relevant measures	Thematic objective	Output indicators										Cumulative value
		Indicator	Included in performance framework	Target value (2023)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
01 - Article 69 Processing of fisheries and aquaculture products	3	5.3 – N° of projects on processing	✓	153	0	0	0	65	52	20	3	140

Union priority 6 - Fostering the implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy

1. Development and implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy

Selected relevant measures	Thematic objective	Output indicators										Cumulative value
		Indicator	Included in performance framework	Target value (2023)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
Article 80.1.b Promotion of the protection of marine environment, and the sustainable use of marine and coastal resources	6	6.2 – N° projects on the protection and improvement of knowledge on marine environment	✓	30	0	0	0	0	5	5	6	16
Article 80.1.c Improving the knowledge on the state of the marine environment	6	6.2 – N° projects on the protection and improvement of knowledge on marine environment	✓	3	0	0	0	0	1	1	-1	1

TABLE 3 Financial indicators for EMFF

Financial indicators										
Union Priority	Milestone (2018)	Target value (2023)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Cumulative value
1 – Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge-based fisheries	€12,626,559.00	€94,324,752.00				€10,079,625.29	€18,301,253.45	€22,970,338.43	€16,457,492.41	€67,808,709.58
2 – Fostering environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge-based aquaculture	€4,291,192.00	€28,763,496.00				€2,198,565.14	€4,992,037.17	€4,206,345.57	€2,561,739.58	€13,958,687.46
3 – Fostering the implementation of the CFP	€27,178,185.00	€116,184,822.00				€14,227,134.07	€14,323,553.84	€26,473,453.62	€4,525,360.07	€59,549,501.60
4 – Increasing employment and territorial cohesion	€3,339,313.00	€18,357,163.00				€342,980.09	€2,729,611.82	€3,892,626.94	€3,954,407.28	€10,919,626.13

Financial indicators

Union Priority	Milestone (2018)	Target value (2023)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Cumulative value
5 – Fostering marketing and processing	€7,920,039.00	€31,947,186.00				€6,082,199.42	€8,570,944.21	€4,802,009.71	€2,005,275.52	€21,460,428.86
6 – Fostering the implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy	€1,707,095.00	€6,508,166.00				€0.00	€352,608.80	€493,635.98	€1,073,063.55	€1,919,308.33
7 – Technical assistance						€63,267.37	€3,267,148.56	€1,833,707.89	€982,445.34	€6,146,569.16

TABLE 4 Financial data for the EMFF (*Reference table of OP template 8.2, 8.3 and 9.2*)

See Annex I

4. Issues affecting the performance of the programme and corrective measures taken

4.1. Actions taken to fulfil the ex-ante conditionalities

At the time of approving the UK OP the Commission considered that following ex-ante conditionality had not been achieved;

- A description of the administrative capacity to prepare and implement the national control action programme for multiannual plans, as provided for in Article 46 of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009

In order to meet this ex-ante conditionality, the UK and its devolved administrations agreed the following actions.

- Establish a single competent authority according to Article 5(3) of the Control regulation.
- Adopt the mandate of the competent authority so as to ensure full compliance with the Control regulation by 1 December 2015.
- Define appropriate working arrangements between the single competent authority and the UK devolved administrations by 1 January 2016.
- Review activities where coordination is needed (Regulatory aspects, operation of databases, coordination of Common Control programmes and any other administrative and technical activity linked to control of fisheries) to ensure that the Control Regulation is applied by 1 December 2016.

On the 25 July 2017 the Commission confirmed that the actions taken by the UK had fulfilled the requirement of the ex-ante conditionality.

4.2. Issues which affect the performance of the programme and the corrective measures taken Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013

The progress towards the 2023 targets is monitored by the Managing Authority through the Quarterly Performance Report provided to the Programme Monitoring Committee and Senior Steering Group. The Managing Authority and Intermediate Body assessment is that all financial and output indicators are progressing well towards their 2023 milestones, which were largely increased as a result of the Operational Programme amendment adopted in March 2020. Among other objectives, this OP amendment sought to implement stretch targets based on actual implementation data, enabling the UK to maximise budget utilisation while reflecting the true value of the €243 million investment.

The counting methodology used to inform the achievement of the calculation of the financial and output indicators is as follows:

- Financial Indicators: Amounts certified to the Commission by way of payment applications up to the 31st December 2020, minus the confirmed irregular amounts resulting from audit and inspection activity have been used to assess the performance against 2023 financial targets. Amounts subject to ongoing verification are included with the UK financial indicators.

- **Output Indicators:** Referring to the UK Infosys Report on project implementation to the 31st December 2020, only projects with the code 3 (operation completed (for which all expenditures have been paid to the beneficiary), code 4 (operation under implementation, for which some expenditure has been declared by the beneficiary to the Managing Authority) and code 5 (operation fully implemented, but for which all expenses have not necessarily been paid to the beneficiary) have been used to assess progress towards the 2023 output indicators. For alignment with Financial Indicators, further investigation has been undertaken to determine where these projects had yet to have their expenditure certified to the Commission, such projects have also been excluded from output indicators. The UK did not count any projects with a code 0 (operation covered by a decision granting aid but for which expenditure has yet to be certified to the Commission) project status.
- **Result Indicators:** In line with guidance from the Fisheries and Aquaculture Monitoring and Evaluation Unit (FAME), the UK approach toward reporting performance against specific result indicators has been amended. Where the UK previously provided indicative results on all active or completed projects, results are now reported for completed and/or fully implemented projects only. Previously provided results for completed projects (UK Infosys projects with the code 3 or 5) have been updated where post project monitoring activity by UK Intermediate Bodies has replaced an indicative result with a validated outcome. Finally, performance against result indicators has been aggregated at the level of the specific objective to prevent double counting.

Union Priority 1

As at 31 December 2020, €67.6million of public expenditure was certified against 2023 milestone of €94.3million. Of the 9 Output Indicators, 1 has achieved its 2023 milestone, a further 6 have exceeded 85% of the 2023 milestone, with a total of 1,626 projects declaring expenditure. A further 37 projects have declared expenditure under the remaining 2 Output Indicators, significant progress will be made against the Output Indicator 1.10 in early 2021 (refer to Section 3).

Union Priority 2

As at 31 December 2020, €13.6million of public expenditure was certified against 2023 milestone of €28.8million. Of the 5 Output Indicators, 1 has achieved its 2023 milestone. On average, the remaining 4 Output Indicators have achieved 72% of their 2023 milestones; a total of 132 projects have declared expenditure across these indicators.

Union Priority 3

As at 31 December 2020, €59.2million of public expenditure was certified against the milestone of €116.2million. Of the 2 Output Indicators, 1 has achieved its 2023 milestone, with a total of 26 projects declaring expenditure. The remaining Output Indicator has achieved 68% of its 2023 milestone, with a total of 30 projects declaring expenditure.

Union Priority 4

As at 31 December 2020, €10.9million of public expenditure was certified against the milestone of €18.4million. Of the 3 Output Indicators, 1 has achieved its 2023 milestone with all 19 FLAG Local Development Strategies being selected. On average, the remaining Output Indicators have achieved 17% of their 2023 milestone, with 2 projects declaring expenditure.

Union Priority 5

As at 31 December 2020, €20.7million of public expenditure was certified against the milestone of €31.9million. Of the 3 Output Indicators, 1 has achieved its 2023 milestone with a total of 21 projects declaring expenditure. From the remaining output indicators, one has exceeded 85% of the 2023 milestone with 140 projects declaring expenditure, a further 2 projects have declared expenditure under the remaining Output Indicator.

Union Priority 6

As at 31 December 2020, €1.9million of public expenditure was certified against the 2023 target of €6.5million. The Output Indicator has 17 projects declaring expenditure, representing a 52% achievement of the 2023 milestone.

5. Information on serious infringements and remedy actions (Article 114(2) of Regulation (EU) No 508/2014)

There have been no cases of serious infringements as referred to in Article 10(1) and no cases of non-respect of durability conditions and remedy actions as set out in Article 10(2) reported during 2020.

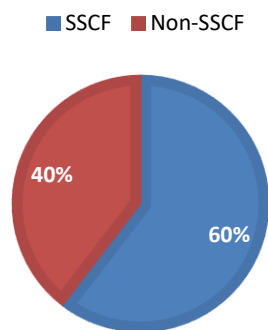
6. Information on actions taken to comply with Article 41(8) (Article 114(2) of Regulation (EU) No 508/2014)

Under Article 41(2) Energy efficiency and mitigation of climate change – replacement or modernisation of main or ancillary engines, 48 projects have been approved since the start of the programme with public assistance of €331 thousand (£287 thousand) being awarded.

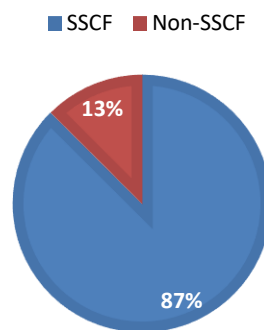
In accordance with the Article 41(8), 60.4% of the total public support allocated to Article 41(2) is committed to operators from the Small Scale Coastal Fishing sector (SSCF). Of the 48 projects selected, 42 relate to the Small Scale Coastal fleet, with total public support of €194 thousand (£174 thousand) awarded.

Figures 18 and 19; The Total Public Contribution and Number of Operations Selected Under Energy Efficiency and Mitigation of Climate Change – Replacement or Modernisation of Main or Ancillary Engines (Article 41(2)).

TOTAL PUBLIC CONTRIBUTION OF OPERATIONS SELECTED FOR SUPPORT



NUMBER OF OPERATIONS SELECTED



7. Information on the actions taken to ensure the publication of beneficiaries (Article 114(2) of Regulation (EU) No 508/2014)

As per Annex V of the EMFF Regulation each Intermediate Body is aware of the need to publish a list of EMFF operations including all of the required data fields as per point 1 of Annex V bi-annually. All operations approved up to the 31st December 2020 have been published on the Intermediate Bodies' websites. A central link to UK Intermediate Body Transparency Initiatives is published on the UK Managing Authority [website](#).

In the Operational Programme the UK listed all activities that would be undertaken throughout the duration of the programme, throughout 2020 the UK Managing Authority and Intermediate Bodies have continued to publicise the scheme, where funding is available, and hold virtual meetings with industry representatives.

The UK EMFF Communication Strategy was developed in 2015 this was reviewed following implementation and presented to PMC members in January 2017. This review confirmed that the Strategy itself had been an effective tool to ensure that awareness of the UK EMFF scheme, and its associated opportunities, were well understood by potential applicants. The significant level of budget commitment at the 31st December 2020 provides a strong indication that the opportunity to access EMFF funds is well understood across the Industry. The budget remaining across the UK will be proactively targeted by UK Intermediate Bodies throughout 2021. Exchange fluctuation will also be monitored, ensuring that the remaining allocation is effectively utilised.

8. Activities in relation to the evaluation plan and synthesis of the evaluations (Article 114(2) of Regulation (EU) No 508/2014, Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

The UK opened for applications in 2016, and the 'go live' dates varied across the UK with England and Scotland opening for applications in January, Northern Ireland opened for

applications on 13 September and Wales undertook a targeted opening on 16 September against specific articles and were not fully live until the beginning of 2017, considering this, and the impact of the external factors discussed in Section 2.7, there has been limited time to assess the impact of the EMFF programme, though the following evaluations have been undertaken;

The UK Managing Authority undertook a detailed review of the EMFF Operational programme resulting in the UK Operational Programme amendment which was approved by the PMC in December 2019 and adopted by the Commission in March 2020. A supplementary evaluation of the UK Operational Programme was undertaken by the UK Managing Authority in partnership with UK Intermediate Bodies after the Commission positively announced several amendments to the EMFF regulation which expanded the scope of measures to include support for businesses affected by Coronavirus.

The EMFF sponsorship body (DEFRA) conducted an evaluation of the implementation and early impact of the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund in 2019, also referred to as the socio-economic evaluation of the EMFF. This evaluation focused on the process and delivery elements of the EMFF and was presented to the Programme Monitoring Committee in November 2020, to note that the report was not formally published until 2021. The report noted the following;

- The overall opinion of grant recipients accessing the scheme was positive, beneficiaries identified benefits during interviews in addition to those expected on their application forms. Some individual grants had been subject to delay as a result of the need to resubmit information and confusion over what is eligible, though many applications had been successfully made and claimed at the time of the assessment.
- The effectiveness of the delivery model at each UK Intermediate Body varies, partly because the situation faced by each is different. In Northern Ireland, applicants are likely to be known to the administration team, thus any queries can be easily dealt with. In England, applications are dealt with centrally by MMO headquarters, applicants indicated that it would be helpful if more interim progress updates were made available from MMO, and if regional colleagues could provide updates. In Scotland, Marine Scotland were running two to three funding rounds per year with application deadlines and funding offered in batches. In Wales, a different electronic grants management system is used to that in England, Scotland and Northern Ireland, grant recipients commented that while support was available to enable them to apply, the application process was relatively long winded and typically involved a lot of paperwork.
- The effectiveness of individual grants themselves is illustrated by the long list of benefits experienced to date (both expected and unintended). Several interviewees reported wider impacts to third parties from their projects including the positive knock-on effects for local suppliers.
- There appears to be some geographical variation in the uptake of grants. The south west of England has a considerable concentration of fishers and thus would be expected to have many grant applications. The existence of features to support grant uptake in this area (e.g. a credit union and an active facilitator service) means that awareness appears

to be high and many fishers seek access to funding. In other areas such as the east of England, there appear to be fewer grants. Whilst this could reflect the overall lower numbers of fishers, it could also indicate a lack of awareness of the programme.

During the course of the fieldwork a large number of grant recipients commented that future access to grant schemes like the EMFF will be crucial to the long-term stability of UK fishing industries and the supporting infrastructure. Should there be a new scheme, the study identified several aspects which might need to be considered. These are summarised below.

- **Provision of support to enable applicants to access schemes:** Many applicants interviewed utilised the services of facilitators or brokers for support with applications. Some applicants were happy to complete the forms on their own, viewing them as simple with relevant information being requested. However, for those lacking experience or know-how with online forms, the provision of readily available, wide-spread support (not just in certain areas, e.g. via FLAGS or an established facilitator) could help ensure equality of access to a future fund. This could also cover interpretation of scheme regulation and eligibility criteria, which some interviewees identified as being difficult to understand.
- **Provision of funding to assist applicants with meeting upfront costs of their investments and retrospectively reclaiming grants:** Within the south west of England, this issue is already being managed through the creation of the Kernow Credit Union – a community bank. Fishers are able to access credit by joining for a small fee and providing their EMFF offer letter, they are then able to access a 0% loan for their project, with the total paid back upon receipt of the grant money. The original funding for the union has come from organisations including Seafarers UK. The establishment of credit unions alongside any future scheme could help ensure that those who have problems with forward financing their projects are able to access the grant money. Alternative suggestions to deal with barriers raised by the need to forward fund included having the MMO (or equivalent body) paying a percentage of the grant upfront, with the applicant paying the remainder and then reclaiming.
- **Requirements for match funding:** Some beneficiaries indicated they had experienced problems securing match funding from third parties considering the EMFF application/award letter timescales. It was felt that some flexibility in the system to enable EMFF to be the first funding provided could assist in these instances.
- **Sharing of ideas and best practice between FLAGS:** The FARNET model was highlighted as being one way to promote sharing of best practice, with interviewees feeling that this needed to happen sooner than it did at the time of the evaluation. This would enable FLAGS to learn from each other and ensure that newer FLAGS were not disadvantaged when compared with those that existed under the EFF scheme.
- **Review of intervention rates for particular activities:** Generally, comments were that EMFF intervention rates were fair, though some applicants felt that the 80% funding rate for pots was not reflective of the benefits the grants produced, suggesting that a 30% grant for this area of fishing would be more reflective of the benefit. A concern was also raised about the potential for potting grants to result in increased fishing effort (although it

should be acknowledged that old pots have to be removed with checks occurring to ensure that this is the case).

- **Review of eligibility criteria to classify what type of investments are eligible, and particularly what type of investments would lead to an increase in fishing effort:** Improved guidance could help to minimise misunderstandings and frustrations.
- **Avoiding gaps in funding between EMFF and future scheme(s):** Across Union Priorities, grant recipients were concerned by a lack of support for the industry.
- **Implications for future evaluation:** Setting up a survey of grant recipients at the outset (potentially as part of the claims process) would enable any future funding scheme to begin learning lessons early and ultimately provide a more representative dataset for evaluation.

An Evaluation of the Environmental Benefits delivered through the EMFF in England was commissioned by DEFRA and published in November 2019. In summary, the evaluation found that projects funded under the EMFF have been delivering environmental benefits and/or are likely to do so in the future. This includes reducing incidental mortality of commercial and non-commercial fish stocks, improving and connecting habitats, developing skills and knowledge (Human Capital), broadening participation in environmental decision-making (Human and Social Capital), and improving energy efficiency. The evaluating body also concluded that the Result Indicators applicable to the EMFF programme were not that useful in the selection of environmental projects due to a focus on flows (in Natural Capital terms) which downplay potential contributions to reducing pressures or enhancing assists.

The Scottish FLAGs have commenced self-evaluation exercises which seek to investigate LEADER and EMFF performance. The Orkney FLAG have shared a draft evaluation which shows that the Group have been successful in meeting their targets. The Highland and Shetland and Argyll and Bute FLAGs have confirmed that they are currently undertaking or will undertake self-evaluation exercises in the near future.

Future evaluations of the EMFF will include an evaluation of EMFF results, expected to take place in 2022 and an evaluation of the UK Fisheries Local Action Groups (FLAGs).

9. Citizen's summary

This is provided as an attachment to this report in document; **Citizens Summary for the UK European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) 2020.**

10. Report on the implementation of financial instruments (Article 46(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

The UK fielded representation at a Financial Instruments Compass event in London in February 2016. The purpose of attending was to better understand how Financial Instruments could be developed and rolled out within the UK EMFF programme. The event was useful but highlighted the level of effort and complexity involved in developing and effectively managing a Financial Instrument. As such, it was agreed at the June 2016 Programme Monitoring Committee that Financial Instruments would not be taken forward under the UK EMFF Programme.

16. The Contribution To Macro-Regional and Sea Basin Strategies

As set out in the UK Partnership Agreement, EMFF funds will be focused on sustainable growth in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors, and in particular, supporting the delivery of Common Fisheries Policy reform through a wide range of measures. Other objectives for the fund include capacity building in marine research, technology, and skills, ensuring good environmental status of the marine environment, and improving maritime safety, contributing to the blue growth agenda.

While there is no dedicated funding attached to the Atlantic Action Plan, measures that are being supported in the UK EMFF OP will contribute to the Atlantic Strategy. Support for innovation, partnerships between fishermen and scientists, training, diversification, supporting new entrants to the industry and gear selectivity under Union Priority 1 will contribute to the aims of Priority 1 of the Action Plan - the promotion of entrepreneurship and innovation.

Support for improving the infrastructure of ports and landing sites under Union Priority 1 will contribute to Priority 3, improving accessibility and connectivity, and support for community led local development under Union Priority 4 will contribute to Priority 4 of the Action Plan – creating a socially inclusive and sustainable model of regional development.