



European Union

European Structural
and Investment Funds

**European Structural and Investment
Funds
2014 - 2020**

Growth Programme for England

ESI Funds Growth Programme Board

European Maritime & Fisheries Fund (EMFF) Programme Update

Purpose:

To provide the Board with a progress report on EMFF implementation in England.

Recommendation(s):

That the Growth Programme Board notes the report.

Summary:

Excellent progress continues with 1,487 core projects approved with an EMFF grant value of £46m.

1. There continues to be good take-up of the EMFF in England, with 1,487 projects approved under the 'core' programme (i.e. not including expenditure for Control and Enforcement activities, and Data Collection Framework measures). The total project cost associated is over £119m with EMFF grant of £46m and National match of almost £11m.
2. The popular areas for funding remain:
 - Health and safety – equipment and on-board vessel investments (483 projects attracting £2.8m EMFF);
 - Limiting the impact of fishing on the marine environment – more selective fishing gear and practices (276 projects, attracting £3m EMFF);
 - Processing and marketing – of fisheries and aquaculture products (83 projects, attracting £4.8m EMFF);
 - Adding value and quality – to caught and unwanted fish products (117 projects, attracting £813k EMFF);
 - Infrastructure investments – in ports, harbours, landing sites and auction halls (115 projects, £12m EMFF);
 - Investments in aquaculture – new units, diversification of production and species, modernisation of existing units (50 projects, £2.1m EMFF);
 - Promotion of human capital – job creation, improving social dialogue, training (18 projects, £1.9m EMFF);
 - Protection/restoration of marine biodiversity and ecosystems – collection of waste, Natura 2000 sites, increasing environmental awareness (64 projects, £5.7m EMFF).

3. With regard to CLLD, the six Fisheries Local Action Groups are now finished developing applications for projects. The allocated budget of £4.2m was committed to 153 projects across the network for projects that delivered in accordance with the Local development Strategy (LDS) and business plan for each FLAG area. £4m has now been paid out to FLAG projects.

Our current 'top challenge(s)' and how we are addressing them

1. The MMO Grants Team are close to understanding the value of funding that will be recycled back into the EMFF funding envelope, as a result of projects either not completing as expected or completing for less funds than were offered. Since the last update to the Board the total recycling value has increased slightly to £1.38m, which brings the overall commitment figure down to £45.85m. The updated recycling values in each area of the scheme have been reflected in the updated stats provided within this report, which is why you may observe small changes from the commitment figures reported to the last Growth Programme Board.
2. The iVMS programme for the under 12m fleet in England which began its roll out in February 2022 is well underway. Of the 2138 inshore vessels that are required by law to operate a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) in order to continue their fishing operations, 727 now have their devices ordered and 280 installed. Vessel owners are being reimbursed up to £650 for the device and its installation through the EMFF scheme, which means a further 2138 applications will need to be approved by the Grants Team through a simplified application process. To date 171 iVMS claims have been approved and paid, totalling £108k from the EMFF Control and Enforcement budget.
3. Having closed for new applications, the primary challenge for the domestic Maritime and Fisheries Fund (MFF) focuses on realising expenditure against the projects committed. The Grants Team have agreed to allow those projects that have slipped due to recent factors outside their control to submit their final claims up to July 2022, at which point we will begin to close down this scheme.
4. The second iteration of England's domestic [Fisheries and Seafood Scheme](#) (FaSS2) launched in April and continues on from the hugely successful FaSS1. Unlike FaSS1, which was had a single year settlement, FaSS2 is a three-year scheme that will support fisheries and seafood supply chain business up to March 2025. The scheme has an £18m funding envelope across the three years. With a focus on smaller scale projects that will apply to the UKSF, FaSS2 has been designed to complement the larger £100m UK Seafood Fund (UKSF).
5. The Grants Team in collaboration with Defra Policy colleagues has now launched the first round of UKSF Infrastructure Scheme. The first round aims to invest up to £30m of the overall £66m budget to projects that build capability across the UK seafood sector supply chain through investment in: improved capability at ports, harbours and processing facilities and aquaculture; and the social and economic welfare of coastal communities.

Challenges in different areas of the country/Can we learn from delivery in different areas?

6. Unlike the other Structural Funds, delivery of EMFF projects in England is not delivered by regional teams as the number of projects is small and the applications require some degree of technical knowledge of the seafood sector; all English applications are processed by the MMO's EMFF/MFF team at their headquarters in Newcastle. Data is not categorised on a regional basis.

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EMFF Programme Monitoring Committee