

EMFF OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME

CCI	2014UK14MFOP001
Title	European Maritime and Fisheries Fund - Operational Programme for the United Kingdom
Version	4.0
First year	2014
Last year	2020
Eligible from	01-Jan-2014
Eligible to	31-Dec-2023
EC decision number	
EC decision date	

1. PREPARATION OF THE OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME AND INVOLVEMENT OF PARTNERS.....	4
1.1 PREPARATION OF THE OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME AND INVOLVEMENT OF PARTNERS	4
1.2 OUTCOME OF THE EX-ANTE EVALUATION	6
1.2.1 Description of the ex-ante evaluation process	6
1.2.2 Overview of the recommendations of the ex-ante evaluators and brief description of how they have been addressed.....	7
2. SWOT AND IDENTIFICATION OF NEEDS.....	12
2.1 SWOT ANALYSIS AND IDENTIFICATION OF NEEDS	12
2.2 CONTEXT INDICATORS PRESENTING THE INITIAL SITUATION	42
3. DESCRIPTION OF THE STRATEGY	47
3.1 DESCRIPTION OF THE STRATEGY OF THE OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME.....	47
3.2 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES AND RESULT INDICATORS.....	54
3.3 RELEVANT MEASURES AND OUTPUT INDICATORS	59
3.4 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAMME'S COMPLEMENTARITY WITH OTHER ESI FUNDS	71
3.4.1 Complementarity and coordination arrangements with other ESI Funds and other relevant Union and national funding instruments of the EMFF.....	71
3.4.2 Main actions planned to achieve a reduction in administrative burden	73
3.5 INFORMATION ON THE MACRO-REGIONAL OR SEA-BASIN STRATEGIES (WHERE RELEVANT)	75
4. REQUIREMENTS CONCERNING SPECIFIC EMFF MEASURES.....	76
4.1 DESCRIPTION OF THE SPECIFIC NEEDS OF NATURA 2000 AREAS AND THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE PROGRAMME TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COHERENT NETWORK OF FISH STOCK RECOVERY AREAS AS LAID OUT IN ARTICLE 8 OF THE CFP REGULATION.....	76
4.2 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION PLAN FOR THE DEVELOPMENT, COMPETITIVENESS AND SUSTAINABILITY OF SMALL-SCALE COASTAL FISHING.....	77
4.3 DESCRIPTION OF THE METHOD FOR THE CALCULATION OF SIMPLIFIED COSTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 67(1)(B) TO (D) OF CPR REGULATION.....	77
4.4 DESCRIPTION OF THE METHOD FOR THE CALCULATION OF ADDITIONAL COSTS OR INCOME FOREGONE IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 97	79
4.5 DESCRIPTION OF THE METHOD FOR THE CALCULATION OF COMPENSATION ACCORDING TO RELEVANT CRITERIA IDENTIFIED FOR EACH OF THE ACTIVITIES DEPLOYED UNDER ARTICLE 40(1), 53, 54, 55, 67 AND 69(3) OF REGULATION (EU) No 508/2014	79
4.6 AS REGARDS THE MEASURES FOR THE PERMANENT CESSATION OF FISHING ACTIVITIES UNDER ARTICLE 34 OF REGULATION (EU) No 508/2014, SUCH DESCRIPTION SHALL INCLUDE THE TARGETS AND MEASURES TO BE TAKEN FOR THE REDUCTION OF THE FISHING CAPACITY IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 22 OF REGULATION (EU) No 1380/2013. A DESCRIPTION OF THE METHOD FOR THE CALCULATION OF THE PREMIUM TO BE GRANTED UNDER ARTICLES 33 AND 34 OF REGULATION (EU) No 508/2014 SHALL ALSO BE INCLUDED.....	81
4.7 MUTUAL FUNDS FOR ADVERSE CLIMATIC EVENTS AND ENVIRONMENT INCIDENTS.....	82
4.8 DESCRIPTION ON THE USE OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE	82
4.8.1 Technical assistance at the initiative of the MS	82
4.8.2 Establishment of national networks.....	82
5. SPECIFIC INFORMATION ON INTEGRATED TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT.....	84
5.1 INFORMATION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CLLD	84
5.1.1 A description of the strategy for CLLD.....	84
5.1.2 A list of criteria applied for selecting the fisheries areas	86
5.1.3 A list of selection criteria for local development strategies.....	87
5.1.4 A clear description of the respective roles of the FLAGs, the managing authority or designated body for all implementation tasks relating to the strategy.....	92
5.1.5 Information on advance payments to FLAGs.....	92
5.2 INFORMATION ON INTEGRATED TERRITORIAL INVESTMENTS	94
6. FULFILMENT OF EX-ANTE CONDITIONALITIES.....	96
6.1 IDENTIFICATION OF APPLICABLE EX-ANTE CONDITIONALITIES AND ASSESSMENT OF THEIR FULFILMENT	96
6.1.2 Applicable general ex-ante conditionalities and assessment of their fulfilment	104
6.2 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN, THE BODIES RESPONSIBLE AND THE TIMETABLE FOR THEIR IMPLEMENTATION	105
6.2.1 Actions envisaged to achieve the fulfilment of the EMFF specific ex-ante conditionalities	105
6.2.2 Actions envisaged to achieve the fulfilment of the general ex-ante conditionalities.....	105

7. DESCRIPTION OF THE PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK.....	106
7.1 TABLE: PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK.....	106
7.2 TABLE: JUSTIFICATION FOR THE CHOICE OF OUTPUT INDICATORS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK	107
8. FINANCING PLAN.....	115
8.1 TOTAL EMFF CONTRIBUTION PLANNED FOR EACH YEAR (€).....	115
8.2 EMFF CONTRIBUTION AND CO-FINANCING RATE FOR THE UNION PRIORITIES, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND OTHER SUPPORT (€)	116
8.3 EMFF CONTRIBUTION TO THE THEMATIC OBJECTIVES OF THE ESI FUNDS.....	117
9. HORIZONTAL PRINCIPLES.....	118
9.1 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIONS TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE PRINCIPLES SET OUT IN ARTICLES 5*, 7 AND 8 OF THE CPR	118
9.1.1 <i>Promotion of equality between men and women and non- discrimination</i>	118
9.1.2 <i>Sustainable development</i>	119
9.2 INDICATION OF THE INDICATIVE AMOUNT OF SUPPORT TO BE USED FOR CLIMATE CHANGE OBJECTIVES	120
10. EVALUATION PLAN.....	122
OBJECTIVES AND PURPOSE OF THE EVALUATION PLAN	122
GOVERNANCE AND COORDINATION	123
EVALUATION TOPICS AND ACTIVITIES.....	123
DATA AND INFORMATION STRATEGY	123
TIMELINE	125
SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR EVALUATION OF CLLD.....	126
COMMUNICATION	127
RESOURCES.....	127
11. PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTING ARRANGEMENTS.....	128
11.1 IDENTIFICATION OF AUTHORITIES AND INTERMEDIATE BODIES.....	128
11.2 DESCRIPTION OF THE MONITORING AND EVALUATION PROCEDURES	128
11.3 GENERAL COMPOSITION OF THE MONITORING COMMITTEE.....	129
11.4 A SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF THE INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY MEASURES TO BE CARRIED OUT IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 120.....	129
12. INFORMATION ON THE BODIES RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTING THE CONTROL, INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT SYSTEM	132
12.1 BODIES IMPLEMENTING THE CONTROL, INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT SYSTEM.....	132
12.2 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF HUMAN AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR FISHERIES CONTROL, INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT	132
12.3 THE MAJOR EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE, IN PARTICULAR THE NUMBER OF VESSELS, AIRCRAFT AND HELICOPTERS	132
12.4 LIST OF SELECTED TYPES OF OPERATIONS	133
12.5 LINK TO PRIORITIES DEFINED BY THE COMMISSION	136
13. DATA COLLECTION	139
13.1 A GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES OF DATA COLLECTION FORESEEN FOR THE PERIOD 2014-2020.....	139
13.2 A DESCRIPTION OF DATA STORAGE METHODS, DATA MANAGEMENT AND DATA USE	141
13.3 A DESCRIPTION OF HOW SOUND FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGEMENT IN DATA COLLECTION WILL BE ACHIEVED.....	144
14. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS.....	148
14.1 DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNED USE OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS	148
14.2 SELECTION OF THE EMFF MEASURES PLANNED TO BE IMPLEMENTED THROUGH THE FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS	148
14.3 INDICATIVE AMOUNTS PLANNED TO BE USED THROUGH THE FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS	149
DOCUMENTS.....	150
LATEST VALIDATION RESULTS.....	151

1. PREPARATION OF THE OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME AND INVOLVEMENT OF PARTNERS

1.1 Preparation of the Operational Programme and involvement of partners

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) has been responsible for co-ordinating the preparation of the Operational Programme (OP) in the UK. The key stages of this preparation process are summarised below.

- Preparation of the OP began in 2012 with the development of a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis and needs assessment. This included consideration of the SWOT analyses undertaken for the European Fisheries Fund (EFF) programme.
- A Stakeholder Group was established and stakeholder views on the requirements of the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) assessed. Opportunities were identified for collaboration with other Common Strategic Framework (CSF) programmes.
- In 2013 a Stakeholder Group workshop and written consultation considered the initial approach to the EMFF SWOT.
- Further consultation with stakeholders about the SWOT and needs assessment continued throughout 2013. Following completion of the SWOT and needs assessment it was submitted to ex-ante evaluators. Upon receiving recommendations from the evaluators revisions were made.
- Discussions formally began between Defra and Devolved Administrations (DAs) on the intra-UK allocation of EMFF funding in autumn 2013.
- Each Administration made its initial choice of measures based on the SWOT analysis, needs assessment and prioritisation exercise. A formal public consultation on the EMFF was launched in 2014, followed by workshops on the UK's strategy for EMFF involving stakeholders.
- Taking into account feedback from the public consultation and stakeholders, drafting of the OP began. It was submitted to the ex-ante evaluators in June 2014 and February 2015 for evaluation. Recommendations were received from the evaluators (set out in more detail at table 1.2.2) and the OP was revised accordingly.

Defra have ensured that partners and stakeholders have been included and consulted throughout this process and have co-ordinated events and workshops to maximise active participation. The list of partners include:

- Epsilon Resource Management Ltd.
- Atkins – Poseidon Aquatic Resource Management Ltd.
- Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs).
- Fisheries Local Actions Groups (FLAGs).
- The Marine Management Organisation (MMO).
- Industry stakeholders.
- Non-governmental organisations (NGOs).
- The UK European Fisheries Fund Programme Monitoring Committee (PMC).
- Other UK Government Departments, in particular the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, the Department for Communities and Local Government, the

Department for Work and Pensions, HM Treasury and the Cabinet Office.

- UK Devolved Administrations (Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland) (DAs).

A full list of stakeholders who were consulted during the development of the Operational Programme is annexed to it. While some aspects of the OP (for example, the overall strategy for using the fund) were included in a public consultation, others (for example the composition of the Monitoring Committee and the formulation of indicators) have been scrutinised by a smaller group of stakeholders.

In developing the OP, Defra and Devolved Administrations have endeavoured to incorporate stakeholder comments as far as possible. Clearly balancing the various interests of different parts of the fisheries sector, as well as other organisations such as environmental NGOs and fisheries communities more generally, has meant that some difficult choices were necessary. A number of key themes, however, arose during formal and informal consultation with stakeholders. The UK fisheries administrations, within each Devolved Administration, have endeavoured to address these as far as possible in the OP and in its plans for implementing the fund. These included:

- The need to ensure that policy aims are addressed across the whole supply chain rather than simply focused on a particular area. This has meant that, for example, the UK's measures to implement Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) reform are not just limited to those available on board vessels. In addition, they include measures to adapt port infrastructure, to support marketing and processing and also to facilitate research.
- The need to use EMFF to support a broad range of both domestic and EU-level policy initiatives, encompassing the fisheries sector and community as well as the marine environment. While limited funds mean that some such initiatives must be prioritised over others, the OP attempts to address a broad range of them in a cost-effective manner. For example, innovations in gear technology might allow the fleet to adapt to the landing obligation while at the same time improving the status of marine biodiversity more generally.
- The need to make proper links between different parts of the UK. As fisheries is a devolved matter, each of the four fisheries administrations will have its own Intermediate Body (IB) to administer the fund. However, the UK has produced a single OP to cover the whole country, in accordance with EU requirements. The UK has used this opportunity to ensure that where practical and desirable, policy and implementation arrangements for the fund are harmonised across the four administrations.

- The need to make the application process as simple as possible while ensuring that public money is adequately protected. Throughout the process of designing the UK EMFF programme, each administration has attempted to ensure that the application process is as simple as possible while ensuring that robust measures are in place to safeguard the integrity of the fund.
- The need to make proper links with other European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF). The UK's plans in this regard are set out later in the OP. These plans attempt to take advantage of the opportunities presented by linking the EMFF with other ESIFs, provided for under the Partnership Agreement which is the overarching framework.

Through the operation of the Programme Monitoring Committee (PMC), and an ongoing process of consulting with stakeholders more generally, the UK fisheries administrations will ensure that stakeholder views are taken into account throughout the implementation of the fund.

1.2 Outcome of the ex-ante evaluation

1.2.1 Description of the ex-ante evaluation process

In July 2013 Atkins, in association with Poseidon, was commissioned to carry out an ex-ante evaluation and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the EMFF 2014-2020 OP.

The ex-ante evaluation was undertaken in three stages in an iterative fashion that is aligned with the development process of the OP. Stage 1 included a review of the SWOT and Needs Assessment completed in August 2013 and a high level review of potential measures for adoption in the OP undertaken in November 2013. Stage 1 was finalised in March 2014 following completion of an interim report providing an update on progress so far with the ex-ante evaluation and SEA and expectations for the remaining project.

Stage 2 tested the intervention logic underpinning the OP, including budgetary allocations, targets and the performance framework. During this process a draft OP document was

provided to the evaluators to be reviewed. Issues and areas that required clarity were resolved before the evaluators provided their stage 2 evaluation in September 2014.

Alongside the ex-ante evaluation, a SEA Scoping Report was undertaken, and completed in October 2013, as part of the development of the draft OP. A SEA Environmental Report identified the environmental effects on the draft OP, both adverse and beneficial, and was completed in October 2014. The SEA process involved the identification and evaluation of possible environmental effects and the identification of appropriate mitigating measures. As part of the SEA process a public consultation was published to seek views on the scope and level of detail to be included in the SEA report.

As part of the final stage of the process (Stage 3) a complete draft programme document was provided to the ex-ante evaluator and SEA experts. The ex-ante evaluators provided final feedback on the complete document and drafted their final report in March 2015. The SEA experts assessed the environmental impact of the entire programme and drafted the SEA Environmental Report, statutory bodies were then consulted on its content and the report finalised in September 2015. Final recommendations provided by the evaluators were taken into account and summarised at section 1.2.2.

1.2.2 Overview of the recommendations of the ex-ante evaluators and brief description of how they have been addressed

Topic	Recommendation	How was the recommendation addressed, or why was it not taken into account
1 - SWOT analysis, needs assessment	1. 'Needs' need to present all available information and be comprehensive and aquaculture section needs to reflect all the devolved administrations. Needs of the marketing and processing sector should be explicitly identified for England and Wales. 2. Fisheries section contains issues without indicators and some presentational issues need to be addressed. 3. Specific additional detail needed on marine and coastal designated sites, needs identified in SWOT issues, Scottish Fisheries Local Action	The ex-ante evaluators commented on the SWOT analysis that was prepared for the UK by a contractor. Amendments were made to the SWOT document and relevant sections then transferred across to section 2.1 of the OP. 1. The ex-ante evaluators recommended that more detail was added for specific devolved administrations. The UK considered the analysis to be comprehensive and wanted to avoid the SWOT focusing on each

Topic	Recommendation	How was the recommendation addressed, or why was it not taken into account
	<p>Groups (FLAGs) and climate change in the Community Led Local Development (CLLD) section.</p> <p>4. Accompanying measures SWOT should be expanded to address control and data collection.</p>	<p>devolved administration as it is a UK wide SWOT. However, the SWOT was amended to ensure issues relevant to the sector within all regions were reflected.</p> <p>2. Issues reassessed and corrected presentationally.</p> <p>3. Marine protected areas were taken into consideration in the UP4 SWOT and the impact of climate change is now incorporated in UP1, we do not consider it is also required in UP4.</p> <p>4. The UK considered that the SWOT addresses control and data collection issues.</p>
<p>2 - Construction of the intervention logic, including the contribution to the EU 2020, the internal coherence of the proposed programme and its relationship with other relevant instruments, the establishment of quantified targets and milestones and the distribution of budgetary resources</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Justification for the combination of measures needs to explain why they are important. 2. Safeguards needed to avoid duplication across DAs. 3. Certain indicators need further explanation, are too extensive, too ambitious, better aligned to an alternative SO or considered factually incorrect. 4. Full supporting information required for measures on temporary and permanent cessation. 5. Indicators too broad. 6. Number of projects anticipated for each measure need rethinking. 7. Use of start-up support not taken up by all DAs. 8. Justification for measures too vague or does not match number of projects listed. 9. Questioning why certain measures or sub-measures have not been considered. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Text added to the programming logic to explain why the measures are important to address industry needs. 2. The EMFF steering group, comprising a representative of each DA and the MMO, will have oversight of all UK projects to avoid duplication. 3. Outputs and outcomes cut down where necessary and amended. 4. UK are no longer planning to use measures on cessation. 5. Amended to provide more focus. 6. Reduced where necessary. 7. Not all DAs consider this to be value for money. 8. Text amended and reasoning provided (that Commission guidance is being followed). 9. Detailed prioritisation exercise concluded that these measures were not a first tier

Topic	Recommendation	How was the recommendation addressed, or why was it not taken into account
	<p>10. Needs identified in SWOT do not match the proposed projects.</p> <p>11. Unclear how certain measures proposed will achieve outputs. Instance of outcomes extending beyond remit of measures.</p> <p>12. Result indicators do not fit well with specific objective.</p> <p>13. Certain target values need to be reconsidered.</p>	<p>priority.</p> <p>10. Re drafted to reflect point.</p> <p>11. Outputs and outcomes refocused.</p> <p>12. Result indicators used now relate to correct specific objectives.</p> <p>13. Targets maintained where no evidence available to support higher target. Other targets amended.</p>
<p>3 - Consistency with the CSF, the Partnership Agreement, the relevant country specific recommendations adopted in accordance with Article 121(2) TFEU and where appropriate at national level, the National Reform Programme</p>	<p>1. One instance of potential risk is captured under UP1, SO3 relating to permanent cessation. Permanent cessation would not support employment. Other measures aimed at diversification and employment mean it is not a significant conflict overall.</p> <p>2. Linkages between the EMFF priorities and the CSF objectives could be clearer.</p>	<p>1. UK is no longer intending on including permanent cessation within the OP.</p> <p>2. References to the CSF added to the strategy.</p>
<p>4 - Rationale for the forms of support proposed in the programme (Article 66 CPR)</p>	<p>1. Alternative forms of support are more complex to establish, but could help weaknesses that have been identified. The DA managing authorities should retain the option to introduce alternative forms of support. It may be sensible to introduce a UK level scheme to pool sufficient funds and lessen administrative burden.</p>	<p>1. It is the UK's intention to introduce Financial Instruments (FIs) with the detail being added to the OP once the ex-ante assessment of need for FIs has been completed.</p>
<p>5 - Human resources and administrative capacity and the management of the programme</p>	<p>1. Concerns that the data collection budget is too high.</p> <p>2. Difficult to determine if ring fenced amount for enforcement is adequate.</p> <p>3. Concerns that budget is not sufficient for marine planning.</p>	<p>1. Data collection budget was set by the Commission using the criteria set in the regulation and will ensure the implementation of data collection obligations in the future.</p> <p>2. Enforcement budget was set by the Commission using the criteria set in the regulation.</p>

Topic	Recommendation	How was the recommendation addressed, or why was it not taken into account
		3. IMP budget was set by the Commission using the criteria set in the regulation. Funding can also be accessed from other ESIFs and under alternative EMFF Union Priorities.
6 - Procedures for monitoring the programme and collecting the data necessary to carry out evaluations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rationale for estimated values for the results indicators incomplete. 2. Guidance proposes that result indicators should be provided per Specific Objective not just at Union Priority level. 3. Reduction of result indicators to allow more focus. 4. Output indicators do not capture all Specific Objectives. If omitted justification/rationale for doing so would be beneficial. 5. Chapter covering the indicator framework would benefit from a covering chapter. 6. Description of rationale for choice of indicators could be stronger. 7. Update numbering. 8. No mention of the e-system in the evaluation plan. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Now complete. 2. Result indicators have been provided by specific objective in table 3.2. 3. This has been done across a number of specific objectives. 4. The UK has tried to use indicators that reflect the policy aims of the entire UK, and have a reasonable number of measures against them. Principles used to select output indicators have been set out. 5. This is covered elsewhere in document. 6. Extra detail added. 7. Updated. 8. Reference now included.
7 - Measures to promote equal opportunities between men and women, prevent discrimination and promote sustainable development	1. Consider how the programme can be used to promote equal opportunities more strongly and demonstrate the UK's commitment to it via the monitoring and evaluation activity. 2. More references to sustainability could be made throughout the document	1. The UK has set out how it will ensure the promotion of equality in section 9.1.1 of the OP. Alongside publicity material and guidance; consideration of how projects will promote equal opportunities will be included when developing the selection criteria. 2. Additional references added.
8 - Measures taken to reduce the administrative burden on beneficiaries	1. There is a lack of fisheries science representation in the PMC membership. This may be a weakness given the focus on innovation and partnerships but	1. The UK is inviting the Centre for the Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas) to join the PMC. There will be

Topic	Recommendation	How was the recommendation addressed, or why was it not taken into account
	perhaps reflects the potential for conflicts of interest.	opportunities for other science bodies to join the PMC where and when appropriate. Where knowledge gaps in others areas are identified the PMC will invite other organisations to join.
9 - Requirements for the Strategic Environmental Assessment	1. Programme is deemed adequate in terms of its commitment to sustainable development but it is recommended that the contribution of the Programme to Sustainable Development is made clearer throughout the OP	1. Further references to sustainability have been incorporated.

2. SWOT AND IDENTIFICATION OF NEEDS

2.1 Swot analysis and identification of needs

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

Strengths

1. Good fisheries science. In particular Welsh Universities have a good link with the fishing industry and are recognised for producing good quality research.
2. Diversity of species, many of which are being fished at sustainable levels – with strong industry commitment to recovery.
3. Experienced, flexible and adaptable workforce in some parts of the UK. Young entrants are starting to come through in the last 2-3 years in areas such as Cornwall and Northern Ireland. Evidence from Scotland shows that the Scottish fishing industry employs a proportionate number of younger workers compared to the Scottish and UK labour force[1].
4. Small scale fishing provides employment opportunities and economic activity in peripheral communities in Scotland.
5. Some sectors, for example pelagic, scallop and creelers, and fleet segments are profitable.
6. Some regional fisheries are quite targeted – not much by-catch.
7. Strong fishermen’s organisations.
8. Ability to collaborate for funding by working together in Producer Organisations (POs).
9. Some capacity for capital investment.
10. Willingness to consider diversification within and out-with the fishing sector.

[1] Page 8 <http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0045/00459484.pdf>

Weaknesses

1. Economic difficulties are being faced by some parts of the fleet, for example falling or static productivity in the static gear and Nephrops segments.
2. Diversity of species may itself be a weakness, as under present management rules (landing obligation), quota may not exist to allow effective exploitation of the mixed fishery.
3. Data gaps, with science and resource limitations and therefore potential management challenges.
4. By-catch and discards reducing but still a challenge.
5. Mixed fisheries may make Maximum Sustainable Yield (fMSY) management sometimes difficult and some stocks are fished above fMSY or are in decline or under threat.
6. Fishing activity can have impacts on the marine environment and the catching sector

can suffer from reputational issues in some respects.

7. Over dependence on nephrops in Northern Ireland.
8. Older vessels tend to be less efficient at catching with higher maintenance and repair costs, while profitability is such that for many fishermen, the cost of a new vessel is prohibitive. Other costs include; oil, days at sea, quota, regulatory – possible cost of discards restrictions. Fuel prices are particularly high in Northern Ireland.
9. Barriers for new entrants in some parts of the UK.
10. Poor record on health and safety due to dangerous nature of occupation.
11. Lack of confidence for smaller scale members of the industry to invest and difficulties for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs) in accessing finance.
12. Poor co-ordination and ability to build on image, heritage and new opportunities – mainly for small scale vessels of which the majority are in England.
13. Vulnerable business model in some areas – reliance on few species and few market niches.
14. Habitats improvements are required for freshwater fisheries including removal of barriers to fish migration.

Opportunities

1. Innovation, pilot trials and incentives to support transition to sustainable fisheries and the delivery of CFP targets on Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) and discards.
2. Encourage improvements to marketing organisations in the fisheries sector to drive competitiveness, value adding and co-operation – both locally and nationally.
3. Support opportunities which use established and emerging marine knowledge to diversify into emerging sectors.
4. More opportunities for inshore fisheries – for some segments of the industry.
5. Broader engagement in data collection and collaboration with scientists: CFP research, Marine Protected Areas (MPA) management, and the general restoration of marine biodiversity and ecosystems. Good marine science base in some regions – underutilised by the fisheries sector currently.
6. Knowledge transfer / exchange within the industry and between the industry and others.
7. Investing in renewable resources to limit reliance on fossil fuels. Reduction of energy costs through innovation, particularly important for Northern Ireland where energy costs are highest in UK.
8. Make fishing more of a career of choice and build capacity and capability within fishers in terms of fisheries science, management and business opportunities of a more joined-up supply chain.

Threats

1. Loss of critical mass to maintain local infrastructure – linked to rising costs, lower profitability and failure to retain personnel.
2. Continued stock declines and overfishing despite CFP reforms – only a problem in some segments or areas.
3. Potential imbalance between catching capacity and catching opportunity in some

- segments of the fleet, as identified in the UK Annual Fleet Capacity Report.
4. Difficulty for new entrants to obtain quota, track record, etc. and challenges for those already in the industry from cost increases in fuel, leasing etc.
 5. Long term impact of climate change.
 6. Negative public perceptions relating to the impact of commercial fishing on marine conservation.
 7. Market prices declining (impact of large multiple or continental buyers) cited.
 8. Perception of competition for resources, lack of sufficient involvement in marine planning (MPAs, renewables, macroalgae, leisure).
 9. MSY and discard ban are challenging and possibly more costly e.g. mixed fisheries and impact on current quota management systems. Larger numbers of fishermen in England, because of a higher percentage of small scale fishers, presents a challenge in ensuring they all adapt to the landing obligation.
 10. Too much diversification risks loss of experience from the workforce.
 11. Austerity measures affect ability to match-fund EMFF (whether public or private).

Identification of needs on basis of the SWOT analysis

Commercial fisheries will remain an important sector in the UK, and CFP reform and improved management approaches will help to stabilise stocks and enhance sustainability, hopefully leading to increased output and profit. Key needs include:

- Innovating and incentivising in key areas of CFP reform, including MSY issues relating to mixed fisheries, and the landing obligation through technical and practical approaches to the reduction of discards (gear selectivity and, technical spatial measures trials for successful mixed fisheries management and the move towards an eco-system based approach) and adaptations to landing sites.
- Innovative development of new fisheries management approaches will be required to address challenges such as choke species and mismatch between quotas and distribution of stocks. Innovative thinking is required relating to new quota systems, the concept of balanced harvesting and a shift to regional-based decision-making across the EU.
- Support to embed regional approach to management and Advisory Councils.
- Ensuring key skills and critical infrastructure are preserved during transitional phases and encouraging diversification into other activities in the marine environment and addressing barriers to new entrants.
- Support for improving business opportunities through independently assessed fishery certification, access to credit and other forms of financing, resilience of operators who depend on few species and on board improvements to improve value of catches.
- Support for adaptation to climate and other environmental change.
- Improve supply chain mechanisms and market access, with a view to value adding and delivering higher prices to fishermen.
- Investing in science and fostering increased collaboration between science / management and the commercial sector – participatory research and species survivability research.
- Encouraging active collaboration in all areas relating to marine planning, integrated coastal zone management and the creation and management of marine protected areas.

- Improved habitats for freshwater fisheries.

SWOT analysis consistency with the Multiannual National Strategic Plan for aquaculture

Applicable to Union Priority 2 and 5 only.

SWOT analysis consistency with the progress to achieve good environmental status through the development and implementation of MSFD

To achieve Good Environmental Status (GES) the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) requires that populations of all commercially exploited fish and shellfish are within safe biological limits, exhibiting a population age and size distribution that is indicative of a healthy stock (Descriptor 3). The SWOT analysis states that in the UK there is good fisheries science, strong industry commitment to recovery of species and many species are being fished at sustainable levels. By-catch and discards are reducing but still pose a challenge. Mixed fisheries may make MSY management difficult and some stocks are fished above MSY or are in decline or under threat. Despite good fisheries science there are still data gaps and resource limitations in this area.

UK approach for EMFF Union Priority 1 is focused on supporting the fishing industry to comply with CFP reform, in particular to the landing obligation and delivering MSY. Achievement of targets for many of the MSFD Descriptors, including Descriptor 3, will depend on successful implementation of fisheries management measures. It is acknowledged that there is overlap between CFP and MSFD and that its implementation will play a critical role in supporting GES. EMFF will support fisheries management through funding selective gear requirements and establishing regional cooperation within the UK and with other Member States via co-operatives and network building.

UK approach under Union Priority one will also support the management of Natura 2000 sites. The SWOT analysis identified that there is opportunity for broader engagement in data collection and collaboration with scientists with regard to Marine Protected Area (MPA) management and the general restoration of marine biodiversity and ecosystems. There is also a perception in the industry of competition for resources due to factors such as MPAs. EMFF will be used to develop a robust evidence base to support the management of MPAs, including Natura 2000 sites. Support for gear selectivity, which will assist the industry to comply with CFP reform, will also support the alleviation of damage to benthic habitat MPAs as well as mitigating by-catch for sites designated for birds and marine mammals.

Specific needs concerning jobs, the environment, climate change mitigation and adaptation and promotion of innovation

Jobs

Employment in the fisheries catching and aquaculture sectors, together with import and export trade, support a significant processing sector and provide employment and economic activity in many coastal and rural fisheries areas. The SWOT analysis identified that commercial fisheries will remain an important sector in the UK. However economic difficulties are being faced by some parts of the fleet, and the need for diversification into other activities, which may require reskilling, in the marine environment has been recognised. Alongside this it is important to ensure that key skills are preserved because of ageing crews, in particular during transitional phases. In addition, to comply with the landing obligation, many fishermen will have to learn new skills to utilise on board equipment and maximise the potential of what they catch. Jobs may also be supported through measures that reduce costs and increase profitability and support marketing and processing. Profitable and successful businesses are key in supporting employment opportunities. The improvement of the skill set through the capture, production and supply chain is vitally important to improve the economic and environmental sustainability of the sector. Support will deliver tailored training, learning and exchange of best practice projects which are not available through wider programmes or funding through the ESI Funds.

Environment

The role commercial fisheries can play in supporting environmental needs relates to the protection of fish stocks and, therefore, support the aims of the MSFD. The SWOT identified that the sector would need support in key areas of CFP reform, including MSY issues relating to mixed fisheries and technical and practical approaches to the reduction of discards. Support in this area will take the form of gear selectivity and technical spatial measures trials. The sector would need to actively collaborate in all areas relating to marine planning, integrated coastal zone management and the creation and management of marine protected areas. In addition, the SWOT identified that support for research would be required to support these aims. For example, there is a need for species survivability research, increased collaboration between scientists and the commercial sector and more evidence-based management.

Climate change mitigation and adaptation

The SWOT identified that some parts of the fleet are ageing. Investing in projects aimed at improving the energy efficiency of vessels and engines will contribute to the mitigation of climate change. The SWOT also identified that support will be needed for adaptation to climate change. Increases in extreme weather could be supported through improved safety and mutual funds. Climate change may impact the distribution of species and therefore the industry will be required to be adaptable. Research and innovation will be needed to respond

to these changes in distributions. An increase in research and support for diversification could contribute to alleviating the impact on the sector.

Promotion of innovation

To enable the sector to successfully adapt to CFP reform, innovation in gear selectivity has been identified as a need but the need for innovation goes wider than this. It encompasses a re-think of broad areas of fisheries management, including the single-stock quota system, quota exchange systems, eco-system-based management, exploration of the concept of balanced harvesting and a shift to regional-based decision-making across the EU. Support for the achievement of GES under MSFD could also be supported by innovation linked to the conservation of marine biological resources, for example through pot design projects and limiting by-catch.

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

Strengths

1. Continuity of quality, specification and price of supplies - the ability to plan predictable production.
2. Environmental footprint is low.
3. Existing farms are well regulated and traceable (assured quality).
4. Technically innovative, well trained staff.
5. Large companies in some areas and therefore an ability to invest – but limited to some parts of the sector. Salmon farming can readily finance further development, whereas sectors such as shellfish face more challenges.
6. Clear growth targets to 2020.
7. Well established mussel production industry in Wales.
8. Scotland is the largest producer of Atlantic salmon in the EU. Aquaculture helps sustain economic growth in the rural, coastal and island communities of the north and west of Scotland.

Weaknesses

1. Lack of collaboration; no Producer Organisation (PO) in some areas.
2. Economic challenges for some parts of the sector, therefore difficult to obtain funding (including match funding for EMFF).
3. Limitations on remaining near shore sites. Aquaculture in more exposed sea areas is not yet proven and requires further research and development and investment capacity.
4. Industry perception of a lack of capacity building by government, and unresponsive planning / regulatory system, with limited understanding of the key issues / needs of

the sector.

5. Vulnerability to health / disease / water quality challenges. Relatively small scale of the industry limits investment in the development of veterinary medicines.
6. Ability to meet future demand due to slow rate of industry growth versus increasing demand for seafood.
7. Reliance on wild seed (mainly mussel farming).
8. Lack of technical innovations allowing new profitable business opportunities to be developed/ exploited.
9. Smaller companies have a lack of investment capacity, especially for loan capital.
10. Lack of regulatory support (and understanding of) the sector and its requirements, in terms of new developments and in certain parts of the UK, where aquaculture is not currently well established.

Opportunities

1. Possibility of PO or Inter-branch Organisation (IBO).
2. Development of knowledge and sharing of 'best practice' to meet demands of a growing sector.
3. Skills development in areas such as understanding legislation, animal health and welfare and disease control.
4. Growing demand / need for seafood in EU28 and wider; heavy dependence on seafood imports from third countries, therefore import substitution.
5. Aquaculture is widely seen as a future source of seafood security.
6. Collaboration with other marine industries (co-location; aquaculture in MPAs).
7. Diversification opportunities: Blue bio-tech ; integrated multi-trophic aquaculture ; more shellfish ; marine renewables; marine agronomy and marine bio-fuels.
8. Diversification from bottom culture based mussel production to ropes in Wales.
9. Potential for new species with national provenance, e.g. charr.
10. Research and Development (R&D) and innovation supports progress: health; containment; feed sustainability.
11. New technologies open up new production opportunities (e.g. more exposed sites; better seed supply; more environmentally friendly juvenile production).
12. Supporting environmental objectives through reproduction programmes.
13. Collaboration with other marine industries, e.g. using fishing sector skills in more exposed locations and possible synergies with renewables sector.
14. World-leading expertise offers 'knowledge export' potential – from industry and from UK's academic institutions.
15. Improvements in predator control.

Threats

1. Costs of inputs rise (e.g. feed ingredients, whether sustainable or traditional; fuel and energy).
2. Competition from low-cost third country imports.
3. New diseases emerge or are introduced by others i.e. non-native species threatening farmed animals.

4. Norovirus;; lack of science; monitoring threatening human health.
5. Water quality issues, pollution and harmful algal blooms arising from a new impact i.e. climate change.
6. Negative publicity incidents that damage image and investment opportunities.
7. Unpredictable weather events increase and damage infrastructure.
8. High start-up costs.
9. Lack of availability of skills and training in a growing sector.
10. Welsh oyster industry concerns regarding the availability of good quality spat/juveniles.
11. Challenging market situation for shellfish aquaculture in Scotland including distance from market, financing and processing capacity.

Identification of needs on basis of the SWOT analysis

UK aquaculture will continue to grow, particularly in Scotland in the first instance, but quite possibly across other parts of the UK if new initiatives are supported. Such growth will contribute to the needs of EU28 for sustainable seafood supplies to 2020 and beyond. The key needs of the sector include:

- Innovation and research into:
 - Reducing potential impacts on other sectors, e.g. sea lice and escapes with respect to wild salmonids; use of licensed therapeutants; interaction with predatory species.
 - Development of sustainable (sometimes non-traditional) raw material sources for 'fed' aquaculture species.
 - Technical developments (including pilot scale projects) that open up commercially viable new productive areas – including pen-based and large scale mollusc opportunities. This includes investment in blue biotechnology.
 - Reducing reliance on variable wild seed supplies.
 - Water quality improvements in all aquaculture areas, but especially shellfish.
- Partnering in (using core expertise) developments in non-food aquaculture: marine agronomy; marine bio-fuels.
- Development of knowledge exchange and ensuring availability of skilled labour in growing sector. Alongside this ensuring skills are maintained and updated via training and knowledge sharing.
- Working closely within the general activity of marine spatial planning. This links with work particularly under Union Priority 1.

- Provision of working capital as well as fixed capital support for some parts of the sector, through the use of financial engineering.
- In the longer term, possible co-production (co-location) with other marine sector developments.
- Better-inform regulators and other public sector bodies, and possible investment into studies concerning the regulatory framework in different parts of the UK.
- Creation of Producer Organisations where needed, and support for production and marketing plans.

SWOT analysis consistency with the Multiannual National Strategic Plan for aquaculture

The Multiannual National Strategic Plan (MNSP) for the development of sustainable aquaculture sets out the current position of the industry in the UK and the future challenges it faces. Similarly, the EMFF SWOT and analysis provides the current position of the industry, sets out the needs related to its weaknesses and threats and available opportunities. The SWOT analyses in both the operational programme and the MNSP are based on the same background information, industry consultation and dialogue between UK fishing administrations. The MNSP identifies four issues that need to be addressed to ensure industry growth and development: improving regulatory framework and related compliance support; ensuring aquaculture is integrated with spatial planning; enhancing the competitiveness of aquaculture and promoting a level playing field for aquaculture operators through supporting the setup of a Producer/Interbranch Organisations. Factors relating to each of these areas can be found in the SWOT and needs analysis and are being supported by the UK's strategy for aquaculture in the operational programme.

The UK aims to help address the challenges the industry face with regard to regulatory compliance, by providing support for advisory services of a technical, scientific, legal, environmental and economic nature via Article 49 and sharing of best practice – particularly confidence building – via Article 50. The industry will have access to the necessary expertise to make more informed decisions.

As part of the establishment of aquaculture sites operators will need to consider the development of Marine Plans in the UK, a plan-led system for marine activities that will provide for greater coherence in policy and a forward-looking, proactive and spatial planning approach to the management of the marine area, its resources, and the activities and interactions that take place within it. Marine Plans are developed by each Devolved Administration. The industry can contribute to the development of these Plans, and the consideration of aquaculture within them, by strengthening available data and evidence. The UK will be providing support to operators so that they can consider spatial planning as part of identifying and mapping suitable new aquaculture locations, via Article 51.

The UK aims to address the challenge of enhancing the competitiveness of aquaculture through innovative products and processes, aided by partnerships and research. Predominantly, Article 47 will support research into reducing potential impacts on other sectors, development of sustainable raw material sources, water quality improvements and

reducing reliance on variable wild seed supplies. Article 51 will also address this issue through supporting operators to open up commercially viable new productive areas.

The OP strategy supports the establishment of an aquaculture Producer Organisation or Interbranch Organisation through Union Priority 5, specifically Article 68 to assist the industry in improving its marketing intelligence. The industry has signalled that it is considering which type of organisation will meet their needs most effectively. Problems of industry cohesion, marketing, lack of technical capacity development (knowledge exchange), lack of research and development occur across the shellfish and aquaculture sectors. Both industries with an interest in forming either a PO/and or IBO will be required to develop robust cases of how funding would be utilised for the benefit of their wider sector. There are a variety of possible structures (species specific, industry specific etc.) which could aim to address all the major issues of market or industry cohesion and which fulfil Common Market Organisation (CMO) Regulation requirements. The industry will substantiate the case for a PO and/or an IBO.

SWOT analysis consistency with the progress to achieve good environmental status through the development and implementation of MSFD

In the UK the focus of Union Priority two funding is in the growth of the industry through improvements in technology, knowledge and co-operation, which aligns with the needs in the SWOT analysis. Aquaculture can have local impacts that could affect many MSFD descriptors. However, many of the impacts of aquaculture are at small scales (e.g. sedimentation and eutrophication) whereas MSFD is set up to manage ecosystems at a sub-regional scale. Therefore aquaculture is unlikely to affect the descriptors of GES unless a significant proportion of the sub-region is used for aquaculture, the region is enclosed or introduction of an alien species is a factor.

The SWOT analysis identifies aquaculture as a growing industry with the potential to be the future source of seafood security. This growth may benefit MSFD by delivering GES through more sustainable exploitation of commercial fish stocks (Descriptor 3). However the growth of the industry will bring with it the threat of new diseases and water quality issues. EMFF will be used to help mitigate this via support to innovation and research for the reduction of potential impacts on other sectors e.g. sea lice, escapes, use of licensed therapeutants and water quality improvements, issues which are also identified in the MNSP for aquaculture. MSFD may provide potential benefits to aquaculture through reduction of contaminants in fish and seafood (Descriptor 8 and 9) and reduction in marine litter (Descriptor 10) that can affect marine cages. The SWOT analysis has identified the reproduction of species for environmental benefits via aquaculture as an opportunity, and EMFF will be used to support this. Support in this area will also aid compliance with the provisions outlined in Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.

Specific needs concerning jobs, the environment, climate change mitigation and adaptation and promotion of innovation

Jobs

Aquaculture continues to offer good prospects for increasing seafood sustainability in the future and it is expected to continue to grow as an industry. Development of the sector could increase or maintain employment through opportunities in fish farming directly and in the processing sector. The SWOT analysis did not identify specific needs for employment in the aquaculture industry but instead the expectation that the high level of growth expected in the sector would be supported by the availability of information sharing, networking opportunities, and the development of knowledge and skills.

Environment

The SWOT analysis did identify that innovation and research will be required to assess the impact of aquaculture on other sectors e.g. sea lice and escapes with respect to wild salmonids. Research into innovation in aquaculture which reduces the impact on the environment, increases sustainable use of resources and new sustainable production methods will be required. The SWOT also identified the need to move to further exposed sites which is linked to closer working within the general activity of marine spatial planning. There is also a need for water quality improvements in all aquaculture areas.

Climate change mitigation and adaptation

The aquaculture sector has a low environmental footprint and therefore the continued growth in this sector should not negatively impact climate change. The SWOT analysis identified that in the longer term co-production and co-location with other marine sector developments would be a possibility. This more collaborative approach could contribute further to reduced carbon emissions. The SWOT identified that the sector could be negatively impacted by climate change through increased water quality issues and harmful algal blooms. The SWOT recognised these as a threat alongside the impact of unpredictable weather events damaging infrastructure. Support for research and innovation in the industry could assist in mitigating these impacts.

Promotion of innovation

Innovation is a key area of supporting growth in aquaculture and therefore the promotion of it is essential. The SWOT analysis and the Multiannual National Strategic Plan for Aquaculture have identified this. Innovation and research into reducing impacts on other sectors, development of sustainable raw material sources for 'fed' aquaculture species, new production areas, blue biotechnology, reduction on the reliance of variable wild seed supplies, marine agronomy and marine bio-fuels are some of the areas where support is needed. The EMFF provides measures that can assist in addressing these needs and will be supported by the UK.

Union priority

3 - Fostering the implementation of the CFP

Strengths

Data collection

1. There is a strong tradition of delivering high quality fisheries science and data collection in the UK. This involves the marine laboratories across all fisheries administrations, the Environment Agency, economists and statisticians with lengthy experience of the Data Collection Framework (DCF).
2. UK Government, its science advisers Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS), Marine Scotland Science (MSS), Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI) and its policy makers have a reputation for innovation and a keen understanding of the role the fishing sector plays in the UK economy and way of life.
3. UK institutions benefit from significant in-house experience in fisheries statistics and have an experienced IT development team which continuously look to improve the efficiency of data supply and data quality.
4. The DCF is coordinated by a strong team comprising members from all partners involved in implementation.
5. Institutions collaborating to develop and apply best practice and methodologies for the collection of biological variables within the UK among the different laboratories both within the UK and at international level (International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) working groups).

Control and enforcement

1. Good examples of collaboration between fishers and regulators in UK, e.g. real time closures.
2. Committed, knowledgeable and well trained regulatory / inspection bodies in UK.
3. Good collaboration between UK fisheries regulatory bodies, e.g. Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities (IFCAs), Environment Agency (EA), Devolved Administrations (DAs).

4. UK has a highly developed system established to control Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing (IUU) with a “best in class” approach to catch certification.
5. Engine power monitoring system has been implemented across the UK and is being incorporated into business as usual.
6. UK has delivered required level of involvement in Specific Control and Inspection Programmes (SCIPs).
7. UK has created capability to establish informal coordinated inspection plans outside of the structure of an SCIP.

Weaknesses

Data collection

1. Continued downward pressures on human resources.
2. Provision of economic information in the UK is not underpinned by primary legislation meaning that suppliers are not obliged to provide this to UK authorities but authorities are obliged to supply this to data users.
3. Meeting data supply obligations for diadromous species (eels and salmon) and recreational fishing is difficult and expensive due to the dispersed nature of these activities.
4. Difficult to fund and govern inshore fisheries data collection / science /management: an important but fragmented sector.
5. No clear strategy for extending data collection to additional stocks and limited resources to do so.

Control and enforcement

1. Continued downward pressures on human resources.
2. Weaknesses with regard to implementing the traceability (for the small scale fleet) and transport documentation requirements as set out in the Control Reg and detailed rules.
3. Difficulties in monitoring the activities of the small scale fleet due to its disparate nature.
4. Fishermen are uncertain about the validity of scientific advice.
5. Delays in full implementation of the extensions of Electronic Reporting and Recording Systems (ERS) and Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) and other elements of the control regulation, and industry trust in new ways of working is still being built.
6. Existence of separate regulatory bodies across the UK, and a newly established UK single authority, creates a risk of inconsistencies in application of enforcement.
7. Difficulty in maintaining trust and working relationships with a highly fragmented industry particularly at times of major change, e.g. CFP reform.
8. Regulatory burden in the UK because of devolution.
9. There could be difficulty monitoring some stocks at MSY, for control purposes, including, but not limited to, stocks in mixed fisheries and stocks with limited data

- currently available.
10. Difficulty of getting industry and multi-Member State buy-in to installation of electronic monitoring equipment on vessels.

Opportunities

Data collection

1. Improvement of IT solutions to meet current and anticipated requirements under DCF.
2. Closer regional cooperation between Member States and harmonisation of data collection is expected to lead to more efficient use of financial and staff resources.
3. Greater integration of data managers and end users.
4. Improved collaboration between economists, biologists and data collections to ensure that the impacts of the revised CFP are understood and its objectives achieved.

Control and enforcement

1. Regional fisheries management will help the UK to implement control and enforcement measures that are equivalent to those used in other regional member states, helping to ensure a level playing field and equitable treatment of vessels prosecuting the same stocks.
2. Improve traceability (for the small scale fleet) as set out in recent discussions with the Commission.
3. More complete information on activity as a result of introduction of the landing obligation.
4. Joint working with other Government Agencies, such as Border Force, National Maritime Information Centre, Police, Coastguards.
5. Use of new technologies to improve fisheries compliance.
6. Opportunity to use Article 15 of Reg. 768/2005 to establish coordination of actions via European Fisheries Control Agency when needed for fisheries not covered by a multi-annual plan and any associated SCIP if identified as needed (e.g. under the landing obligation).

Threats

Data collection

1. The DCF is implemented across the four UK countries and involves several UK agencies which presents a danger of fragmented delivery.
2. The change in the funding regime for the DCF presents new challenges with regard to the way funds are managed across UK administrations.

3. An increase in scope of DCF obligations may lead to further increases in reporting burdens.
4. Uncertainty about economic sustainability issues (see SWOT for commercial fishing sector) places risk on industry's ability / willingness to collaborate on data collection and with new management regimes.
5. Availability of public expenditure to fund reforms, data collection and management / control.
6. Developing tensions between traditional fisheries science and emerging 'ecological approach' science; difficulties in interpreting climate change science.

Control and enforcement

1. Complexities of the regulatory environment and quota management system under the landing obligation, and increasing mismatch between quota and stock distribution, lead to reduced industry cooperation and compliance and lack of agreement between fishers and public sector scientists.
2. Resource pressures may worsen.
3. Review of Control Regulation does not reduce or increases burden on regulatory bodies.
4. Lack of acceptance of benefits / necessity of spatial restrictions (e.g. MPA, renewables, etc.) by fishers creating tensions and undermining collaborative efforts.

Identification of needs on basis of the SWOT analysis

Key needs for data collection and control and enforcement include:

- Data to monitor and evaluate the sustainability of fishing and impacts on fish stocks and coastal communities to fulfil DCF requirements.
- Activities which foster improved co-operation between public-sector science and the experience resident within the industry, between Devolved Administrations, and between economists and biologists to improve data collection processes.
- Regional decision-making and enforcement, based on high quality evidence, should be actively promoted and supported by all actions taken under Articles 76 and 77.
- More efficient cooperation between UK regulatory bodies including through improved IT and surveillance systems to mitigate downward resource pressures.
- Improved controls on traceability (for the small scale fleet) as part of the implementation and embedding within business as usual all required elements of the Control Regulation, plus improved data collection on the small scale fleet.
- Fully embrace the benefits from introduction and further development of technology to both industry and regulators to offset the downward pressure on resources for regulatory bodies, for example ERS, VMS and satellite surveillance.
- Adapt or purchase surface and aerial surveillance assets, under close collaboration across agencies and regulatory bodies to better meet the needs of CFP reform.

- Develop and implement innovative techniques to support CFP compliance –
 - (a) Provide tools and technology to monitor activity that minimises the burdens on industry and regulators, including improving traceability across all vessels, through the supply chain and specific measures needed under the landings obligation element of CFP reform.
 - (b) Develop systems to process and analyse data captures on industry activity to maximise the exchange of data between member states and its exploitation as intelligence to guide regulatory action.
- Improve knowledge via increased collaboration across member states on key compliance requirements including joint operations and sharing of best practice. Continue investment in skills and knowledge across regulatory and inspection bodies and maintain current level of resources in implementation of SCIPs to ensure this remains a strength.
- Seek to maintain a ‘level playing field’ across EU industries with regard to control and enforcement.

SWOT analysis consistency with the Multiannual National Strategic Plan for aquaculture

Applicable to Union Priority 2 and 5 only.

SWOT analysis consistency with the progress to achieve good environmental status through the development and implementation of MSFD

The SWOT identified a weakness in traceability and monitoring activities for the small scale fleet. It also identified that there could be difficulty managing some stocks at MSY where there is limited data available for certain species. Alongside this, the SWOT identified an opportunity for improved data collection IT systems. Data on the marine environment is required to implement MSFD and will be used to assess fish stock levels, therefore improvements in these areas will assist in achieving GES, and specifically support MSFD Descriptor 3 – populations of all commercially exploited fish and shellfish being within safe biological limits. Control and enforcement of restrictions put in place to support the management of stocks will be important in ensuring its success.

Opportunities were also identified for more complete information on activity as a result of the introduction of the landing obligation, a measure which will contribute towards achieving GES. In addition, improvements to fisheries compliance through surveillance assets will assist in better meeting the needs of CFP reform and GES.

Specific needs concerning jobs, the environment, climate change mitigation and adaptation and promotion of innovation

Jobs

The aims and objectives of Union Priority 3 will have a negligible impact on employment. In the UK control and enforcement and data collection needs are carried out by civil servants. The SWOT analysis did note that there is continued downward pressure on resources but staff are well trained and knowledgeable. It is anticipated that more efficient cooperation between UK regulatory bodies will assist in mitigating these pressures.

Environment

The SWOT analysis identified improved controls on traceability for the small scale fleet as a need. The improvement in traceability of produce is important in maintaining sustainability in the industry and therefore the achievement of GES under MSFD. The SWOT also highlighted difficulties in monitoring the activities of the inshore fleet and in implementing the MSY approach to some single and mixed fisheries. As with traceability, the need for effective monitoring of fleets and compliance with CFP reform will assist in ensuring that exploitation of fish stocks are at a sustainable level. The SWOT identified a need for data to monitor and evaluate the sustainability of fishing and impacts on fish stocks and coastal communities.

Climate change mitigation and adaptation

Increased cooperation between UK regulatory bodies may lower the carbon footprint of such activities, for example through fewer vessels collecting data. Data collection may also assist in better understanding the impact of climate change on the distribution of species and changeable fishing patterns.

Promotion of innovation

There is opportunity for innovation in the IT solutions for data collection. Many of the IT systems in use pre date the data collection framework, some of these are now under revision to better meet future requirements. Under control and enforcement there is opportunity to promote innovation in control practices, for example development of technology relating to

CCTV or vessel monitoring systems.

Union priority

4 - Increasing employment and territorial cohesion

Strengths

1. The UK has an extensive coastline, with good catches of a varied range of fish species.
2. Rich and varied natural coastline with excellent wildlife and scenery / quality marine wildlife, bio-diversity and environments.
3. Maritime expertise in traditional skills.
4. Attractive towns and harbours for tourism e.g. Cornwall. Many of which also have a strong maritime and cultural heritage.
5. Entrepreneurship inherent in coastline communities.
6. Good educational establishments (Colleges, Universities, Centres of Excellence) linked to Communities e.g. Newcastle University is a Centre of Excellence for Fisheries.
7. UK interest in the production of locally produced food.
8. Good port infrastructure.
9. The fishing industry provides employment opportunities in remote locations.

Weaknesses

1. Decline of traditional fishing industries - linked to low rates of start-ups, below average earnings, skills retention, an ageing population and residents tend to out-migrate for work.
2. Remoteness of Coastal Communities e.g. high transport costs of getting catch to the market and difficulties in competing successfully in labour and product markets.
3. Difficulty for Coastal Communities to maximise benefits of the supply chain e.g. gaining access into key markets, largely due to the dominance of supermarkets. Some rural communities also face a lack of business advice.
4. Lack of collaboration efforts: supply-chains & marketing and public campaigns.
5. Cash flow management and obtaining access to investment Finance / Capital and match funding is difficult for SMEs. In addition, the small scale nature of funding available deters the number of projects that can make a significant impact. This is relevant to both Union Priority 1 and Union Priority 4 because FLAGS will provide guidance to fishermen on business management.
6. From previous experience under EFF, there is an unwillingness within the Industry to engage on Axis 4; reasons cited were due to the complexity of form filling, belief that EMFF monies should support only the fishing sector itself, disillusionment in the system, and CFP.
7. Tendency for parochialism and / or community apathy.
8. Lack of local awareness of local assets and limited exploitation of coastal assets.
9. Property: high cost residential property and lack of suitable commercial premises near harbours prevent fishermen from living in the community in which they work. High levels of deprivation and need for regeneration in many areas can make coastal

communities less desirable locations to live and visit.

10. Lack of focus on niche markets, such as direct supply of high quality produce to upscale restaurants, particularly for small scale fishermen. Niche markets can increase the price of produce and are less competitive.
11. The amount of paid work done in coastal communities is depressed by seasonality and part time working is more prevalent in coastal communities than elsewhere – only a weakness when the employee is not seeking part time employment. The average gross annual salary for fishing and aquaculture is below the average salary for all sectors.
12. Some coastal areas are struggling to make structural economic changes and business stock and start up rates in coastal communities are slightly below average.

Opportunities

1. Growth in the interest of food of local provenance, in particular fresh seafood. The interest is already a strength but there is opportunity for increased growth.
2. Getting young people into the industry, however, this comes with a threat of how do new entrants get access to available quota.
3. Skills development, modern apprenticeships and re-skilling to meet new sectoral and market needs and capitalising on transferable skills whilst maintaining traditional skills.
4. The fishing industry can create jobs that would be accessible to lower skilled members of the labour force at entry level, who might be most at risk of deprivation.
5. Maximising benefits for the reliability of the supply chain and fostering of innovation in the supply chain, exploiting new markets and products.
6. Access to Financial Engineering Instruments to assist businesses with working capital.
7. Blue growth economy is a key opportunity i.e. diversification into non-food activities (offshore renewables). Benefits of diversification should accrue to Coastal Communities.
8. Co-operation and joint working between FLAGs and other local action groups to increase efficiency of local development policies.
9. Protected Landscapes and Marine Protected Zones providing protection to rare, threatened and valuable habitats and increasing potential recreation activity, improvement of fish stocks and safeguarding the protection of the UK's marine heritage.

Threats

1. Increasing transport costs impacts profitability of local economy given distance to main markets.
2. Social and economic concerns relating to smaller vessels being displaced from local fishing grounds following establishment of Protected Landscapes and MPAs. A reduction in the amount of available environment for fishers and traditional operations may lead to a reduction in employment opportunities without a comparable increase in new opportunities, for example Irish Sea nephrops.
3. Higher entry costs in the future may discourage new entrants into the industry, which will impact the employment opportunities the industry can provide.

4. Reduced fishing opportunities leading to loss of employment opportunities - loss of local services, infrastructure and employers.
5. Fewer job opportunities because processors leave the UK to seek cheaper or more highly skilled labour.
6. Impact of global warming and climate change on coastal communities (i.e. coastal erosion and movement of fisheries).
7. Competition for land (for development), labour (workforce) and capital (finance for investment) from other sectors threatening fisheries related opportunities in communities.
8. An increasing mis-match between community aspirations and private and public sector capacity and resources.

Identification of needs on basis of the SWOT analysis

UK fisheries areas remain vital for the provision of infrastructure, support services and the workforce for the (sustainable) catching sector. These communities are also vital in their own right, yet are often located in remote coastal / rural areas where there has traditionally been little other source of primary employment. Key needs are:

- High quality local action plans.
- Professional input to FLAGs (Fisheries Local Action Groups).
- Greater efficiency in running of FLAGs e.g. merging FLAGs with LAGs where appropriate.
- Investment in training, maintaining and developing skills.
- Infrastructure investment to create new economic opportunities – capacity building.
- Local marketing and supply chain logistics.
- Addressing social deprivation issues in fishing communities.
- Securing the sustainable growth of local SMEs.
- Support for diversification e.g. into coastal tourism and renewables and innovative new practices in the fishing industry or outside.
- Ensuring access to match funding and co-finance.
- Clarifying issues on complementarity of EU funds.

SWOT analysis consistency with the Multiannual National Strategic Plan for aquaculture

Applicable to Union Priority 2 and 5 only.

SWOT analysis consistency with the progress to achieve good environmental status through the development and implementation of MSFD

The UK focus for Union Priority four is the promotion of economic growth and employment in coastal communities. The impact of Union Priority four on the achievement of GES under

MSFD is expected to be minimal. The SWOT analysis indicates that the reduction of fishing opportunities is a threat to coastal communities but there are opportunities in diversification to other activities. The achievement of GES through maintenance of biological diversity (Descriptor 1) and the wider aim of MSFD to restore marine ecosystems may support increased diversification opportunities based on marine resources e.g. whale watching, sports diving and tourist sea fishing. The achievement of GES through ensuring populations of commercially exploited fish and shellfish are within safe biological limits will provide long term support for fishing communities by ensuring stocks are managed in a sustainable manner.

Specific needs concerning jobs, the environment, climate change mitigation and adaptation and promotion of innovation

Jobs

The SWOT analysis identified that UK fisheries are potentially threatened by a reduction in scale of commercial fishing. Fishing communities are often located in remote coastal areas where there has traditionally been little other source of primary employment. Some of the needs identified that relate to employment under this Union Priority are: investment in training and re-skilling; infrastructure investment to create new economic opportunities; sustainable growth of SMEs and support for diversification. The objectives of local development strategies will support these needs.

Environment

One of the needs identified within the SWOT analysis is facilitating the adaptation to requirements of marine and coastal designated sites. In addition there is a need for training and education aspects to FLAG projects, this may include how fishermen can best adapt to the environmental challenges they face including compliance with CFP reform.

Climate change mitigation and adaptation

FLAGs will be well placed to identify the challenges fishermen face with regard to the local effects of climate change e.g. coastal erosion, decline in particular species in some areas and proliferation of other species, and how best they can be met within the region or local area they occupy. FLAGs are also well placed to identify how efficiencies can be found in local areas through collaborative practices; this may have a positive impact on a carbon footprint.

Promotion of innovation

The CLLD strategy in the UK will seek to ensure that FLAGs will support a fisherman or SME seeking to diversify into an innovative practice or innovate within the fishing industry.

Union priority

5 - Fostering marketing and processing

Strengths

1. Strong international reputation for some UK companies.
2. Strong processing industry in the north east of England and Scotland. Humberside and Grampian regions accounted for 38% of sea processing units and 52% of FTEs in 2014.
3. Strong POs in the UK in terms of quota management.
4. Commitment of companies (families).
5. Technical skills and ability to innovate in parts of the sector.
6. Ongoing trend in improving skills and best practices.
7. Increasing trend towards sustainability and traceability credentials – certification / accreditation.
8. The capacity to consolidate and modernise still exists.
9. Good business support from a range of organisations, for example training opportunities via Seafish, guidance from local government and trade unions.

Weaknesses

1. Availability and continuity of supply (including the seasonal nature of some fisheries); dependence on supply of raw materials and high vulnerability to a limited number of species. Within the fishing and fish processing industry there is rarely clarity of communication between catcher and processor (in wild fish) on the quantity, quality and timing of stock that will be landed when it is due for the open market.
2. A Seafish study looking at the processing industry found that in certain locations a variety of technical skill-sets were in low supply including: skilled primary processing operators (e.g. filleting, shucking, etc.), food scientists, product developers, nutrition specialists, safety specialists, food technologists, and software designers. It also highlighted that there is a perception by some that there is anticipated to be a labour shortage in the future due to insufficient young workers entering the market
3. Size of fish landed and limited outlets for some products, e.g. small haddock.
4. Transport infrastructure difficult in some areas for example island based locations in Scotland. Traffic congestion for deliveries and despatch, conflict with retail and office workers; logistics often uneconomic for small processors to target small number of customers, and smaller operators increasingly under economic/structural pressures.
5. High energy costs, particularly in Northern Ireland.

6. POs lack expertise in marketing and processing.
7. Some large industrial units are reaching their waste handling capacity limit and some small businesses are in poor quality premises scheduled for redevelopment.
8. Cost of complying with legislation.
9. Low investment returns make the industry less appealing and reduce the number of processors and processing capacity in the UK.
10. Fragmented sector in terms of small scale vessels and aquaculture (in England).

Opportunities

1. Innovative processing technology to improve yield and productivity, and reduce costs (especially energy).
2. Promotion of regional Seafood Industry to raise awareness of Local Wild Seafood – quality labels and assurance schemes. This is linked to the increased demand for quality local products highlighted under Union Priority 4.
3. Supply chain improvements – efficiency, environmental footprint, knowledge about products, driving competitiveness, value adding and co-operation. Specifically, collective purchasing (energy, transport, packaging) and possibility of sharing premises to reduce overheads. Training can also be used to assist companies to comply with Environmental Health and export administration; training in areas such as quality, technology and marketing.
4. Competition with other proteins if animal feed grain prices rise and the cost of those proteins goes up accordingly.
5. Sale of additional landings as a result of the discard ban (undersize fish for non-direct human consumption and unfamiliar species) and increases in aquaculture.
6. Producer Organisations focus Production and Marketing Plans (PMPs) on implementation of Landings Obligation to promote and assist compliance and support the better management of fishing activities and marketing.
7. Increasing focus on healthy diets.
8. Business Partnerships to offer range of products.
9. Training to assist companies comply with Environmental Health Officer and exporting administration; training in areas such as quality, technology, marketing.
10. Organic restructuring within the sector, but also restructuring within downstream sectors such as food service.
11. Seafood trade is increasingly global and the most traded food commodity in 2013, if this trend continues it provides opportunities for UK businesses.
12. Processing industry provides vital job opportunities in remote locations, for example on the Scottish coast. It also provides opportunities for women in a male dominated industry.
13. Restructure or merge existing POs to increase their competitiveness and improve their expertise.

Threats

1. Other countries processing seafood more cheaply than the UK.
2. Traders displacing fish from UK; fish quota transferred to large companies; large

- companies (such as supermarkets) controlling supply chain.
3. Loans for working capital become more difficult.
 4. Competition for labour from other sectors in some areas.
 5. Major suppliers of, for example, boxes, transport and other supporting services withdrawing from industry.
 6. EU28 production (fishing and farming) not keeping pace with demand, and raw material imports from third countries possibly becoming more difficult / expensive.
 7. Increasing environmental costs / regulation.
 8. Food scares, resulting in image issues for seafood.
 9. Zero discard policy may change fish availability profile. While this is an opportunity, it is also a potential threat to the industry if not managed correctly through PMPs and processing activity.

Identification of needs on basis of the SWOT analysis

Processing and marketing of UK-origin fisheries and aquaculture products is an essential component of the seafood supply chain, from ‘port to plate’, and adds value and maintains employment and economic activity in the UK. Continuity of operations also requires the ability to access imported raw materials in some circumstances. The sector has geographic, logistical and infrastructure challenges, some of which must be met by normal business evolution and some of which could be assisted through EMFF-funded activities. Key needs are:

- Improved communications and collaboration throughout the supply chain. This links with needs under Union Priority 1.
- Improved co-ordination of marketing and promotion activities for UK and regional products and support for marketing of unfamiliar species to ensure successful adaptation to CFP reform.
- Increased collective purchasing (energy transport packaging). This should reduce costs throughout the supply chain and result in greater profitability for the sector as a whole.
- Independently assessed fishery certification.
- Improve the competitiveness of the POs and increase their role in marketing and production, including specialist support for PMPs and consideration of CFP reform within the PMPs.
- Creation of a PO for the small scale fleet and either a PO or IBO for aquaculture sector in England depending on the business case put forward by the sector.
- Technical / market innovations in: processing technology; opportunities for utilising by-catch and unfamiliar species; improved utilisation of less than perfectly-sized fish; stabilisation of fishery products landed in locations remote from processing capacity.
- Technical innovation in environmental footprint reduction and energy consumption.
- Staff training in emerging quality / environmental health issues and skills development.

SWOT analysis consistency with the Multiannual National Strategic Plan for aquaculture

The MNSP for aquaculture identifies the value of market intelligence and marketing in improving the growth of the aquaculture industry and the role Producer Organisations can play in providing capacity and support to achieve these ends. The MNSP identifies the need for the industry to form an aquaculture Producer Organisation in England. This is supported by the SWOT analysis and it is one of the priorities for EMFF in supporting the growth of the industry in England.

SWOT analysis consistency with the progress to achieve good environmental status through the development and implementation of MSFD

The focus of Union Priority 5 in the UK is improving the market organisation for fishery and aquaculture products and investing in the processing and marketing sectors. Therefore the impact of Union Priority 5 on the achievement of GES will not be considerable but may be affected by the exploitation of non-MSY species in response to consumer demands. However, the achievement of GES through ensuring populations of commercially exploited fish and shellfish are within safe biological limits will provide long term support for fishing by ensuring stocks are managed in a sustainable manner. This will then support the long term future of the processing and marketing sectors.

The implementation of CFP will play a crucial role in supporting the achievement of GES through gear selectivity, eliminating discards, spatial restrictions and limits on landings. The marketing and processing sectors will be fundamental in ensuring that fish landed because of the landing obligation can be fully utilised, as identified in the SWOT analysis. If fishermen have a market for everything they catch it should act as an incentive to comply with CFP reform.

Specific needs concerning jobs, the environment, climate change mitigation and adaptation and promotion of innovation

Jobs

The SWOT analysis identified that processing and marketing of UK-origin fisheries and aquaculture products is an essential component of the seafood supply chain which maintains employment and economic activity in the UK. The SWOT also identifies the need for POs to take a greater role in marketing activities, which may impact on employment opportunities. It was identified that there is a lack of a skilled workforce in this sector and POs lack expertise in marketing and processing, but there is an ongoing trend in improving skills and best practice.

Environment

The SWOT analysis identified that there is a need for support of independently assessed fishery certification. This has a similar impact on the environment as that related to traceability, mentioned within Union Priority 3, that certification is important to maintaining sustainability in the sector. Support to market unfamiliar species will assist in ensuring that the fleet complies with the landing obligation.

Climate change mitigation and adaptation

The climate change impact in the marketing and processing sector relates to the efficient running of the process. The SWOT identified the need for increased collaboration throughout the supply chain and support for collective purchasing. Alongside reducing costs for the industry, this may lead to the sector having a lower carbon footprint. The impact of climate change on distribution of species may also require the processing and marketing sector to adapt.

Promotion of innovation

The impact of the landing obligation will promote technical and market innovations in processing technology, opportunities for utilising by-catch and unfamiliar species and improved utilisation of less than perfectly sized fish. The SWOT analysis also identified the need for technical innovation in environmental footprint reduction and energy consumption.

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

Strengths

1. Strong support for Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP Directive 2014/89/EU) within the UK.
2. UK is one of leading countries on implementation of the MSFD.
3. UK has legislation and policy processes in place to deliver MSP and is actively implementing it. There is a highly coordinated approach across the UK (via the legislation and Marine Policy Statement).
4. UK marine plans (maritime spatial plans) will encompass consideration of land-sea

interactions, trans-boundary coherence between marine plans and other requirements set out under the EU MSP Directive and UK legislation.

5. Active and effective stakeholder engagement with and participation in marine planning processes by a wide range of stakeholders.
6. Marine Plans support UK duties to conserve and enhance the marine environment, ensuring that marine developments are at levels which allow the sustainable use of marine ecosystems. Marine Plans take account of proposed and existing designations and contain policies which support these designations and the Marine Protected Areas network.
7. UK has a very strong, well-coordinated marine evidence community that supports implementation of MSFD and MSP.

Weaknesses

1. Limited capacity of some stakeholders or sectoral representatives to engage in marine planning processes, particularly in a cross-sectoral way.
2. Lack of evidence or baseline data (on more 'straightforward' information such as distribution of resources but especially more difficult or complex issues such as cumulative impacts or future analysis).
3. Knowledge gaps remain in our understanding of the marine environment and marine ecosystem processes.
4. Lack of monitoring for some key elements of the marine environment.

Opportunities

1. Improved data and evidence gathering to support the development of Marine Plans and MSFD-related monitoring, assessment, and measures, including conservation measures under the Habitats Directive that meet the requirements of MSFD.
2. Monitoring requirements under MSFD and the Habitats and Birds Directive are broad; there is scope for the requirements to be mutually supportive. Information available through marine planning could provide evidence that management, conservation objectives or boundaries of MPAs may need to be revised.
3. Improved development of Marine Plans through better integration between MSP, and terrestrial planning and other plans in a way that contributes to wider Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM). Identification and dissemination of best practice and expertise including amongst stakeholders and communities and not just authorities. Improved coherence across Marine Plan boundaries; between England Marine Plan areas, across UK Administration boundaries and with other Member State Marine Plans; across MSFD indicators and targets, including at Regional Sea Convention Level.
4. More in depth assessment of the impact of Marine Plans than minimum required to enhance lessons learned and inform the on-going development of Marine Plans; and in England to inform the iterative development and implementation of the programme of Area Marine Plans as it is rolled out to 2021.
5. Requirement for monitoring and regular review should lead to further continuous development and improvement of UK Marine Plans (Maritime Spatial Plans), better

integration of policies, sectoral interests and use of marine plans to inform decision-making. Where appropriate this can include the adoption and application of new technologies and surveillance actions.

6. Planning for local specificity to maximise benefits.
7. Reconnect coastal communities to the marine environment.
8. Increase stakeholder buy-in and engagement and thereby improve local marine and coastal stewardship.
9. Identification of new and innovative uses of marine resources leading to economic benefits (Blue Growth).

Threats

1. Marine planning/MSFD is not sufficiently prioritised within the UK in the future, resulting in a lack of dedicated resource or specialist expertise to ensure that Marine Plans/MSFD outcomes are delivered within deadline(s).
2. Failure to secure input from gaps in stakeholder representation or maintain engagement of active stakeholders.
3. Loss of stakeholder confidence in MSP if expected results are not delivered.
4. Insufficient evidence or capacity to ensure plans are local and specific enough to realise demonstrable benefits.
5. Inability to resolve conflicts or optimise opportunities.
6. Changing or conflicting policies and priorities.
7. Risk of unrepresentative stakeholder engagement given MSP is new and breadth of interests.
8. MSP is relatively new both in terms of the overall policy and the approach being taken. This may result in unrealistic stakeholder expectations of what can be achieved, particularly in the first iteration of Marine Plans.
9. The introduction of MSP will bring together for the first time a range of policy objectives and/or priorities for marine areas. This may initially result in competing or conflicting policies and/or priorities (including EU initiatives).

Identification of needs on basis of the SWOT analysis

Putting in place effective MSFD measures and an effective, open and transparent and inclusive marine planning process to ensure sustainable development of the marine environment requires:

- Support for active and representative stakeholder engagement at local and national levels including the enabling of longer lead in times and earlier engagement by all stakeholders to identify issues. Development of plans and measures that have sufficient local specificity to maximise local benefits but balanced against wider/national considerations and policies.
- Improved understanding of the marine environment and on the relationship between the pressures and impacts on marine ecosystem components. Research and/or collection of data and evidence to address knowledge gaps to enhance the benefits

they can provide.

- Development of baselines, monitoring programmes, targets and indicators against which to measure and demonstrate actual benefits of marine planning and MSFD measures.
- Ensuring improved coordination and coherence both at a national and international level.
- Socio-economic and environmental benefits leading to sustainable development and how this contributes to sustainable economic growth of coastal communities.

SWOT analysis consistency with the Multiannual National Strategic Plan for aquaculture

Applicable to Union Priority 2 and 5 only.

SWOT analysis consistency with the progress to achieve good environmental status through the development and implementation of MSFD

In the UK the focus of Union Priority 6 is the development and implementation of Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) and MSFD. The SWOT analysis indicates that in order to successfully put in place effective MSFD measures, an improved understanding of the marine environment is required through development of baselines, monitoring programmes, targets and indicators against which to measure and demonstrate actual benefits of MSFD. EMFF support for MSFD under UP6 will focus on this activity. In addition the SWOT analysis identified that improved coordination and coherence both at national and international level is required, which is an important aspect of the objectives of MSFD. The UK published the Marine Strategy Part Two in July 2014 which sets out the monitoring programmes that will be used for the eleven descriptors of GES. The programmes are adaptive in nature and EMFF will be used to support more complex issues as well as filling knowledge gaps.

UP6 will also focus on the delivery of effective MSP. Improved integration between MSP and terrestrial planning was identified as an opportunity in the SWOT analysis for: ensuring more joined-up thinking about and planning for land-sea interactions and the sustainable development of the marine environment; contributing to the achievement of GES in UK marine areas and achieving GES in neighbouring European Seas. EMFF support for MSP will benefit the aims of the Habitats Directive and Birds Directive through early identification of impacts on the environment from use of space.

Specific needs concerning jobs, the environment, climate change mitigation and adaptation and promotion of innovation

Jobs

The SWOT analysis did not identify any specific issue linked to employment. However,

Marine Spatial Planning can impact on employment. For example, Marine Protected Areas may be considered to negatively affect certain industries and have a positive impact on others. Factors relating to employment are considered as part of the development of Marine Plans.

Environment

The UK is committed to achieving GES of UK marine waters. The SWOT analysis identified that full implementation of MSFD requires improved understanding and development of certain elements of the marine environment. This requires support to address known knowledge gaps, research to develop cost effective, scientifically sound monitoring programmes, research to assess the efficacy of measures, and development of suitable targets and indicators. In addition, the SWOT identified that to ensure sustainable development of the marine environment, an effective marine planning process will require, amongst other measures, support for research and data collection, support for improved coordination and coherence, and active and representative stakeholder engagement.

Climate change mitigation and adaptation

An improved understanding and development of certain areas of the marine environment through increased research and monitoring programmes, as mentioned in the previous environment section, will assist in assessing the impact of climate change. The marine planning process will play a role in the UK's transition to a low carbon economy. Where relevant, UK Marine Plans will contain objectives relating to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, by, for example, permitting offshore low-carbon energy infrastructure and helping people to adjust their behaviours to enable them to adapt to the challenges of a changing climate.

Promotion of innovation

The SWOT analysis identified that there is opportunity for new and innovative uses of marine resources leading to economic benefits (Blue Growth). The needs identified for support to collect evidence to inform marine plans and enhance the benefits they provide and support to demonstrate socio-economic benefits will contribute to this. Innovation in data collection and monitoring methods will also be an important component in implementing MSFD requirements.

2.2 Context indicators presenting the initial situation

Union priority		1 - Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based fisheries				
Context indicator presenting the initial situation	Baseline year	Value	Measurement unit	Source of information	Comment / Justification	
1.1.a - Fishing fleet (number of vessels)	2014	6,422.00	number of vessels	Community Fleet Register as of 1/1/2014 (UK Fleet Capacity Report 2013)		
1.1.b - Fishing fleet (kW)	2014	800,686.00	kW	Community Fleet Register		
1.1.c - Fishing fleet (GT)	2014	197,683.00	GT	Community Fleet Register		
1.2 - Gross value added per FTE employee	2012	44.20	thousand Euros per FTE employee	STECF - The 2014 Annual Economic Report on the EU Fishing Fleet (STECF 14-16)	Data are as provided for the annual economic data call for the DCF and included in the latest published report. 2013 data was not available when information collated for indicators.	
1.3 - Net profit	2012	155,200.00	thousand Euros	STECF -The 2014 Annual Economic Report on the EU Fishing Fleet (STECF 14-16)	Data are as provided for the annual economic data call for the DCF and included in the latest published report. 2013 data was not available when information collated for indicators.	
1.4 - Return on investment of fixed tangible assets	2012	27.80	%	STECF -The 2014 Annual Economic Report on the EU Fishing Fleet (STECF 14-16)	Data are as provided for the annual economic data call for the DCF and included in the latest published report. 2013 data was not available when information collated for indicators.	
1.5.a - Indicators of biological sustainability - sustainable harvest indicator	2013	4.00	number	Indicators (STECF-14-09) Segments with indicator above 1	STECF tables provide details by fleet segment and stock and are provided in the reports http://stecf.jrc.ec.europa.eu/documents/43805/747643/2014-06_STECF+14-09+-+Balance+indicators_JRC90403.pdf and http://stecf.jrc.ec.europa.eu/documents43805/55543/2014-06_STECF+14-09+-+Balance+indicators_all+tables_JRC90403.zip	
1.5.b - Indicators of biological sustainability - stocks-at-risk indicator	2013	23.00	number	Indicators (STECF-14-09) Segments with indicator of >0	STECF tables provide details by fleet segment and stock and are provided in the reports http://stecf.jrc.ec.europa.eu/documents/43805/747643/2014-06_STECF+14-09+-+Balance+indicators_JRC90403.pdf and http://stecf.jrc.ec.europa.eu/documents43805/55543/2014-06_STECF+14-09+-+Balance+indicators_all+tables_JRC90403.zip	
1.6 - Fuel efficiency of fish capture	2012	433.00	litres fuel/ tonnes landed catch	STECF - The 2014 Annual Economic Report on the EU Fishing Fleet (STECF 14-16)		
1.7.a - Extent of the	0	0.00	%	N/A	Data is not yet available. The UK is developing and testing the extent of physical damage to predominant and	

Context indicator presenting the initial situation	Baseline year	Value	Measurement unit	Source of information	Comment / Justification
seabed significantly affected by human activities for the different substrate types					special habitats indicator. This is included under the MSFD Marine Strategy part 1 as the Vulnerability/impacts habitats indicator. This is an OSPAR indicator for the North Sea and Celtic Sea regions. The UK is still processing the habitat and fishing pressures layers. The first round of assessments is due by the end of 2015.
1.7.b - Rates of incidental catches of cetaceans in fisheries	2013	0.02	by-catch per unit effort	Annual report on the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 812/2004 during 2013.	The UK has used data relating to catch of porpoises in 6 gillnet metiers across 2010 – 2013 as this provides the most accurate data for the UK.
1.8.a - Number of employed (FTE) including male and female	2012	9,868.00	FTE	STECF - The 2014 Annual Economic Report on the EU Fishing Fleet (STECF 14-16)	
1.8.b - Number of employed (FTE) female	0	0.00	FTE	N/A	No gender split is available and data are not collected.
1.9.a - Number of work-related injuries and accidents	2012	260.00	number	Marine Accident Investigation Branch-Department for Transport	2012 figure used here for consistency with figures published in STECF reports
1.9.b - % of work-related injuries and accidents to total fishers	2012	2.60	%	Marine Accident Investigation Branch-Department for Transport	2012 figure used here for consistency with figures published in STECF reports
1.10.a - Coverage of Natura 2000 areas designated under the Birds and Habitats directives	2014	74,012.00	Km ²	Joint Nature Conservation Committee	
1.10.b - Coverage of other spatial protection measures under Art. 13.4 of the Directive 2008/56/EC	2014	69,485.00	Km ²	Joint Nature Conservation Committee	

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

Context indicator presenting the initial situation	Baseline year	Value	Measurement unit	Source of information	Comment / Justification
2.1 - Volume of aquaculture production	2013	203,288.00	tonnes	CEFAS Eurostat Return – January 2015	
2.2 - Value of aquaculture production	2013	896,800.00	thousand Euros	CEFAS Eurostat Return – January 2015	
2.3 - Net profit	2012	77,500.00	thousand Euros	Final Report STECF 14-18: EU Aquaculture sector	
2.4 - Volume of production organic aquaculture	2013	6,505.00	tonnes	Scottish Fish Farm Production Survey 2013 (http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2014/10/7776)	Organic production figures only available for Scotland
2.5 - Volume of production recirculation system	2013	386.00	tonnes	CEFAS for UK Fisheries Administrations	
2.6.a - Number of employed (FTE) including male and female	2012	2,704.00	FTE	Final Report STECF 14-18: EU Aquaculture sector	
2.6.b - Number of employed (FTE) female	2012	359.00	FTE	Final Report STECF 14-18: EU Aquaculture sector	

Union priority	3 - Fostering the implementation of the CFP
-----------------------	--

Context indicator presenting the initial situation	Baseline year	Value	Measurement unit	Source of information	Comment / Justification
3.A.1 - Total number of serious infringements in the MS in the last 7 years	2014	1,208.00	number	UK Fisheries Administrations	Figures reflect 2008 - 2014
3.A.2 - Landings that are subject to physical control	2014	12.00	%	UK Fisheries Administrations	
3.A.3.a - Existing resources available for control - Control vessels and aircrafts available	2014	44.00	number	UK Fisheries Administrations	24 wholly owned fisheries patrol vessels plus 3 RN patrol vessels under charter 15 wholly owned RIBs 2 maritime surveillance aircraft (charter)
3.A.3.b - Existing resources available for control - Number of employed (FTE)	2014	610.00	FTE	UK Fisheries Administrations	
3.A.3.c - Existing resources available for control - Budgetary allocation (evolution last 5 years)	2014	32,751.00	thousand Euros	UK Fisheries Administrations	£25,220,000 transferred to Euros using the exchange rate of 1.2986. Figure reflects an average spend by England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland from 2010 - 2014.
3.A.3.d - Existing resources available for	2015	1,012.00	number	UK Fisheries Administrations	

Context indicator presenting the initial situation	Baseline year	Value	Measurement unit	Source of information	Comment / Justification
control - Vessels equipped with ERS and/or VMS					
3.B.1 - Data Collection Measures - Fulfilment of data calls under DCF	2014	100.00	%	UK Fisheries Administrations	

Union priority	4 - Increasing employment and territorial cohesion
-----------------------	---

Context indicator presenting the initial situation	Baseline year	Value	Measurement unit	Source of information	Comment / Justification
4.1.a - Extent of coastline	2014	12,429.00	Km	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and Marine Management Organisation	
4.1.b - Extent of main waterways	2014	4,957.00	Km	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and Marine Management Organisation	
4.1.c - Extent of main water bodies	2014	920.90	Km ²	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and Marine Management Organisation	

Union priority	5 - Fostering marketing and processing
-----------------------	---

Context indicator presenting the initial situation	Baseline year	Value	Measurement unit	Source of information	Comment / Justification
5.1.a - N° of Pos	2013	24.00	number	UK Fisheries Administrations	
5.1.b - N° of associations of POs	2014	0.00	number	UK Fisheries Administrations	There are no APOs as defined by Reg. No 1379/2013
5.1.c - N° of IBOs	2014	1.00	number	UK Fisheries Administrations	Data is specific to Seafood Scotland.
5.1.d - N° of producers or operators per PO	2013	37.00	number	UK Fisheries Administrations	
5.1.e - N° of producers or operators per association of POs	0	0.00	number	N/A	There are no APOs as defined by Reg. No 1379/2013
5.1.f - N° of producers or operators per IBO	2015	7.00	number	UK Fisheries Administrations	Data is specific to Seafood Scotland
5.1.g - % of producers or operators member of PO	2013	44.00	%	UK Fisheries Administrations	
5.1.h - % of producers or operators member of association of POs	0	0.00	%	N/A	Data is not held by UK Fisheries Administrations.
5.1.i - % of producers or operators member of IBO	2015	43.00	%	UK Fisheries Administrations	Data is specific to Seafood Scotland. Calculation reflects percentage of producers that are members of this Inter-branch Organisation against the total number of producers in the UK.
5.2.a - Annual value of turnover of EU marketed production	2013	566,220.52	thousand Euros	UK Fisheries Administrations	
5.2.b - % of production placed on the market	2013	75.00	%	UK Fisheries Administrations	

Context indicator presenting the initial situation	Baseline year	Value	Measurement unit	Source of information	Comment / Justification
(value) by POs					
5.2.c - % of production placed on the market (value) by association of POs	0	0.00	%	N/A	There are no APOs as defined by Reg. No 1379/2013
5.2.d - % of production placed on the market (value) by IBOs	2015	0.00	%	N/A	Although Seafood Scotland are designated an IBO, they don't formally place any products on the market. They concentrate on providing the market intelligence and wider planning aspects for the Scottish POs, all of which are represented on the Board of Seafood Scotland.
5.2.e - % of production placed on the market (volume) by POs	2013	79.00	%	UK Fisheries Administrations	
5.2.f - % of production placed on the market (volume) by association of POs	0	0.00	%	N/A	There are no APOs as defined by Reg. No 1379/2013
5.2.g - % of production placed on the market (volume) by IBOs	2015	0.00	%	N/A	Although Seafood Scotland are designated an IBO, they don't formally place any products on the market. They concentrate on providing the market intelligence and wider planning aspects for the Scottish POs, all of which are represented on the Board of Seafood Scotland.

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

Context indicator presenting the initial situation	Baseline year	Value	Measurement unit	Source of information	Comment / Justification
6.1 - Common Information Sharing Environment (CISE) for the surveillance of the EU maritime domain	2014	70.00	%	Maritime Data Supply-Demand Matrix from the Technical Advisory Group on Integration of Maritime	
6.2.a - Coverage of Natura 2000 areas designated under the Birds and Habitats directives	2014	74,012.00	Km ²	Joint Nature Conservation Committee	
6.2.b - Coverage of other spatial protection measures under Art. 13.4 of the Directive 2008/56/EC	2014	69,485.00	Km ²	Joint Nature Conservation Committee	

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE STRATEGY

3.1 Description of the strategy of the Operational Programme

Key needs identified in the SWOT

The SWOT identified that maintenance of a significant and sustainable fisheries sector (including aquaculture and processing) is the long term goal. This goal faces challenges relating to the health of wild fish stocks (meeting the challenges of the landing obligation and MSY targets will be key to achieving this), but also in relation to specific aspects of aquaculture and processing. The following key needs for the sector were identified:

- A smooth transition to sustainably managed discard-free fisheries (supported by innovation and incentives assisting technical aspects of CFP reform)
- Maintenance of skills, expertise, equipment and infrastructure, and diversification where appropriate, so that the industry can adapt efficiently and effectively to CFP reform
- Facilitation of innovation throughout the sector
- Improved efficiency in the supply chain reducing costs and increasing profitability
- Adaptation to climate and other environmental change
- Ensuring the long-term integrity of the UK's rich and biodiverse marine environment
- Identification of additional sustainable production capacity and new sites for aquaculture
- Support for the marketing sector to ensure it can reinforce the efforts to implement CFP reform
- Support for enforcement and data collection obligations

While there are differences between (and, indeed, within) England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, these needs were grouped into four broad policy goals, under which key objectives for delivery have been developed.

Overarching strategy for delivery

In order to deliver the objectives set out under the four policy goals set out below and encourage growth across the industry more generally, an overarching strategy has been developed for delivery. This sits above, and will help steer, the specific measures selected to have a significant impact on the aims of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth in fisheries and coastal communities.

The UK's strategy aims to focus the EMFF on delivering targeted strategic interventions to provide long term benefits and growth to the industry. In addition, the fund will continue to support those steady state measures which are essential to creating a competitive and self-sustaining industry that can successfully implement CFP reform.

A diagram setting out the overarching strategy can be found in an attachment to the OP.

Alongside the needs identified in the SWOT analysis and recommendations from the ex-ante evaluators, the UK's Operational Programme was developed with the Europe 2020 strategy in mind as well as the MNSP for aquaculture as follows:

Smart Growth

In order to adapt to the requirements of the new CFP, foster the growth of the industry, and ensure its long-term sustainability, the use of EMFF funding to support research, innovation and training initiatives is essential. All parts of the UK will target funding at research and innovation projects. It is also essential that the results of such funding are effectively disseminated within the sector, and translated into tangible results on the ground.

The UK intends to fund a broad range of training initiatives aimed at addressing the themes discussed in its Needs Assessment. It is also envisioned that applicants should include training activities as part of broader projects. This will ensure that beneficiaries possess the correct professional skills to ensure that maximum value is achieved through EMFF-funded projects.

Sustainable Growth

One of the key outcomes of the EMFF in the UK will be a fisheries sector that makes more efficient use of resources, is sustainable in terms of socio-economic and environmental factors, and which supports implementation of the MSFD through a healthier marine environment with improved biodiversity.

The fund will also be targeted at creating an improved business environment for SMEs. These will be a particular target for investment, which in some cases may be delivered by means of financial instruments.

Inclusive Growth

The success of the EMFF in the UK depends on its impact on fisheries communities as much as its impact on the fisheries industry. As set out under 'smart growth', investment in skills and training will also form a key part of the UK's EMFF strategy.

Policy goals, key objectives and linkages to Union Priorities

1. Adapting the fisheries sector to the requirements of the reformed CFP

The new CFP will require adaptation across the fisheries supply chain, which the EMFF can be used to support. The support for the industry under this policy goal is linked to the Common Strategic Framework thematic objectives of enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs in the fisheries and aquaculture sector (TO3), promoting resource efficiency (TO6), and promoting sustainable and quality employment (TO8). Objectives to be achieved using EMFF include;

1. Transition to sustainably managed, discard-free fisheries

For example, the fund will be used to support the purchase of new gear for boats to help the fleet adapt to the requirements of the new CFP, and for sponsoring broader innovations in fisheries management, linked to the regional processes now underway.

This will deliver specific objectives 1.1 and 4.1.

2. Onshore support for this transition

This will include funding for adaptations to ports and markets so they are better equipped for the requirements of the new CFP. In addition funding will be available for the supply chain, including the marketing and processing sectors to increase the value of products, encourage greater sale and consumption of under-exploited species, and meet new consumer information and labelling requirements.

This will deliver specific objectives 1.4, 4.1 and 5.2.

3. Assistance to Producer Organisations

This will enable POs to adapt to their expanded role under the new CFP, by restructuring, merging existing POs and establishing new POs where a need has been identified e.g. the small scale fleet and aquaculture sectors in England.

This will deliver specific objective 5.1.

4. Assistance with technical aspects of CFP reform

This will take the form of upgrades to IT systems to allow public bodies to fulfil their obligations under the new CFP.

This will deliver specific objectives 1.5, 2.1 and 4.1.

5. Innovation in key areas of CFP reform

Funding will be made available for research projects that will assist the industry in its transition to the reformed CFP. Funding will also be available for projects that disseminate the benefits of these projects among the fisheries sector.

This will deliver specific objectives 1.5, 2.1 and 4.1.

These actions will support the UK's approach for implementation of the MSFD – for example, technical measures on selectivity of gear.

2. Fostering growth potential in key areas across fisheries, aquaculture and processing

The support for the industry under this policy goal is linked to the Common Strategic Framework thematic objectives of improving competitiveness of SMEs (TO 3), shifting towards a low carbon economy (TO 4), promoting resource efficiency (TO 6), and promoting sustainable and quality employment (TO 8). Objectives to be achieved using EMFF include;

1. Support the exchange of knowledge, innovative and technical developments and foster growth in commercial fisheries including inshore and small-scale fleets.

Examples include developing training and networking to facilitate the exchange of knowledge within the sector, and advisory services to assist businesses with their strategies. Innovation and technical developments in commercially viable new areas, and opportunities in fisheries, aquaculture and processing will be promoted to assist in fostering growth. For example, the EMFF will fund innovative research projects whose outcomes will add value to the sector. It will also fund the implementation of any innovations that result from these projects.

This will deliver specific objectives 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 2.1 and 2.5.

2. Investment in onshore infrastructure.

Support will be available for improvements that will aid compliance with the landing obligation under CFP reform, as mentioned in section A above. Support will also be available for the purpose of increasing the quality, control and traceability of landed produce. In addition, support will be available for improving energy efficiency and safety and working conditions. This will include capital investments in ports and

harbours to improve energy efficiency and support implementation of the landing obligation, as well as services further up the supply chain such as marketing and processing, to increase the value of products.

This will deliver specific objectives 1.1, 1.4, 1.5, 4.1, 5.1 and 5.2.

3. Join up and expansion of the aquaculture sector.

Support specifically for innovative projects in aquaculture to aid production expansion and increasing the potential of aquaculture sites to assist in fostering growth. In addition, assistance to create producer organisations to help resolve the fragmented nature of the sector. The MNSPA supports the objective for growth in sustainable aquaculture, and identifies the need for industry involvement in technological development to assist this. The need for opening up commercially viable new production areas will also aid growth in the industry, and is identified as an area for support in the MNSPA.

This will deliver specific objectives 2.2, 2.3, 4.1, 5.1 and 5.2.

4. Innovation and technical developments into new areas.

Support to develop and produce production and marketing plans and for technical innovations in processing technology to meet the need to create opportunities for utilising by-catch and unfamiliar species. Support will be available for certification schemes, market surveys, traceability projects and promotional campaigns.

This will deliver specific objectives 1.5, 2.1 and 5.2.

5. Assistance for SMEs with investment challenges

Support for SMEs experiencing investment challenges through improving the availability of financial instruments to them. This is in line with the European Commission's country specific recommendation to the UK to continue efforts to improve the availability of bank and non-bank financing to SMEs.

This will deliver specific objectives 5.1 and 5.2.

3.Supporting the increased economic, environmental and social sustainability of

the sector

Another over-arching theme that came from the needs assessment is the necessity to encourage the fisheries sector to become more sustainable. The support for the industry under this policy goal is linked to the Common Strategic Framework thematic objectives of; improving competitiveness of SME's (TO 3), moving towards a low carbon economy (TO 4), preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency (TO 6), and promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility (TO 8). Objectives to be achieved using EMFF include:

1. Minimisation of undesirable environmental impacts

This will occur as a result of many of the measures described above to adapt the sector to the requirements of the reformed CFP (such as gear selectivity as set out in A.1). In addition, funding will be used for projects that aim to protect and enhance marine biodiversity, and for improving stock levels of freshwater and migratory fish. These actions will also support the UK's approach to implementation of the MSFD – for example, sustainable management of stocks, achieving MSY, implementing the landing obligation and improved management of migratory fish. Funding will also be targeted at projects aimed at improving the energy efficiency of equipment (such as vessels, engines and equipment used by processors) to contribute to the mitigation of climate change.

This will deliver specific objectives 1.1, 1.2, 1.5, 2.1 and 2.3.

2. Investment in coastal communities and promotion of social cohesion

Investment through the Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG) network in the development and implementation of local action plans.

This will deliver specific objective 4.1.

3. Addressing capacity issues

There is a need to ensure balance between fishing capacity and available opportunities. Annual Fleet Capacity Reports and action plans will be used to this effect. The UK's Fleet Action Plan for 2014 sets out a range of measures, such as gear selectivity and the use of Total Allowable Catch (TAC) and quotas, which will be focused on those segments of the fleet where the Fleet Capacity Report has identified a potential imbalance between catching capacity and available stocks.

This will deliver specific objectives 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 and 4.1.

4. Support for health and safety measures.

Funding will be provided for projects that will improve health and safety on board vessels to a level above the statutory minimum. Funding will also be provided for projects aiming to improve the resilience of the sector to extreme weather and other events;

This will deliver specific objectives 2.1 and 2.5.

5. Support for Integrated Maritime Policy

This will take the form of funding to support the production of Marine Plans, which aim to balance the activities, resources and assets in our marine environment. This could include support to improve the knowledge of the marine environment to undertake an assessment of the marine area for each Marine Plan and/or related environmental assessments; this will also support monitoring of marine planning as a measure against achieving GES by 2020 under MSFD.

This will deliver specific objective 6.1.

6. Support for the Natura 2000 network and for the implementation of the MSFD in the UK.

This will take the form of investment to fill knowledge gaps and implement a Programme of Measures to achieve GES in UK waters.

This will deliver specific objective 6.1.

4. Fulfilling the UK's control and enforcement and data collection obligations

It remains necessary to ensure full implementation and enforcement of the Control Regulation and other control measures. UK objectives in this area include:

1. The development of IT tools and technologies to support control and enforcement. Existing IT systems must be upgraded and/or replaced to ensure that all required data may be collected, processed, stored and transmitted in an accurate and timely manner that takes account of legislative and technological advances.
2. The UK is keen to implement Remote Electronic Monitoring (REM) of fishing

operations in support of the Landing Obligation. This is intended to provide good coverage of the main high-risk fleet sectors and provide assurance of compliance by the UK fleet. The rollout of REM technology is subject to consideration of the final recommendations from regional groups.

3. Improved traceability of fisheries products, particularly in relation to the small-scale fleet, will require development, rollout and training in the use of technological solutions, which we envisage will be led by the catching and processing sectors.
4. There is a continuing need for training and development of inspection staff. This will ensure high standards across the UK, taking account of best available methods and skills across the UK and EU.
5. Playing a full and active part in the implementation of SCIPs and operations conducted under Article 15 of Regulation 768/2005 and maintaining the UK's present high level of compliance with enforcement of the IUU catch certification scheme.

UK data collection will be directed towards meeting obligations set out in the existing Data Collection Framework including: collection of biological data on fish stocks; data on fishing activity (capacity, effort, catches and landings) and social and economic data for marine fisheries, aquaculture and the processing industries.

Data collection will be adapted to respond to the new requirements of the reformed CFP including the following:

1. Facilitation of ecosystems based management;
2. Achievement of MSY;
3. Implementation of the landing obligation;
4. Assessment of impacts of fishing on food webs and habitats;

Additional data will also be required to meet an increased need for information on: the incidental capture of protected species (birds, marine mammals, turtles etc.), recreational fisheries and also socio-economic data. Data collection systems will be adapted or developed as necessary to meet the objectives under the revised DCF of improved data reliability, flexibility and availability.

This will deliver specific objectives 3.1 and 3.2.

3.2 Specific objectives and result indicators

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

Specific objective	1 - Reduction of the impact of fisheries on the marine environment, including the avoidance and reduction, as far as possible, of unwanted catches		
Result indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Not applicable
1.4.a - Change in		tonnes	✓

Specific objective	1 - Reduction of the impact of fisheries on the marine environment, including the avoidance and reduction, as far as possible, of unwanted catches		
Result indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Not applicable
unwanted catches (tonnes)			
1.4.b - Change in unwanted catches (%)		%	✓
1.5 - Change in fuel efficiency of fish capture	-33.00000	litres fuel/ tonnes landed catch	

Specific objective	2 - Protection and restoration of aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems		
Result indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Not applicable
1.5 - Change in fuel efficiency of fish capture	-33.00000	litres fuel/ tonnes landed catch	
1.10.a - Change in the coverage of Natura 2000 areas designated under the Birds and Habitats directives	2,047.00000	Km ²	
1.10.b - Change in the coverage of other spatial protection measures under Art. 13.4 of the Directive 2008/56/EC	25,884.00000	Km ²	

Specific objective	3 - Ensuring a balance between fishing capacity and available fishing opportunities		
Result indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Not applicable
1.3 - Change in net profits	0.00000	thousand Euros	
1.6 - Change in the % of unbalanced fleets		%	✓

Specific objective	4 - Enhancement of the competitiveness and viability of fisheries enterprises, including of small scale coastal fleet, and the improvement of safety or working conditions		
Result indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Not applicable
1.1 - Change in the value of production		thousand Euros	✓
1.2 - Change in the volume of production		tonnes	✓
1.3 - Change in net profits	3,819.79600	thousand Euros	
1.5 - Change in fuel efficiency of fish capture	-33.00000	litres fuel/ tonnes landed catch	
1.7 - Employment created (FTE) in the fisheries sector or complementary activities		FTE	✓
1.8 - Employment maintained (FTE) in the fisheries sector or complementary activities	1,346.47700	FTE	
1.9.a - Change in the number of work-related injuries and accidents	-219.22500	number	
1.9.b - Change in the % of work-related injuries and accidents in relation to total fishers	-5.00000	%	

Specific objective	5 - Provision of support to strengthen technological development and innovation, including increasing energy efficiency, and knowledge transfer		
Result indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Not applicable
1.1 - Change in the value of production		thousand Euros	✓
1.2 - Change in the volume of production		tonnes	✓
1.3 - Change in net profits	4,111.77000	thousand Euros	
1.5 - Change in fuel efficiency of fish capture	-33.00000	litres fuel/ tonnes landed catch	

Specific objective	6 - Development of professional training, new professional skills and lifelong learning		
Result indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Not applicable
1.7 - Employment created (FTE) in the fisheries sector or complementary activities		FTE	✓
1.8 - Employment maintained (FTE) in the fisheries sector or complementary activities	58.52300	FTE	
1.9.a - Change in the number of work-related injuries and accidents	-0.77500	number	
1.9.b - Change in the % of work-related injuries and accidents in relation to total fishers	-5.00000	%	

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

Specific objective	1 - Provision of support to strengthen technological development, innovation and knowledge transfer		
Result indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Not applicable
2.1 - Change in volume of aquaculture production	232.54300	tonnes	
2.2 - Change in value of aquaculture production	92.20300	thousand Euros	
2.3 - Change in net profit	80.63400	thousand Euros	

Specific objective	2 - Enhancement of the competitiveness and viability of aquaculture enterprises, including improvement of safety or working conditions, in particular of SMEs		
Result indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Not applicable
2.1 - Change in volume of aquaculture production	15,402.77800	tonnes	
2.2 - Change in value of aquaculture production	38,790.79700	thousand Euros	
2.3 - Change in net profit	9,068.36600	thousand Euros	
2.8 - Employment created		FTE	✓
2.9 - Employment	65.19800	FTE	

Specific objective	2 - Enhancement of the competitiveness and viability of aquaculture enterprises, including improvement of safety or working conditions, in particular of SMEs		
Result indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Not applicable
maintained			

Specific objective	3 - Protection and restoration of aquatic biodiversity and enhancement of ecosystems related to aquaculture and promotion of resource efficient aquaculture		
Result indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Not applicable
2.4 - Change in the volume of production organic aquaculture		tonnes	✓
2.5 - Change in the volume of production recirculation system	1.00000	tonnes	
2.6 - Change in the volume of aquaculture production certified under voluntary sustainability schemes		tonnes	✓
2.7 - Aquaculture farms providing environmental services	1.00000	number	
2.8 - Employment created		FTE	✓
2.9 - Employment maintained	2.11900	FTE	

Specific objective	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		
Result indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Not applicable
2.1 - Change in volume of aquaculture production	2.67900	tonnes	
2.2 - Change in value of aquaculture production	0.00000	thousand Euros	
2.4 - Change in the volume of production organic aquaculture		tonnes	✓
2.5 - Change in the volume of production recirculation system	0.00000	tonnes	
2.6 - Change in the volume of aquaculture production certified under voluntary sustainability schemes		tonnes	✓
2.7 - Aquaculture farms providing environmental services	0.00000	number	

Specific objective	5 - Development of professional training, new professional skills and lifelong learning		
Result indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Not applicable
2.8 - Employment created		FTE	✓
2.9 - Employment maintained	6.68300	FTE	

Union priority	3 - Fostering the implementation of the CFP
-----------------------	--

Specific objective	1 - Improvement and supply of scientific knowledge and collection and management of data		
Result indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Not applicable

Specific objective	1 - Improvement and supply of scientific knowledge and collection and management of data		
Result indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Not applicable
3.B.1 - Increase in the percentage of fulfilment of data calls	0.00000	%	

Specific objective	2 - Provision of support to monitoring, control and enforcement, enhancing institutional capacity and the efficiency of public administration, without increasing the administrative burden		
Result indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Not applicable
3.A.1 - Number of serious infringements detected	0.01000	number	
3.A.2 - Landings that have been the subject to physical control	12.00000	%	

Union priority	4 - Increasing employment and territorial cohesion
-----------------------	---

Specific objective	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		
Result indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Not applicable
4.1 - Employment created (FTE)	186.00000	FTE	
4.2 - Employment maintained (FTE)		FTE	✓
4.3 - Businesses created	15.00000	number	

Union priority	5 - Fostering marketing and processing
-----------------------	---

Specific objective	1 - Improvement of market organisation for fishery and aquaculture products		
Result indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Not applicable
5.1.a - Change in value of first sales in POs	653.29900	thousand Euros	
5.1.b - Change in volume of first sales in POs	0.00000	tonnes	
5.1.c - Change in value of first sales in non-POs	196.82100	thousand Euros	
5.1.d - Change in volume of first sales in non-POs	78.68900	tonnes	

Specific objective	2 - Encouragement of investment in the processing and marketing sectors		
Result indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Not applicable

Specific objective	2 - Encouragement of investment in the processing and marketing sectors		
Result indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Not applicable
5.1.a - Change in value of first sales in POs	4,686.70100	thousand Euros	
5.1.b - Change in volume of first sales in POs	6,130.00000	tonnes	
5.1.c - Change in value of first sales in non-POs	51,240.17900	thousand Euros	
5.1.d - Change in volume of first sales in non-POs	20,440.31100	tonnes	

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

Specific objective	1 - Development and implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy		
Result indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Not applicable
6.1 - Increase in the Common Information Sharing Environment (CISE) for the surveillance of the EU maritime domain		%	✓
6.2.a - Change in the coverage of Natura 2000 areas designated under the Birds and Habitats directives	25,000.00000	Km ²	
6.2.b - Change in the coverage of other spatial protection measures under Art. 13.4 of the Directive 2008/56/EC	10,000.00000	Km ²	

3.3 Relevant measures and output indicators

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

Specific objective	1 - Reduction of the impact of fisheries on the marine environment, including the avoidance and reduction, as far as possible, of unwanted catches			
EMFF measure	Output indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Include in the Performance Framework
01 - Article 37 Support for the design and implementation of conservation measures	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	13.00	Number	✓
02 - Article 38 Limiting the impact of fishing on the marine environment and adapting fishing to the protection of species (+ art. 44.1.c Inland fishing)	1.4 - N° of projects on conservation measures, reduction of the fishing impact on the marine environment and fishing adaptation to the protection of species	354.00	Number	✓
03 - Article 39 Innovation linked to the conservation of marine biological resources (+ art. 44.1.c Inland fishing)	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	10.00	Number	✓

Specific objective	1 - Reduction of the impact of fisheries on the marine environment, including the avoidance and reduction, as far as possible, of unwanted catches			
EMFF measure	Output indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Include in the Performance Framework
04 - Article 40.1.a Protection and restoration of marine biodiversity – collection of lost fishing gear and marine litter	1.6 - N° of projects on protection and restoration of marine biodiversity, ecosystems	1.00	Number	
05 - Article 43.2 Fishing ports, landing sites, auction halls and shelters – investments to facilitate compliance with the obligation to land all catches	1.3 - N° of projects on added value, quality, use of unwanted catches and fishing ports, landing sites, actions halls and shelters	8.00	Number	✓

Justification for the combination of the EMFF measures (supported by the ex-ante evaluation and the SWOT analysis)

Article 37, 38, 39 and 43.2 will address the need identified in the SWOT, and a key UK objective for the fund, to support adaptation to CFP reform. Article 37 will support the need for embedding regional approaches through cooperation to support multi-annual plans and Marine Protected Areas via network building and co-operatives. Article 38 will support the need for more selective gear to ensure the industry adjust to the requirement to land all catches through funding to fishermen to purchase new selective gear. Article 39 will support the need for innovative approaches to conservation measures via pilot projects to limit bycatch and impacts on the seabed. Article 43.2 supports the need to ensure industry compliance with the landing obligation and added value to catch not previously landed through support for adaptations to landing sites and ports. Article 40.1.a will support the opportunity for restoration of the environment through projects that remediate waste and marine litter.

Specific objective	2 - Protection and restoration of aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems			
EMFF measure	Output indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Include in the Performance Framework
01 - 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)	1.6 - N° of projects on protection and restoration of marine biodiversity, ecosystems	75.00	Number	

Justification for the combination of the EMFF measures (supported by the ex-ante evaluation and the SWOT analysis)

Article 40.1 b-g and i will address the need identified in the SWOT analysis to support the achievement of GES under MSFD and encourage a collaborative approach to Marine Protected Areas. This Article will help the UK to meet its obligations under Natura 2000 and, in some areas of the UK, focus on management and implementation of protected sites, introduced to support the aims of the Habitats Directive. Investment will support development of a robust evidence base on conditions of sites and effects of pressures on habitats and species, which will lead to more effective and targeted approaches to management. Article 44.6 will support the need identified in the SWOT for improved habitats for freshwater fisheries. Projects will enhance the protection of freshwater and migratory fish, increasing stock levels and compliance with the Water Framework Directive, Habitats Directive and the Eels Regulation.

Specific objective	3 - Ensuring a balance between fishing capacity and available fishing opportunities			
EMFF measure	Output indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Include in the Performance Framework
02 - Article 36 Support to systems of allocation of fishing opportunities	1.2 - N° of projects on systems of allocation of fishing opportunities	2.00	Number	

Justification for the combination of the EMFF measures (supported by the ex-ante evaluation and the SWOT analysis)

Article 36 will support the need identified in the SWOT analysis for projects that aid adaptation of monitoring, evaluation and management of quota systems affected by CFP reform. There is a need to upgrade ageing quota management systems to cope with CFP reform and other changes. This will be an ongoing process over the programme and therefore Article 36 will support funding for trials or pilots that may be developed to test new methods of quota management.

Specific objective	4 - Enhancement of the competitiveness and viability of fisheries enterprises, including of small scale coastal fleet, and the improvement of safety or working conditions			
EMFF measure	Output indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Include in the Performance Framework
01 - Article 27 Advisory services (+ art. 44.3 Inland fishing)	1.1 - N° of projects on innovation, advisory services and partnerships with scientists	21.00	Number	✓
02 - Article 30 Diversification and new forms of income (+ art. 44.4 Inland fishing)	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	1.00	Number	

Specific objective	4 - Enhancement of the competitiveness and viability of fisheries enterprises, including of small scale coastal fleet, and the improvement of safety or working conditions			
EMFF measure	Output indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Include in the Performance Framework
03 - Article 31 Start-up support for young fishermen (+ art. 44.2 Inland fishing)	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	13.00	Number	
04 - Article 32 Health and safety (+ art. 44.1.b Inland fishing)	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	740.00	Number	
05 - Article 33 Temporary cessation of fishing activities	1.10 - N° of projects on temporary cessation	80.00	Number	
08 - Article 42 Added value, product quality and use of unwanted catches (+ art. 44.1.e Inland fishing)	1.3 - N° of projects on added value, quality, use of unwanted catches and fishing ports, landing sites, actions halls and shelters	247.00	Number	✓
09 - 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)	1.3 - N° of projects on added value, quality, use of unwanted catches and fishing ports, landing sites, actions halls and shelters	123.00	Number	✓

Justification for the combination of the EMFF measures (supported by the ex-ante evaluation and the SWOT analysis)

Article 27 will support the need identified in the SWOT for access to professional advice to increase business potential and competitiveness, including advice on access to credit and building resilience. Article 30 supports the need for diversification to address declining profitability and opportunity through funding for complementary activities to fishing. Article 31 supports the need to reduce barriers for new entrants through funding towards a vessel that is part of a balanced fleet segment. Article 32 supports the need for improved health and safety and investments will be made to ensure health and safety is beyond the statutory minimum. Article 42 will support the need for maximising the value of fish to address the threat of market price declines through, for example, investment in on board fish storage. Article 43 will support the need for increased quality, traceability, energy efficiency, safety and working conditions through investment in onshore infrastructure.

Specific objective	5 - Provision of support to strengthen technological development and innovation, including increasing energy efficiency, and knowledge transfer			
EMFF measure	Output indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Include in the Performance Framework
01 - Article 26 Innovation (+ art. 44.3 Inland fishing)	1.1 - N° of projects on innovation, advisory services and partnerships with scientists	23.00	Number	✓
02 - Article 28 Partnerships between fishermen and scientists (+ art. 44.3 Inland fishing)	1.1 - N° of projects on innovation, advisory services and partnerships with scientists	10.00	Number	✓
03 - 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)	1.7 - N° of projects on energy efficiency, mitigation of climate change	89.00	Number	
04 - Article 41.2 Energy efficiency and mitigation of climate change - Replacement or modernisation of main or ancillary engines (+ art. 44.1.d Inland fishing)	1.8 - N° of projects on replacement or modernisation of engines	47.00	Number	

Justification for the combination of the EMFF measures (supported by the ex-ante evaluation and the SWOT analysis)

Article 26 will support the need identified in the SWOT for an innovative approach towards the landing obligation and mixed fisheries. Investments in innovation will be focused on highly selective gear and reduced unwanted catch and in the treatment, processing and marketing of catch. Article 28 will support the need for increased collaboration between scientists and the commercial fishing sector. Partnership between industry and science will empower local management of stocks, especially in designated areas and support will be available for participatory research. Article 41.1 will support the need for reduced reliance on fossil fuels through funding for fishermen to purchase more energy efficient equipment. Article 41.2 will also support the need for improved energy efficiency and climate change mitigation, through investments in modernisation of engines. 41.2 will only be available for vessels that are part of a balanced fleet segment, as defined by the UK Fleet Capacity Reports.

Specific objective	6 - Development of professional training, new professional skills and lifelong learning			
EMFF measure	Output indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Include in the Performance Framework
01 - Article 29.1 + 29.2 Promoting human capital and	1.9 - N° of projects on promotion of human capital	30.00	Number	

Specific objective	6 - Development of professional training, new professional skills and lifelong learning			
EMFF measure	Output indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Include in the Performance Framework
social dialogue - training, networking, social dialogue; support to spouses and life partners (+ art. 44.1.a Inland fishing)	and social dialogue, diversification and new forms of income, start-ups for fishermen and health/safety			

Justification for the combination of the EMFF measures (supported by the ex-ante evaluation and the SWOT analysis)

Article 29.1 supports the need identified in the SWOT for training opportunities and the preservation of key skills during transitional phases. Training opportunities and networking in particular will help the sector adapt to the requirements of the landing obligation, e.g. from changes to vessels and gear, to understanding the market for unfamiliar produce being landed. Increased expertise in business skills will improve profitability in some parts of the industry and support the UK's aim for creating better conditions for growth using EMFF. 29.1 will also support training related to health and safety, an area that has been identified in the SWOT as a weakness because of the dangerous nature of some aspects of the industry. Article 29.3 will be supported in one area of the UK only, aiming at addressing the need in this region for increasing the opportunities for young people to find employment in the industry.

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

Specific objective	1 - Provision of support to strengthen technological development, innovation and knowledge transfer			
EMFF measure	Output indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Include in the Performance Framework
01 - Article 47 Innovation	2.1 - N° of projects on innovation, advisory services	19.00	Number	✓
02 - Article 49 Management, relief and advisory services for aquaculture farms	2.1 - N° of projects on innovation, advisory services	5.00	Number	✓

Justification for the combination of the EMFF measures (supported by the ex-ante evaluation and the SWOT analysis)

Article 47 will support the need identified in the SWOT for innovation and research into reducing negative impacts on the industry and technical developments that support expansion, which is supported by the MNSP for aquaculture. Supporting innovation will help expand production (e.g. via research into co-location with other marine use sites such as wind farms) while improving sustainability of the sector (e.g. research into alternative feedstuffs/managing sea lice). The approach will also seek to identify additional sustainable production capacity and new sites (including those in more exposed areas). Innovation will also drive the development of non-food aquaculture e.g. marine agronomy and biofuels. Article 49 will

support the need identified in the SWOT for more knowledge exchange and sharing of best practice, including a better understanding of regulatory requirements, through the provision of advisory services.

Specific objective	2 - Enhancement of the competitiveness and viability of aquaculture enterprises, including improvement of safety or working conditions, in particular of SMEs			
EMFF measure	Output indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Include in the Performance Framework
01 - Article 48.1.a-d, f-h Productive investments in aquaculture	2.2 - N° of projects on productive investments in aquaculture	106.00	Number	✓
02 - Article 52 Encouraging new sustainable aquaculture farmers	2.5 - N° of projects on promoting human capital of aquaculture in general and of new aquaculture farmers	1.00	Number	

Justification for the combination of the EMFF measures (supported by the ex-ante evaluation and the SWOT analysis)

Article 48.1.a-d and f-h will support the need identified in the SWOT for expansion of the industry, which is supported by the MNSP for aquaculture, through improvements in modernisation, working and safety conditions, resource-efficiency, and health and quality of stocks. Funding will also support greater profitability in the sector through improvements in predator control, the potential of new species being cultured, opening up of new aquaculture locations and diversification in income through complementary activities. Article 52 will be supported in one area of the UK only, aiming at addressing the need in this region for new aquaculture farms. Investment will be used to assist new aquaculture farmers to set up sustainable aquaculture enterprises, supporting the sustainable growth of the industry in this area.

Specific objective	3 - Protection and restoration of aquatic biodiversity and enhancement of ecosystems related to aquaculture and promotion of resource efficient aquaculture			
EMFF measure	Output indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Include in the Performance Framework
01 - Article 48.1.k Productive investments in aquaculture - increasing energy efficiency, renewable energy	2.2 - N° of projects on productive investments in aquaculture	1.00	Number	✓
02 - Article 48.1.e, i, j Productive investments in aquaculture - resource efficiency, reducing usage of water and chemicals, recirculation systems minimising water use	2.2 - N° of projects on productive investments in aquaculture	2.00	Number	✓
03 - Article 51 Increasing the potential of aquaculture sites	2.4 - N° of projects on increasing potential of aquaculture sites and measures on public and	1.00	Number	

Specific objective	3 - Protection and restoration of aquatic biodiversity and enhancement of ecosystems related to aquaculture and promotion of resource efficient aquaculture			
EMFF measure	Output indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Include in the Performance Framework
	animal health			

Justification for the combination of the EMFF measures (supported by the ex-ante evaluation and the SWOT analysis)

Article 48.1.k will address the threat of increasing costs, as identified in the SWOT, by supporting investments in increasing energy efficiency. In line with the MNSP for aquaculture, Article 48.1.e, i and j will support the need for innovation and modernisation in development of sustainable (sometimes non-traditional) aquaculture. Quality improvements and added value will be key drivers in activity and support will deliver projects that will enable producers to reduce water use, improve its quality and increase efficiency. Article 51 will support the need for coordinated spatial planning to identify the most suitable areas for growth in the sector through mapping suitable sites. Alongside ensuring that sites have adequate production conditions planning will ascertain the cumulative environmental effects of aquaculture production while Article 48 will support quality improvements, which is essential for compliance with the Water Framework Directive.

Specific objective	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			
EMFF measure	Output indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Include in the Performance Framework
01 - Article 54 Aquaculture providing environmental services	2.3 - N° of projects on limiting the impact of aquaculture on the environment (eco-management, audit schemes, organic aquaculture environmental services)	3.00	Number	
02 - Article 55 Public health measures	2.4 - N° of projects on increasing potential of aquaculture sites and measures on public and animal health	37.00	Number	

Justification for the combination of the EMFF measures (supported by the ex-ante evaluation and the SWOT analysis)

Article 54 will support the threat identified in the SWOT of potential negative publicity from incidents by funding operations that assist improvements to the environment and the opportunity for supporting environmental objectives through reproduction programmes. Support will be provided for measures around water quality, the conservation and reproduction of aquatic animals, and to meet the requirements of Natura 2000. Article 56 will be supported in two areas of the UK only to address the potential threat of disease outbreak, as identified in the SWOT, and would consist of two projects in each area involving numerous producers and include the development of more effective interventions and sharing of best practice.

Specific objective	5 - Development of professional training, new professional skills and lifelong learning			
EMFF measure	Output indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Include in the Performance Framework
01 - Article 50 Promoting human capital and networking	2.5 - N° of projects on promoting human capital of aquaculture in general and of new aquaculture farmers	8.00	Number	✓

Justification for the combination of the EMFF measures (supported by the ex-ante evaluation and the SWOT analysis)

Article 50 will support the need identified in the SWOT for development of knowledge exchange and maintenance of skills. Projects will aim to improve the resilience of the sector through the exchange of experience and best practice, professional training, lifelong learning and dissemination of scientific and technical knowledge and innovative practices. In particular, some of the non-SME companies have much to offer in terms of expertise and experience, and 'sharing best practice' projects would be beneficial to any number of smaller companies. Lack of collaboration in the industry was identified as a weakness in the SWOT analysis and projects supporting the sharing of experience and best practice under Article 50 will support this, alongside plans to set up a Producer Organisation that will be achieved under UP5. The SWOT analysis identified partnering in developments for non-food aquaculture as a particular need for the industry and Article 50 will support growth in this area.

Union priority	3 - Fostering the implementation of the CFP
-----------------------	--

Specific objective	1 - Improvement and supply of scientific knowledge and collection and management of data			
EMFF measure	Output indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Include in the Performance Framework
01 - Article 77 Data collection	3.2 - N° of projects on supporting the collection, management and use of data	2.00	Number	✓

Justification for the combination of the EMFF measures (supported by the ex-ante evaluation and the SWOT analysis)

Article 77 will support the need identified in the SWOT to ensure compliance with the data collection requirements under the DCF, namely data to monitor and evaluate the sustainability of fishing and impacts of fish stocks on coastal communities. The UK will collect, manage and make available a wide range of fisheries data needed for scientific advice. Data will be collected on the basis of National Programmes and will help to develop an understanding of areas such as fish stocks, environmental impacts, impacts of the landing obligation and aquaculture activities. The SWOT analysis also identifies improved cooperation as a need for data collection, which is also identified as an area for further encouragement in the DCF, and will be supported by EMFF.

Specific objective	2 - Provision of support to monitoring, control and enforcement, enhancing institutional capacity and the efficiency of public administration, without increasing the administrative burden			
EMFF measure	Output indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Include in the Performance Framework
01 - Article 76 Control and enforcement	3.1 - N° of projects on implementing the Union's control, inspections and enforcement system	44.00	Number	

Justification for the combination of the EMFF measures (supported by the ex-ante evaluation and the SWOT analysis)

Article 76 will support the need identified in the SWOT analysis for the development and implementation of techniques to support CFP reform, improvements to traceability and resource to implement SCIPs. Funding will be provided to measures necessary to ensure compliance with the landing obligation, including the purchase and installation of REM systems and further development and enhancement of UK IT systems, in particular the ERS and VMS Hubs. Measures will be supported that improve implementation in the UK of the Control Regulation, with particular emphasis on the introduction of systems designed to improve traceability. Support to enable maintained resources in the implementation of SCIPs will also be supported, alongside other operations under Article 15 of 758/2005.

Union priority	4 - Increasing employment and territorial cohesion
-----------------------	---

Specific objective	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			
EMFF measure	Output indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Include in the Performance Framework
01 - Article 62.1.a Preparatory support	4.2 - N° of projects on preparatory support	8.00	Number	✓
02 - Article 63 Implementation of local development strategies (incl. running costs and animation)	4.1 - N° of local development strategies selected	19.00	Number	✓
03 - Article 64 Cooperation activities	4.3 - N° of cooperation projects	0.00	Number	

Justification for the combination of the EMFF measures (supported by the ex-ante evaluation and the SWOT analysis)

FLAGs will be able to apply for preparatory support where necessary, under Article 62.1.a, to enable them to strengthen the FLAG and to develop and bring forward their Local Development Strategy. Article 63 will support the needs identified in the SWOT for

investment in training, maintaining and developing skills, capacity building, improved local marketing and supply chain logistics, sustainable growth of local SMEs, support for diversification and innovative new practices and improved access to match funding. Funding will be provided to FLAGs that support projects that meet the needs of coastal communities and will be central in strengthening these communities so they have the capacity to contribute to growth and wellbeing. Support will also be available to FLAGs wishing to take forward inter-territorial or transboundary projects, in line with Article 64.

Union priority	5 - Fostering marketing and processing
-----------------------	---

Specific objective	1 - Improvement of market organisation for fishery and aquaculture products			
EMFF measure	Output indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Include in the Performance Framework
01 - Article 66 Production and marketing plans	5.1 - N° of producers organisations or associations of producers organisations supported for production and marketing plans	3.00	Number	
02 - Article 67 Storage aid	5.2 - N° of projects on marketing measures and storage aid	0.00	Number	
03 - Article 68 Marketing measures	5.2 - N° of projects on marketing measures and storage aid	21.00	Number	✓

Justification for the combination of the EMFF measures (supported by the ex-ante evaluation and the SWOT analysis)

Article 66 will support the need identified in the SWOT for POs to take a greater role in production and marketing. Support will be made available for PMPs that seek to contain measures related to unwanted catches, certification schemes, traceability projects etc. Article 67 will be supported in one area of the UK to assist with changes in landing patterns, allowing fishers to remove landings which fall below the trigger price and re-introduce to the market when conditions are favourable. Article 68 will support the need for improved marketing expertise focused on market research to identify opportunities for new products and enhancement of product presentation and packaging. Promotional activities will support awareness of local wild seafood and quality labels, including the direct marketing of small scale coastal fisheries or local aquaculture products. It will also support the creation of POs within the aquaculture and inshore sectors to help resolve its fragmented nature.

Specific objective	2 - Encouragement of investment in the processing and marketing sectors			
EMFF measure	Output indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Include in the Performance Framework
01 - Article 69 Processing of fisheries and aquaculture products	5.3 - N° of projects on processing	153.00	Number	✓

Justification for the combination of the EMFF measures (supported by the ex-ante evaluation and the SWOT analysis)

Article 69 will support the need identified in the SWOT for increased efficiency, technical innovations and utilisation of catch. The majority of funding will be dedicated to projects that reduce energy consumption and for technical innovation in environmental footprint reduction, which will benefit the efficiency of the business and its environmental impact. Funding will also be provided for projects that support improved approaches, products and systems, which will enhance the reputation and competitiveness of the industry. Technical innovations in processing technology would also meet the need for creating opportunities to utilise unwanted catches (by-catch and unfamiliar species), that will be landed under the landing obligation, so they can be placed on the appropriate market. Projects under Article 69 will also support improvements to products, processes and management in processing, supporting the UK's strategy to create better conditions for growth in the industry.

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

Specific objective	1 - Development and implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy			
	Output indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Include in the Performance Framework
02 - Article 80.1.b Promotion of the protection of marine environment, and the sustainable use of marine and coastal resources	6.2 - N° projects on the protection and improvement of knowledge on marine environment	30.00	Number	✓
03 - Article 80.1.c Improving the knowledge on the state of the marine environment	6.2 - N° projects on the protection and improvement of knowledge on marine environment	3.00	Number	✓

Justification for the combination of the EMFF measures (supported by the ex-ante evaluation and the SWOT analysis)

Article 80.1.b will support the need identified in the SWOT for improved understanding of the marine environment, development of plans that have sufficient local specificity and data against which benefits of marine planning can be demonstrated. Funding will support increased research, monitoring and evidence gathering to address knowledge gaps in marine planning. Article 80.1.c will also support the need for improved understanding of the marine environment and increased evidence. Funding will support MSFD and will be used to establish baselines and monitoring to tackle more complex issues such as cumulative impacts, future analysis and filling knowledge gaps that remain in the UK's understanding of the marine environment and processes such as community composition of phytoplankton and zooplankton and sensitivity to climate variability; distribution and sensitivity of benthic habitats, and impacts of pressures on the marine environment, including marine litter and non-native species.

3.4 Description of the programme's complementarity with other ESI Funds

3.4.1 Complementarity and coordination arrangements with other ESI Funds and other relevant Union and national funding instruments of the EMFF

Complementarity

At a policy level, there are a number of areas in which the EMFF, European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and European Social Fund (ESF) will work complementarily to deliver the objectives of the Common Strategic Framework in the UK.

Support for **enhancing the competitiveness of micro, small and medium-sized businesses (Thematic Objective 3)** will be provided by the EMFF, EAFRD, and ERDF Programmes. ERDF will be the principle source of investment in this area, with a particular focus on support for exporting, business advice and access to equity and debt finance for SMEs. The EMFF will complement this larger ERDF programme by providing targeted investment both to increase the productivity of fisheries, aquaculture, and processing businesses, which will not usually be eligible for funding through ERDF; and to support the growth potential of new and existing small and micro-enterprises throughout the supply chain.

ESI Funds will support the development of the markets and innovations that will drive a **shift to a low carbon economy (Thematic Objective 4)**. ERDF will be the primary source of financial support for this thematic objective, with a focus on increasing energy efficiency of businesses, buildings and transport as well as providing investment for small-scale renewables. EMFF will provide some climate change mitigation through investment in equipment to reduce emissions, engine modernisation, and energy efficiency audits and schemes in fisheries sector business.

EMFF, EAFRD, and ERDF will support the **protection of the environment and resource efficiency (Thematic Objective 6)**. The EAFRD will be the primary source of funding for environmental objectives, delivered mainly through its extensive programme of investment in agri-environmental operations addressing a range of specific environmental objectives covering air, soil and water quality as well as biodiversity and landscape protection. ERDF will support an increase in Green Infrastructure which refers to the network of high quality green and blue spaces and other environmental features, designed and managed as a multi-functional resource to deliver a range of environmental and quality of life benefits in local areas. EMFF will focus on objectives to protect and enhance the marine environment, including under MSFD.

EMFF and ESF

ESF Programmes will **promote sustainable and quality employment and support labour mobility (Thematic Objective 8)**. Across the UK, these programmes will be used to help people into employment and align with and build on national policies and programmes, particularly the Work Programme, which provides support, work experience and training for

up to two years to help people find and stay in work, and any future employment programmes. The main activities, where relevant, will include pre-employment training and helping disadvantaged groups with multiple barriers. There will be a strong focus on helping young people (particularly those not in education, employment or training). ESF funds will help unemployed people acquire the skills they need to compete for new jobs created by economic growth. Where men or women face specific barriers because of their gender, ESI Funds may be used to address these. The EMFF will align with other ESF programmes, and be made available to fund employment and training or niche employment and training opportunities for those in the fishing industry and coastal communities that might otherwise be excluded from the more general ESF support programmes.

EMFF and EAFRD

In rural and coastal areas EAFRD and EMFF will complement each other to maximise the potential for financial assistance for the UK fisheries sector and coastal communities. EMFF funding will be focused primarily on supporting the fisheries and aquaculture sectors to implement the new Common Fisheries Policy. This is particularly true in the case of FLAGs which will either be jointly funded with LAGs, or work together where geographic and thematic areas overlap.

Coordination

The UK Partnership Agreement sets out the approach adopted in the UK across all four European Structural and Investment (ESI) Funds, in line with the Common Strategic Framework. The bodies responsible for each of the ESI Funds, in each part of the UK, have worked together over several years to ensure complementarity in the design, scope, implementation and governance of the Funds.

The administrations have established cross-fund monitoring committees, on which the IBs and/or EMFF policy officials are represented, to coordinate and maximise the impact of the ESI Funds within each part of the UK. These committees have an advisory role both with regards to how the EMFF may be used to support wider objectives, but also how the other funds may be used to support objectives in the fisheries, processing, and aquaculture sectors.

For the EMFF, the UK will still have an overarching Managing Authority (MA) role monitoring the performance and delivery of the UK-wide programme, ensuring that the Intermediate Body in each national administration delivers the aims and objectives of the UK Operational Programme in their respective countries.

The use of more than one ESIF to fund the same element of an operation will be avoided by:

- i. carrying out an analysis of the eligibility criteria of the other ESIF schemes against the EMFF scheme to identify which types of operations under EMFF could potentially access other ESIF funding. For operations where there is no likelihood of other ESIF

providing funding, no checks on the specific application will be made. For operations where there is potential for other ESIF to provide funding to the operation, enquiries will be made by the EMFF IB with the relevant ESIF MA or IB to determine if an application and/or claim for funding has been made for the same operation. Further details of these checks will be contained within the Management & Control System and the relevant Desk Instructions.

ii. requiring potential beneficiaries to declare in their application for funding that they will not be using other ESIF funds to fund the elements of the operation funded by EMFF. Failure to comply with this declaration could result in the withdrawal of the Offer of Funding. In serious cases this could also lead to prosecution for supplying false information which may result in the applicant being barred from accessing future EMFF funding due to failing inadmissibility criteria.

3.4.2 Main actions planned to achieve a reduction in administrative burden

To determine the main sources of administrative burden and lessons learned from the period 2007 – 2013 the views of internal and external stakeholders were gathered. This was achieved through a variety of means including the Marine Management Organisation Customer Satisfaction Survey, Customer Insight Group, Independent Evaluations, and feedback from Programme Monitoring Committee, Intermediate Bodies and the Marine Management Organisation Board.

The main areas of administrative burden identified by Stakeholders groups included the need to improve the access to information on websites and clarity on eligibility. The EFF Interim Evaluation[1] also noted areas of administrative complexity in relation to beneficiaries experience and the lack of a consistent, integrated database across the Intermediate Bodies impacting UK level.

The main actions that will be implemented under EMFF are:

- Using extensive applicant and stakeholder feedback to ensure that modifications to the processes meet customers' needs wherever possible.
- Simplifying application forms, processes and guidance.
- Improving websites to make information easier to find.
- Introducing an online application system which will have data validation inbuilt to ensure improved application quality.

The primary aim of the E-system is to improve co-ordination between the authorities, improve reporting, maintain transparency throughout the process and make accessing grants easier for potential applicants. This will include the ability for on line applications which will simplify the process for applicants.

The approval of grant applications and grant payment processes were also highlighted as key

areas to be considered for simplification in the new programming period. A common approach will be used and common checklists in eligibility and assessment. Templates, Frequently Asked Questions documents and improved contact information will form part of the improved access suite.

Intermediate Bodies will work more closely with applicants, enabling them to better understand the conditions and obligations associated with the grant. This will involve greater advice at point of application and closer monitoring against identified output indicators.

[1] EFF Interim Evaluation, Poseidon Aquatic Resource Management Ltd

3.5 Information on the macro-regional or sea-basin strategies (where relevant)

The UK is signed up to the Atlantic Strategy, which aims to revitalise the marine and maritime economy in the Atlantic Ocean area. The underpinning Action Plan for a Maritime Strategy in the Atlantic Ocean has been agreed between the Commission and the Member States involved; although there is no dedicated funding attached to the Action Plan. The UK is a member of the Atlantic Strategy Group which oversees progress on implementing the Atlantic Strategy Action Plan. Use of EMFF funding will seek, where possible, to support implementation of priorities and objectives identified within the Atlantic Strategy Action Plan.

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.

As stated above, there is no dedicated funding attached to the Action Plan. However, 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 Union Priority 3, in particular funding towards development of technology to improve vessel inspections and support for the monitoring and evaluation of MSFD and UK marine plans under Union Priority 5, will contribute to Priority 2 of the Action Plan - protect, secure and develop the potential of the Atlantic marine and coastal environment. In addition, support for Marine Protected Areas under Union Priority 1 will aid the objective of the Action Plan to support marine environmental protection and achievement of GES.

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 3 will contribute to Priority 4 of the Action Plan – creating a socially inclusive and sustainable model of regional development.

4. REQUIREMENTS CONCERNING SPECIFIC EMFF MEASURES

4.1 Description of the specific needs of natura 2000 areas and the contribution of the programme to the establishment of a coherent network of fish stock recovery areas as laid out in Article 8 of the CFP Regulation

The Natura 2000 network in the UK consists of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs). The UK Prioritised Action Framework (PAF), published in 2012, provides details on the number and area of Natura 2000 sites submitted to the EU for incorporation in the EU Natura 2000 database. The PAF details a total of 649 SACs covering 80,009 sq. km.

The UK has put forward 31 marine candidate SACs to the European Commission, marking a major step forward in completing the Natura 2000 network. Nearly all have now been adopted by the Commission as Sites of Community Importance. On current available evidence, the UK consider the marine SAC network for habitats is complete, but is considering the need for further species and spatial protection measures, such as the designation of further Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) under national UK legislation as one of the programmes designed to contribute to the achievement of Good Environmental Status in line with obligations under MSFD.

Defra is working with Natural England and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) to complete the identification of SPAs for birds. The Northern Ireland Environment Agency is also in the process of identifying SPA extensions in Northern Ireland. The next step is to establish effective but proportionate management regimes, especially in relation to the management of fisheries outlined in Article 11 of the CFP. The UK Government has already started a programme whereby management measures for fisheries to protect existing European Marine Sites and MCZs are identified by the end of 2016.

However, it is acknowledged that more information on the condition, effect of pressures and restoration of sites in the marine environment is required, and therefore it is developments in this activity where EMFF will focus. EMFF will support further and improved information on the effects of fishing gear on certain habitats, recovery times, accurate mapping of features and assessment of condition of the features. This will contribute to the protection of fish stocks, alongside existing measures in place – spawning closures, byelaws, SPAs, SACs, a network of MCZs and work to improve stocks to MSY. The needs of Natura 2000 areas have been taken into account in the EMFF SWOT and in the selection of measures, the UK plan to use Articles 38.c and d and 40.1.b – g and i to assist with the management of Natura 2000 and other designated sites through development of a robust evidence base and adaptive management approaches. Other Articles will also support these aims, for example Article 80.1.b and c will support the monitoring and assessment of the marine environment and Article 39 will support gear selectivity and species avoidance equipment. EMFF will also support further work to remove barriers to migration and improve spawning grounds under Article 44.6.

Section G.1.c of the UK Prioritised Action Frameworks[1] (PAFs) highlight the key priorities for the establishment and management of Natura 2000 sites. The use of EMFF funding is

clearly highlighted as one of the sources of funding to help deliver effective management and the associated monitoring and assessment regimes. The UK PAF for offshore water[2] similarly outlines specific requirements around knowledge acquisition, management planning and assessment.

[1] <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-6934>

[2] http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/PAF_Offshore.pdf

4.2 Description of the action plan for the development, competitiveness and sustainability of small-scale coastal fishing

There are a number of common challenges facing Small Scale Coastal Fisheries (SSCF) across the UK. Spatial pressures on inshore fisheries continue to increase, brought about by the use of some inshore fishing grounds for other uses e.g. MPAs under MSFD. Such pressures are additional to more familiar SSCF management issues such as the need to match fishing effort to available fishing opportunities in order to provide sustainably exploited resources and reasonable financial returns for what is a largely fragmented sector. Compliance with, and enforcement of, the landing obligation is another challenge, as is the need to fill scientific data gaps in the inshore area. Finally, health and safety in the sector remains a challenge, and the UK will use EMFF to continue to promote best practice and fund eligible H&S measures in the SSCF.

To meet these challenges the SSCF will be eligible for funding, often at preferential aid intensity rates, across a range of measures to help them meet the needs of the sector e.g. for more selective gear to reduce discards and marketing support to increase the value of SSCF catch. Measures under articles 27, 30 and 31 will provide advice, support for business start up, diversification and competitiveness which are specifically focused on improving skills in SSCF. In addition EMFF will be focused to make the best use of technology to ensure compliance in the sector, and to encourage more fisheries/science partnerships to improve the quality of data.

4.3 Description of the method for the calculation of simplified costs in accordance with Article 67(1)(b) to (d) of CPR Regulation

The UK will use simplified costs in certain circumstances. Applications for the use of simplified costs need to demonstrate sound levels of transparency and evidence to show that the costs are reasonable and based on a sound calculation/evidence methodology.

The three options for calculating simplified costs are:

1. Unit costs – may be used where it is possible to determine the standard scale of unit cost related to a specific activity (either process- or outcome-based) in advance. The calculation

for the standard scale of unit cost will be fully evidenced in the application. The eligible cost of the activity in the operation will be calculated by multiplying the quantity of activity with the standard scale of unit cost. For DCF and Compliance Joint Deployment (JDP,) the standard scale of unit cost will be established for day rates for Member State vessels undertaking eligible activities.

Method of Calculation

- Determine list of activities required in order to complete the process/outcome.
- Validate real cost of each activity based on statistical data or other objective information; verified historical data or the application of the usual cost accounting practices of the beneficiary.
- Calculate the total cost of the process/outcome.
- Divide the total cost by the number of units to determine unit cost.

2. Lump sums - in advance of award, a lump sum will be determined based on predetermined terms of agreement on activity and/or output, and only paid if all these terms are completed.

Method of Calculation

- Determine activity/output.
- Determine a list of actions required in order to complete the activity/output.
- Validate real cost of each action based on statistical data or other objective information; verified historical data or the application of the usual cost accounting practices of the beneficiary.
- Calculate the total cost of the activity/output.
- Determine terms of agreement for the activity/output.

3. Flat-rate financing - may be used to calculate categories of eligible costs as a percentage of specific clearly identifiable categories of other eligible costs fixed ex ante.

Method of Calculation

Option 1 – Flat Rate of up to 25% of Eligible Direct Costs

- Determine which Type each category of expenditure falls into (Type 1, Type 2, Type 3 where appropriate).
- Validate real cost of each category based on statistical data or other objective information; verified historical data or the application of the usual cost accounting practices of the beneficiary.
- Determine the rate of finance to be used for indirect costs.

Option 2 – Flat Rate of up to 15% of Direct Staff Costs

- Determine which Type each category of expenditure falls into (Type 1 – direct staff costs, Type 2 – indirect costs and Type 3 - direct costs other than staff costs).
- Validate real cost of each category based on statistical data or other objective information; verified historical data or the application of the usual cost accounting practices of the beneficiary.
- Determine the rate of finance to be used for indirect costs as a ratio of direct staff costs.

4.4 Description of the method for the calculation of additional costs or income foregone in accordance with Article 97

The calculation for the basis of additional costs shall be based on evidence of the actual costs incurred by operators which can be specifically attributed to the application for funding and which would not ordinarily expect to be incurred outwith the normal running of the organisation applying for the funding.

The calculation for the basis of income foregone will be based on an average of three years previous income which had been earned by the organisation applying for funding along with a clear rationale to show how these levels of income will be affected.

4.5 Description of the method for the calculation of compensation according to relevant criteria identified for each of the activities deployed under Article 40(1), 53, 54, 55, 67 and 69(3) of Regulation (EU) No 508/2014

For Article 67, storage aid, the technical costs shall be calculated on the basis of the direct costs relating to the three actions required in order to stabilise, through freezing, and store the products in question. The maximum amount of support available shall respect the condition set down in Article 67, including;

- The quantities available shall not exceed 15% of the annual quantities put up for sale by the PO.
- The financial support shall not exceed 2% of the average annual value of production placed on the market by the PO in the period 2009-11.

Support will be calculated per whole tonne and to one decimal point per tonne. Technical costs will be calculated on the basis of the related operational costs arising from storage. We are aware that national authorities can add the financial costs resulting from the application of the national interest rate, to these technical costs. It is not our intention to apply an interest rate however if this is required it will be calculated on the Bank of England base rate for the

applicable period.

In response to the Coronavirus pandemic compensation under Article 55, Public health will support aquaculture business negatively impacted by this crisis. The methods used for compensation include income forgone and reimbursement of actual costs associated to storage of aquaculture produce. How these methods will be used in the respective Intermediate Bodies is detailed below.

Northern Ireland;

In determining the level of compensation to be provided at undertaking level under Article 55 Public Health, Northern Ireland will:-

- Utilise the most recent 3 years financial accounts of the beneficiaries in order to determine and verify the average monthly sales per undertaking over the previous 3 financial periods.
- This Average Monthly Sales figure will be checked against departmental Fish Health and Aquaculture data to determine the correctness and reasonableness of the calculated figure.
- Income foregone will be calculated by taking the average monthly sales figure and deducting sales income generated per month during the qualifying period and be used as the basis of calculating the level of compensation.

Wales;

In determining the level of support to be provided at undertaking level for Article 55, Public Health, Wales will:-

- Require the most recent 3 years financial accounts to be provided by applicants in order to determine and verify the average monthly sales per undertaking over the previous 3 financial periods.
- Income foregone will be calculated by taking the average monthly sales figure and deducting sales income generated per month during the (2 month) qualifying period.
- Income foregone will be used as the basis of calculating the award covering the 2 calendar months of March – April 2020 inclusive.

Scotland;

In determining the level of compensation for the aquaculture business which temporarily suspend or reduce production and sales or place more production into storage, actual costs incurred by aquaculture businesses will be reimbursed for the following;

- the costs of transportation,
- the cost of processing products, and;
- costs associated with blast freezing and cold storage

The maximum tonnage and overall projects costs will be fixed at the outset on a project by project basis, based on which markets are lost or closed to the beneficiary and where aquaculture production requires to be harvested or would be lost. Aquaculture businesses will be able to reduce this tonnage or timescale for storage should markets recover.

4.6 As regards the measures for the permanent cessation of fishing activities under Article 34 of Regulation (EU) No 508/2014, such description shall include the targets and measures to be taken for the reduction of the fishing capacity in accordance with Article 22 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013. A description of the method for the calculation of the premium to be granted under Articles 33 and 34 of Regulation (EU) No 508/2014 shall also be included

The UK did not allocate EMFF funds against Article 34. However, until the landing obligation is fully implemented the scale of the challenge for any fleet segment is difficult to predict. As a result UK fisheries administrations may in the future want to consider the use of permanent and temporary cessation in addition to the existing suite of actions.

In response to the Coronavirus pandemic the UK will be providing compensation under Article 33, Temporary Cessation to support the fishing industry. For those fisheries who meet the eligibility criteria under Articles 33 Regulation (EU) No 508/2014, income forgone will be used to calculate the premium paid to beneficiaries.

Northern Ireland;

In determining the premium to be provided at undertaking level under Article 33 Temporary Cessation, Northern Ireland will:-

- Utilise the most recent 3 years financial accounts of the beneficiaries in order to determine and verify the average monthly sales per undertaking over the previous 3 financial periods.
- This Average Monthly Sales figure will be checked against departmental Fish Health and Aquaculture data to determine the correctness and reasonableness of the calculated figure.
- Income foregone will be calculated by taking the average monthly sales figure and deducting sales income generated per month during the qualifying period and be used as the basis of calculating the level of compensation.

4.7 Mutual funds for adverse climatic events and environment incidents

The UK is not allocating EMFF funds against Article 35.

4.8 Description on the use of technical assistance

4.8.1 Technical assistance at the initiative of the MS

The UK will make effective and full use of the Technical Assistance budget available to support activities including, but not restricted to:

- Funding staff resources to effectively manage, promote and administer the scheme audit and control.
- The provision of systems to make applying for funding as easy and efficient as possible for both applicants and delivery bodies.
- Evaluating and auditing the effectiveness of the programme.
- Promoting and publicising the scheme to ensure as many potential applicants as possible are aware of funding opportunities.
- Creating and maintaining networks to share information between bodies, funds and stakeholders involved in the programme.
- The preparation for future programme and the closure of previous programme.
- The provision of expert advice on both project and programme related areas to ensure effective decision making.
- Meetings, travel and subsistence which support the management which are linked to the responsibilities of the UK management of the scheme.

Any other relevant areas to allow the UK Member State to manage the scheme in an effective manner.

4.8.2 Establishment of national networks

The UK will establish a National Network of FLAGS. The UK Network will link the FLAGS based in England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. The UK FLAG network will also form relationships with the EU Commission, Fisheries Area Network (FARNET), the UK Managing Authority, the Intermediate Bodies and CLLD groups and partners from other ESI funds.

The key tasks of the UK Network are to disseminate information, capacity building, exchanging best practice and supporting cooperation between FLAGS in their territory to ensure that knowledge and experience is spread equally among each of the UK regions.

The UK Network will be established within 12 months of the EMFF Operational Programme adoption and Technical Assistance funding will be utilised to support the activities of the

network, including hosting of meetings and in developing the systems and materials required to ensure the effective management of the Network. The funding allocated to the UK Network will be funded through the UK Managing Authority Technical Assistance provision.

The budget that will be allocated to support the UK FLAG Network will be determined once all of the UK FLAGs have been selected and their requirements for the Network, in terms of how they wish it to operate, set out.

5. SPECIFIC INFORMATION ON INTEGRATED TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT

5.1 Information on the implementation of CLLD

5.1.1 A description of the strategy for CLLD

CLLD in the UK will be delivered in accordance with Articles 32-35 of the Common Provisions Regulation (EU 1303/2013) and Articles 60-64 of the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund Regulation (EU 508/2014).

Information on the size and location of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors in the UK and the location of the main fishing harbours and aquaculture sites, and the location of protected areas (ICZM, MPAs, Natura 2000) is provided in maps annexed to this Operational Programme.

The main challenges, as identified in the SWOT, that will be addressed through CLLD are:

- Implementing the reformed Common Fisheries Policy in their respective areas;
- Stimulating local economies to deliver growth in areas (coastal and inland) where there is a dependency on fishing or aquaculture production (including processing);
- The decline of traditional fishing industries, skill retention, aging fishing workforce, lack of young / new entrants to the industry with an increase in out-migration for employment;
- Coastal and inland fishing community deprivation (e.g. high levels of unemployment, low skills levels and significant need for regeneration);
- Poor linkages between areas of deprivation and areas of high economic growth and employment opportunities in the same region;
- Remoteness of coastal and inland fishing communities (i.e. high transport costs for products going to markets; accessing markets and maximising benefits of the supply chain);
- Lack of focus on new or niche markets; and new species;
- Supporting access to funding to enable infrastructure investment (e.g. in remote/isolated areas with poor accessibility and local amenities) to create new economic opportunities and capacity building, particularly where ERDF support is not available;
- Lack of local community capacity/social capital and low levels of enterprise;
- Lack of local awareness of local assets and limited exploitation of coastal assets;
- Community apathy towards fishing/aquaculture sectors;
- Support is sustainable, including ensuring the protection of the marine environment and its biodiversity. Funding will be in conformity with relevant marine plans or the UK Marine Policy Statement;
- Accessing match funding, particularly from private and financial sectors.

It should be noted that there will be local variances within the UK reflecting the specific priorities of Intermediate Bodies for CLLD, particularly those who have strategies aligned with LEADER/LAG programmes.

To help achieve this:

- Local Development Strategies (LDS) will identify and determine local priorities to reflect and contribute to delivering the priorities of the EU 2020, the Partnership Agreement, the relevant EU programmes and other applicable domestic strategies;
- Where appropriate there will be closer alignment with other ESI funds to ensure local development strategies particularly those covering both coastal and rural areas complement rather than duplicate. In these instances single LDS will be considered. It is also anticipated that, where this is the case, resources are shared (i.e. administrative capabilities and animation);
- The use of wider ESI funds will be used particularly to support diversification outside commercial fisheries as well as training and re-skilling either as part of a project or as a stand-alone action.
- Support infrastructure investment to create new economic opportunities drawing on funds through the ERDF where this is appropriate; and
- Support natural and cultural heritage in the fisheries area, including tourism in some areas.

Whilst the individual FLAGs will identify the specific actions to be addressed in the LDS for its area, it is anticipated that the actions will include those which allow individuals, communities and businesses to:

- Adjust to and take advantage of the reformed Common Fisheries Policy and the associated impact on coastal and inland communities;
- Secure sustainable growth of local SMEs, in particular to support seafood initiatives, including a fostering of innovation in the seafood supply chain, and add value to products;
- Diversify within (and from) inshore and sea fisheries activities for example into tourism activities (including eco-tourism);
- Enhance and capitalise on the environmental assets of fisheries areas including operations to mitigate climate change;
- Promote the cultural heritage of fisheries, aquaculture and maritime interests;
- Enhance the role of local communities in development opportunities, the management and governance of local fisheries resources and maritime activities;
- Address social deprivation issues in fishing communities;
- Address the need for training and re-skilling;
- Take advantage of increased public interest in, and demand for, fresh seafood of local provenance;
- Create opportunities for young people wishing to enter the industry whilst addressing how new entrants can access fishing opportunities;
- Develop skills and identify opportunities for re-skilling (including modern apprenticeships) to meet market needs capitalising on transferable skills and maintaining traditional skills;
- Maximising the benefits of a reliable supply chain;
- Develop opportunities provided by the Blue Growth economy (e.g. diversification into

non-food activities such as offshore renewables)

FLAGS that have been selected to produce a Local Development Strategy, following an ‘expression of interest’ stage in the selection of FLAGS, will be provided with a financial contribution to the costs of developing the LDS.

5.1.2 A list of criteria applied for selecting the fisheries areas

Fisheries and aquaculture areas are those with a sea, river or lake shore, including ponds or a river basin, with a significant level of employment in fisheries or aquaculture. In addition, the areas are those whose historical development has been concentrated on fishing (a fishing village, a fishing port or landing site) or aquaculture production.

Those areas looking for support under the EMFF will need to prepare a Local Development Strategy, and must be led by representatives from a broad selection of partners (both public and private enterprises, and the fisheries and/or aquaculture sectors).

Target areas will be those that have:

- Low population density[1] [no less than 10,000 inhabitants; no more than 150,000];
- Provided evidence of the development needs and potential of the area, supported by a SWOT analysis;
- A fisheries (including commercial inland fishing and production) or aquaculture sector;
- Small fishing (including commercial inland fishing and production)/aquaculture communities with a dependency on fishing/aquaculture employment and/or production in the area;
- At least one active fishing port, landing or aquaculture production site.

An assessment of fisheries areas will form an element of the first part of the FLAG selection process – the expression of interest stage. Selection criteria will either be as follows or where the criteria set out in Articles 33 and 34 of Regulation 1303/2013 (the Common Provisions Regulation) have been applied:

Low population density

Primarily aimed at areas with low population density (a minimum of 10,000 inhabitants and a maximum of 150,000) where it will improve the interaction between fisheries (coastal and inland), aquaculture, processing, marine environment habitat protection/conservation, and other fishing related measures. The population numbers must be determined at datazone level with accompanying maps.

Evidence of the development needs and potential of the area

Provide clear evidence of the development needs and potential of the area, supported by a SWOT analysis. This can include fisheries/aquaculture in decline e.g. in catch, production, number of vessels, employment (both full and part-time), and/or processing in the period between 2010 and 2014. It can also include evidence where new or diversified investment in fisheries (including commercial inland fishing) or aquaculture can contribute to the economic growth of the area.

Small fishing/aquaculture area/community with a proven history and active fishing port

Provide clear evidence regarding population, fisheries or aquaculture dependency, and history of activity. The fishing port must have records of landings between 2010 and 2014 and have a minimum of three vessels operating to/from said port.

At least one active fishing port, landing site, or production site

Evidence of an active fishing port, landing site or fisheries/aquaculture production.

[1] By way of derogation, the Commission may adopt or amend these population limits for a Member State in the Partnership Agreement, in duly justified cases and on the basis of a proposal by a Member State in order to take account of sparsely or densely populated areas; or in order to ensure the territorial coherence of area covered by the local development strategy.

5.1.3 A list of selection criteria for local development strategies

The first (expression of interest) stage of the selection process will also look to ensure applicant FLAGS have shown:

An understanding of the issues, challenges and opportunities facing the fishing community

Clear evidence that the applicant knows what is required in terms of:

- increasing employment and skills in fishery related sectors;

- *innovation leading to the sustainable development of the fishing sector or fishing opportunities, e.g. investments in skills training or introducing apprenticeships;*
- *diversification into non-food activities e.g. offshore renewables or eco-tourism (including re-training whilst maintaining traditional skills);*
- *adjusting and taking advantage of CFP opportunities;*
- *accessing other EU or private funding to maintain or develop ports and harbours;*
- *reimagining small harbours for alternative uses;*
- *promotional campaigns related to the maritime economy and increasing awareness of the area identity, and how this will be addressed and developed further.*

Achieving a sustainable economy

Provide proposals for:

- *measurable economic benefits, increasing quality and value from existing markets and products, reducing waste and discards;*
- *identifying/creating new investment opportunities to support economic growth (directly associated with fishing / aquaculture production or other supply chain logistics).*

Impact on the environment

Promote the:

- *sustainability of the environment;*
- *improving the quality of the environment by reducing any adverse climate and habitat impacts and improve conservation of existing habitats and marine areas.*

Good governance

Demonstrate the ability to:

- *develop and manage the capacity of the membership;*
- *deal with challenges identified; evidence of a balanced and inclusive group;*
- *identify opportunities to work collaboratively with other Local Action Groups or Local Enterprise Partnerships, particularly where efficiency in support services can be achieved.*

High level of community involvement with the fishing / aquaculture sector

- *Clear evidence of engagement with the fisheries / aquaculture industry including promotional and marketing campaigns and meetings.*

Representation from fisheries/aquaculture sectors

- *Prospective FLAGs must have a significant representation (between 10-49%) from the fisheries and/or aquaculture sectors.*

Expressions of interest (EOI) will be scored against the overarching criteria. More detail on the scoring weights and requirements for EOIs will be provided in the CLLD guidance published by UK Intermediate Bodies.

Those areas / groups whose EOIs are successful will be invited to form a prospective FLAG 'Local Development Strategy (LDS)'. The LDS must demonstrate the area / group's potential to develop into a FLAG. The potential FLAG will be able to access assistance to aid the preparation of the strategy, however it is also recommended that locally sourced match-funding is also sought.

FLAGs will need to deliver a strategy which maximises the participation of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors, and ensures that local communities can benefit from the opportunities offered by maritime, coastal and inland water development projects. The strategy should contain the following elements and will be selected on the basis of the information provided:

Definition of the area and population covered

Has the area and population covered by the strategy been provided (i.e. clearly determined at datazone level with accompanying maps)?

Analysis of the development needs and potential of the area

Assessed on the basis of the quality of the SWOT analysis.

Description of objectives including innovative features and priorities

Have the objectives been clearly identified and prioritised?

Measurable targets for outputs and results in either quantitative or qualitative terms

Does the strategy clearly set out measurable results which can demonstrate the achievement of the objective?

Description of community and stakeholder involvement in the development of the strategy and its implementation

Does the description identify who was involved in strategy development, and their experience/expertise?

Action plan showing how objectives will be achieved

Does the strategy provide realistic detail on how objectives will be achieved?

Description of the governance and draft structure, management, monitoring and evaluation arrangements, demonstrating the capacity of the FLAG to implement the strategy

Has a description of these arrangements been provided, and is it realistic?

Administrative and financial management arrangements (including risk management and staffing)

Does the strategy provide enough detail to show sufficient capacity to implement the strategy, including a description of the evaluation, and financial plans for the strategy, and a description of the economic benefits the FLAG will bring?

Communication and publicity initiatives

Does the strategy include a communications plan that has details of any planned FLAG publicity activities or events in the area?

Description of any alignment with other CLLD initiatives, including cooperation with other community bodies e.g. Local Enterprise Partnerships or Local Action Groups. Also a description if a FLAG wishes to access ‘core’ EMFF funding or other ESI funds for projects

Does the strategy include measures for leveraging ‘core’ EMFF funding? Does the strategy provide details of how FLAG actions might complement EAFRD LAG strategies or, where relevant, the ERDF or ESF strategies? Is it clear where the FLAG will rely on investments from the other funds?

The FLAG selection process should take no longer than nine months from the initial EOI call to the approval of LDS, with successful FLAGs starting no later than 31 December 2017.

The UK EMFF budget for CLLD strategies and FLAGs will be made available to those fisheries area groups and communities who represent the area in which they are based; as such a minimum of 10% of the group membership should be directly involved with fishery or aquaculture production. The groups and communities must adopt a ‘community-led’ approach. These groups will need to demonstrate a need for assistance, e.g. investments from the EMFF, and where appropriate other ESI funds, that will see an upturn in fishery or aquaculture activities or production; or where these activities provide other social and economic opportunities (e.g. employment, diversification and training) of wider benefit to the community.

6% of the programme will be allocated to FLAGs. Individual FLAG allocations will initially be based on an equal share of this budget. It is expected that FLAG ambitions will vary, and the indicative allocations will be adjusted as part of LDS assessments, in discussion with the prospective FLAGs. FLAGs will be encouraged to look to funding from the other parts of the EMFF, the other ESI funds, and for private contributions, to maximise the impact of their allocation.

5.1.4 A clear description of the respective roles of the FLAGs, the managing authority or designated body for all implementation tasks relating to the strategy

The main responsibility of the FLAG will be the implementation, management, monitoring and evaluation of the community-led local development strategy that it has produced. The other key roles of the FLAG will be:

- To motivate the local area in CLLD initiatives and the work of the FLAG, promoting and publicising development opportunities and encouraging project applications;
- Engaging, collaborating and working in partnership with other organisations and initiatives on CLLD measures (i.e. LEPs and LAGs);
- Project consideration, recommendation and selection whilst ensuring coherence with CLLD strategies;
- Fixing the amount of support available to projects; and
- Networking with other FLAGs, sharing knowledge and best practice.

Management of the CLLD process (including the specific responsibilities for the UK Managing Authority and each IB) will fit within the “United Kingdom’s Management and Control System of the EMFF and Arrangements for Independent Examination of Complaints” set out in the Annex to this Operational Programme. More specifically, IBs will be responsible for managing delivery of CLLD under the EMFF in line with EU regulations and the policy objectives identified for FLAGs in the Operational Programme. These responsibilities will include:

- Designing and implementing a competitive process for CLLD and facilitating the establishment of new FLAGs;
- Building on the best-practice lessons learned from previous CLLD programmes;
- Ongoing support, advice and performance management for FLAGs, monitoring and implementation of the LDS, [approving projects and claims]; and
- Supporting all audit and compliance activity, where input is required.

FLAGs’ financial and programme management will be closely monitored by the IBs to ensure the programme delivers the spend target. FLAGs will be asked to demonstrate appropriate administrative capacity to support delivery of their local development strategies, whilst keeping management and administration costs as low as possible to ensure spend on activity is maximised.

5.1.5 Information on advance payments to FLAGs

The UK will not be making advance payments to FLAGs using EMFF. Some payments may, however, be made using domestic resources.



5.2 Information on integrated territorial investments

EMFF measures covered
Article 37 Support for the design and implementation of conservation measures
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)
Article 39 Innovation linked to the conservation of marine biological resources (+ art. 44.1.c Inland fishing)
Article 40.1.a Protection and restoration of marine biodiversity – collection of lost fishing gear and marine litter
Article 43.2 Fishing ports, landing sites, auction halls and shelters – investments to facilitate compliance with the obligation to land all catches
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)
Article 36 Support to systems of allocation of fishing opportunities
Article 27 Advisory services (+ art. 44.3 Inland fishing)
Article 30 Diversification and new forms of income (+ art. 44.4 Inland fishing)
Article 31 Start-up support for young fishermen (+ art. 44.2 Inland fishing)
Article 32 Health and safety (+ art. 44.1.b Inland fishing)
Article 33 Temporary cessation of fishing activities
Article 42 Added value, product quality and use of unwanted catches (+ art. 44.1.e Inland fishing)
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)
Article 26 Innovation (+ art. 44.3 Inland fishing)
Article 28 Partnerships between fishermen and scientists (+ art. 44.3 Inland fishing)
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)
Article 41.2 Energy efficiency and mitigation of climate change - Replacement or modernisation of main or ancillary engines (+ art. 44.1.d Inland fishing)
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)
Article 47 Innovation
Article 49 Management, relief and advisory services for aquaculture farms
Article 48.1.a-d, f-h Productive investments in aquaculture
Article 52 Encouraging new sustainable aquaculture farmers
Article 48.1.k Productive investments in aquaculture - increasing energy efficiency, renewable energy
Article 48.1.e, i, j Productive investments in aquaculture - resource efficiency, reducing usage of water and chemicals, recirculation systems minimising water use
Article 51 Increasing the potential of aquaculture sites
Article 54 Aquaculture providing environmental services

	EMFF measures covered
	Article 55 Public health measures
	Article 50 Promoting human capital and networking
	Article 77 Data collection
	Article 76 Control and enforcement
	Article 62.1.a Preparatory support
	Article 63 Implementation of local development strategies (incl. running costs and animation)
	Article 64 Cooperation activities
	Article 66 Production and marketing plans
	Article 67 Storage aid
	Article 68 Marketing measures
	Article 69 Processing of fisheries and aquaculture products
	Article 80.1.b Promotion of the protection of marine environment, and the sustainable use of marine and coastal resources
	Article 80.1.c Improving the knowledge on the state of the marine environment

Indicative financial allocation from EMFF (€)

6. FULFILMENT OF EX-ANTE CONDITIONALITIES

6.1 Identification of applicable ex-ante conditionalities and assessment of their fulfilment

6.1.1 Applicable EMFF specific ex-ante conditionalities

Ex-ante conditionality	Union priorities to which conditionality applies	Fulfilled
1 - Report on fishing capacity has been submitted in accordance with Article 22(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013	1	Yes
2 - The establishment of a multiannual national strategic plan on aquaculture, as referred to in Article 34 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013, by 2014	2	Yes
3 - Administrative capacity: administrative capacity is available to comply with the data requirements for fisheries management set out in Article 25 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 and Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 199/2008	3	Yes
4 - Administrative capacity: administrative capacity is available to comply with the implementation of a Union control, inspection and enforcement system as provided for in Article 36 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 and further specified in Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009	3	Partially

6.1.1 Criteria and assessment of their fulfilment

Ex-ante conditionality	Criterion	Fulfilled	Reference
1 - Report on fishing capacity has been submitted in accordance with Article 22(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013	1 - The report is made in accordance with common guidelines issued by the Commission	Yes	UK Fleet Capacity Report 2014
1 - Report on fishing capacity has been submitted in accordance with Article 22(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013	2 - Fishing capacity does not exceed the fishing capacity ceiling set up in Annex II to Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013	Yes	UK Fleet Capacity Report 2014

<p>2 - The establishment of a multiannual national strategic plan on aquaculture, as referred to in Article 34 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013, by 2014</p>	<p>1 - A multiannual national strategic plan on aquaculture is transmitted to the Commission at the latest by the day of transmission of the operational programme</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>UK's Multi Annual National Plan for the Development of Sustainable Aquaculture</p>
<p>2 - The establishment of a multiannual national strategic plan on aquaculture, as referred to in Article 34 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013, by 2014</p>	<p>2 - The operational programme includes information on the complementarities with the multiannual national strategic plan on aquaculture</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>UK's Multi Annual National Plan for the Development of Sustainable Aquaculture</p>
<p>3 - Administrative capacity: administrative capacity is available to comply with the data requirements for fisheries management set out in Article 25 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 and Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 199/2008</p>	<p>1 - A description of the administrative capacity to prepare and apply a multiannual programme for data collection, to be reviewed by STECF and accepted by the Commission</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>UK National Programmes can be located at: http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140507202222/http://www.marinemf.gov.uk/mf/cf.htm and https://www.gov.uk/data-collection-framework</p>

<p>3 - Administrative capacity: administrative capacity is available to comply with the data requirements for fisheries management set out in Article 25 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 and Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 199/2008</p>	<p>2 - A description of the administrative capacity to prepare and implement work plans for data collection, to be reviewed by STECF and accepted by the Commission</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Annual reports are published on the EC/JRC site at: http://datacollection.jrc.ec.eu</p>

<p>3 - Administrative capacity: administrative capacity is available to comply with the data requirements for fisheries management set out in Article 25 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 and Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 199/2008</p>	<p>3 - A description of the capacity in human resources allocation to undertake bilateral or multilateral agreements with other Member States if the work to implement the data collection obligations is shared</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Details of bilateral and multilateral agreements are listed as an annex to the Nation</p>

<p>4 - Administrative capacity: administrative capacity is available to comply with the implementation of a Union control, inspection and enforcement system as provided for in Article 36 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 and further specified in Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009</p>	<p>1 - A description of the administrative capacity to prepare and implement the section of the operational programme pertaining to the 2014-2020 national control financing programme as referred to in point (o) of Article 18(1)</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-environment-food-rural-affairs http://wales.gov.uk/topics/improvingservices/better/vfm/publications/procurement http://www.dfpni.gov.uk/index/procurement-2/cpd/cpd-policy-and-legislation.htm http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Government/Procurement/policy</p>
<p>4 - Administrative capacity: administrative capacity is available to comply with the implementation of a Union control, inspection and enforcement system as provided for in Article 36 of Regulation (EU) No 1224/2009</p>	<p>2 - 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</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>The United Kingdom National Control Action Programmes for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cod, saithe and whiting - Hake - Western Channel sole - North Sea plaice and sole - West of Scotland herring <p>All internal documents</p>

1380/2013 and further specified in Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009			
4 - Administrative capacity: administrative capacity is available to comply with the implementation of a Union control, inspection and enforcement system as provided for in Article 36 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 and further specified in Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009	3 - A description of the administrative capacity to prepare and implement a common control programme that may be developed with other Member States, as provided for in Article 94 of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009	Yes	UK Common Control Programme - an internal document

<p>4 - Administrative capacity: administrative capacity is available to comply with the implementation of a Union control, inspection and enforcement system as provided for in Article 36 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 and further specified in Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009</p>	<p>4 - A description of the administrative capacity to prepare and implement the specific control and inspection programmes, as provided for in Article 95 of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Council Regulations 1342/2008 and 1224/2009 Council Decision 620/2008 Commission Implementing Decision 2012/807/EU Commission Implementing Decision 2013/328/EU</p>
<p>4 - Administrative capacity: administrative capacity is available to comply with the implementation of a Union control, inspection and enforcement system as provided for in Article 36 of Regulation (EU) No</p>	<p>5 - A description of the administrative capacity to apply a system of effective, proportionate and dissuasive sanctions for serious infringements, as provided for in Article 90 of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Monitoring, Control and Surveillance System - an internal MMO resource</p>

<p>1380/2013 and further specified in Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009</p>			
<p>4 - Administrative capacity: administrative capacity is available to comply with the implementation of a Union control, inspection and enforcement system as provided for in Article 36 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 and</p>	<p>6 - A description of the administrative capacity to apply the point system for serious infringements, as provided for in Article 92 of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Monitoring, Control and Surveillance System - an internal MMO resource</p>

further specified in Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009			
---	--	--	--

6.1.2 Applicable general ex-ante conditionalities and assessment of their fulfilment

The applicable ex ante conditionalities have been fulfilled at UK level. The assessment of fulfilment of the general ex-ante conditionalities is included in the Partnership Agreement under the Chapter 2.3.

Procurement: Procurement teams in the relevant bodies comply fully with the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) regulations related to the procurement of all goods and services. The procurement policy and the “procurement codex” describe how they apply their business processes to ensure “appropriate mechanisms” are in place. Although standard training packages are not specifically designed for staff involved with ESI Funds, the generic ‘Procurement and Commercial Function’ training addresses the specific regulations that apply for all public sector procurement activity. Relevant bodies employ specialist procurement teams. For example, Defra employs a dedicated team of more than 30 staff whose purpose is to ensure Defra procurements are offering value for money whilst ensuring an open, honest and transparent process in line with current EU legislation. This team is supported by a dedicated procurement legal team.

State Aid: In the UK, scheme administrators are responsible for ensuring their schemes are compliant with State Aid rules and that no illegal aid has been granted. To support them to do this, the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) State Aid team (which is responsible for UK wide State Aid policy) leads on providing advice and guidance to all UK public bodies. The BIS State Aid team provide teach-ins and seminars to public bodies and manages a web page that includes extensive guidance on the rules. In particular, BIS has published the guide "State Aid: the Basics", which enables scheme administrators to establish whether their scheme or grant falls within the State Aid rules. Where it does, they are advised to consult the Guidance for State Aid Practitioners, which gives detailed guidance on the most often used regulations and frameworks. BIS is currently updating its guidance in line with the Commission's State Aid Modernisation programme.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) & Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA):

Environmental legislation related to EIA and SEA (according to the Regulation): ‘the existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union environmental legislation related to EIA and SEA’ has been applied. Defra is submitting the SEA report to the Commission alongside this programme document. The SEA covers the programme level, so Defra does not need to produce an EIA. Defra commissioned the development of the SEA to a team of consultants, Atkins/Poseidon, with expertise in this area. The Ex-Ante evaluators provided feedback and advice on SEA implementation requirements.

Statistical systems and result indicators: the UK meets the EAC via its fulfilment of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1014/2014, with regards to the content and construction of a Common Monitoring and Evaluation System (CMES) for the operations funded under the EMFF.

6.2 Description of the actions to be taken, the bodies responsible and the timetable for their implementation

6.2.1 Actions envisaged to achieve the fulfilment of the EMFF specific ex-ante conditionalities

Ex-ante conditionality	Criterion	Actions to be taken	Deadline	Bodies responsible for fulfilment
4 - Administrative capacity: administrative capacity is available to comply with the implementation of a Union control, inspection and enforcement system as provided for in Article 36 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 and further specified in Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009	2 - 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	1 - Establish a single competent authority according to Article 5(3) of the Control regulation. 2 - Adopt the mandate of the competent authority so as to ensure full compliance with the Control regulation by 1 December 2015. 3 - Define appropriate working arrangements between the single competent authority and the UK devolved administrations by 1 January 2016. 4 - Review activities where coordination is needed (Regulatory aspects, operation of databases, coordination of Common Control programmes and any other administrative and technical activity link to control of fisheries) to ensure that the Control Regulation is applied by 1 December 2016.	01-Dec-2016	Defra, Marine Scotland, Welsh Government and DARD

6.2.2 Actions envisaged to achieve the fulfilment of the general ex-ante conditionalities

None.

7. DESCRIPTION OF THE PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK

7.1 Table: Performance framework

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

Indicator and measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Targets for 2023
Financial indicator	12,626,559.00	96,726,455.00
1.1 - N° of projects on innovation, advisory services and partnerships with scientists	23.00	54.00
1.3 - N° of projects on added value, quality, use of unwanted catches and fishing ports, landing sites, actions halls and shelters	9.00	378.00
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	37.00	377.00

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

Indicator and measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Targets for 2023
Financial indicator	4,291,192.00	26,737,035.00
2.1 - N° of projects on innovation, advisory services	9.00	24.00
2.2 - N° of projects on productive investments in aquaculture	23.00	109.00
2.5 - N° of projects on promoting human capital of aquaculture in general and of new aquaculture farmers	3.00	8.00

Union priority	3 - Fostering the implementation of the CFP
-----------------------	---

Indicator and measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Targets for 2023
Financial indicator	27,178,185.00	116,421,330.00
3.2 - N° of projects on supporting the collection, management and use of data	1.00	2.00

Union priority	4 - Increasing employment and territorial cohesion
-----------------------	--

Indicator and measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Targets for 2023
Financial indicator	3,339,313.00	18,227,868.00
4.1 - N° of local development strategies selected	19.00	19.00
4.2 - N° of projects on preparatory support	7.00	8.00

Union priority	5 - Fostering marketing and processing
-----------------------	--

Indicator and measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Targets for 2023
Financial indicator	7,920,039.00	31,189,604.00
5.2 - N° of projects on marketing measures and storage aid	6.00	21.00
5.3 - N° of projects on processing	31.00	153.00

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

Indicator and measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Targets for 2023
Financial indicator	1,707,095.00	6,882,215.00
6.2 - N° projects on the protection and improvement of knowledge on marine environment	6.00	33.00

7.2 Table: justification for the choice of output indicators to be included in the performance framework

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

<p>Rationale for the selection of output indicators included in the performance framework , including an explanation of the share of financial allocation represented by operations, which will produce the outputs, as well the method applied to calculate the share, which must exceed 50% of the financial allocation to the priority</p>	<p>The output indicators have been selected because they link to measures which are central to the achievement of the UK's strategic priorities for the fund.</p> <p>Output indicator 1.4 is selected because it relates to adaptation to CFP reform, in particular the landing obligation (Articles 37, 38, and 39). Indicator 1.3 is also selected because it will contribute to the transition to the landing obligation through adaptations to landing sites (Article 43.2) and increased efficiency and improved working conditions (Article 43.1). Under output indicator 1.1 (Articles 26, 27 and 28) investments in innovation and partnerships with scientists will focus on CFP reform and reducing the impact of fisheries on the environment.</p> <p>The share of financial allocation represented by the output indicators is calculated to be in excess of 50% of the allocation to each Union Priority. The share was calculated by multiplying predicted unit costs (based on past experience) for a project by the likely uptake.</p>
Data or evidence used to estimate the value	Output targets were calculated on the basis of

<p>of milestones and targets and the calculation method (e.g. unit costs, benchmarks, standard or past rate of implementation, expert advice, conclusions of ex-ante evaluation)</p>	<p>the UK's past experience by looking at uptake of similar projects under the EFF. In order to calculate the financial indicator for each priority, the UK aggregated the cost of each measure under that priority, based on the likely unit cost of the measure multiplied by an assumed rate of implementation. The rate of implementation was calculated on the basis of past experience or, where this was not possible, on the basis of expert advice.</p> <p>Milestones for output indicators were set in line with milestones for financial indicators.</p>
<p>Information on how the methodology and mechanisms to ensure consistency in the functioning of the performance framework have been applied in line with the provisions of the Partnership Agreement</p>	<p>As set out in the UK Partnership Agreement, while the performance framework for each individual programme will be set at programme level, an overview of ESI fund performance will be derived through an amalgamation of data drawn from individual performance frameworks.</p> <p>In line with the principles of the UK Partnership Agreement, for each of the six EMFF Union Priorities, an output indicator will be selected to feed into the single set of indicators for all ESI funds. The output indicators for each priority will be selected on the basis that they accurately represent the UK's strategic priorities for the EMFF, and so will enable an accurate assessment of the performance of the fund. The financial indicator for each priority will also feed into this set of indicators.</p>

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

<p>Rationale for the selection of output indicators included in the performance framework , including an explanation of the share of financial allocation represented by operations, which will produce the outputs, as well the method applied to calculate the share, which must exceed 50% of the financial allocation to the priority</p>	<p>The output indicators have been selected because they link to measures which are central to the achievement of the UK's strategic priorities for the fund.</p> <p>Output indicators 2.1 and 2.2 are selected because they relate to fostering growth potential in aquaculture through innovation and support to obtain advisory services (Articles 47 and 49) and productive investments in aquaculture (Article 48.1).</p>
---	--

	<p>Among other areas, aquaculture producers will receive support to modernise, improve working conditions and quality of stocks. Output indicator 2.5 (Article 50) will support training and learning. Fostering growth potential in aquaculture is one of the UK's policy goals.</p> <p>The share of financial allocation represented by the output indicators is calculated to be in excess of 50% of the allocation to each Union Priority. The share was calculated by multiplying predicted unit costs (based on past experience) for a project by the likely uptake.</p>
<p>Data or evidence used to estimate the value of milestones and targets and the calculation method (e.g. unit costs, benchmarks, standard or past rate of implementation, expert advice, conclusions of ex-ante evaluation)</p>	<p>Output targets were calculated on the basis of the UK's past experience by looking at uptake of similar projects under the EFF. In order to calculate the financial indicator for each priority, the UK aggregated the cost of each measure under that priority, based on the likely unit cost of the measure multiplied by an assumed rate of implementation. The rate of implementation was calculated on the basis of past experience or, where this was not possible, on the basis of expert advice.</p> <p>Milestones for output indicators were set in line with milestones for financial indicators.</p>
<p>Information on how the methodology and mechanisms to ensure consistency in the functioning of the performance framework have been applied in line with the provisions of the Partnership Agreement</p>	<p>As set out in the UK Partnership Agreement, while the performance framework for each individual programme will be set at programme level, an overview of ESI fund performance will be derived through an amalgamation of data drawn from individual performance frameworks.</p> <p>In line with the principles of the UK Partnership Agreement, for each of the six EMFF Union Priorities, an output indicator will be selected to feed into the single set of indicators for all ESI funds. The output indicators for each priority will be selected on the basis that they accurately represent the UK's strategic priorities for the EMFF, and so will enable an accurate assessment of the performance of the fund. The financial indicator for each priority will also feed into</p>

	this set of indicators.
--	-------------------------

Union priority	3 - Fostering the implementation of the CFP
-----------------------	--

<p>Rationale for the selection of output indicators included in the performance framework , including an explanation of the share of financial allocation represented by operations, which will produce the outputs, as well the method applied to calculate the share, which must exceed 50% of the financial allocation to the priority</p>	<p>The output indicator has been selected because it links to activity that is central to the achievement of the UK’s strategic priorities for the fund.</p> <p>Output indicator 3.2 (Article 77) will support the UK’s policy goal of fulfilling its enforcement and data collection obligations. The UK will collect data on the basis of National Programmes. Data will help to develop an understanding of fish stocks, environmental impacts, impact of the landing obligation and aquaculture activities.</p> <p>The financial allocation to this Union Priority was determined by the Commission. The output indicator represents over 50% of the complete financial allocation under Union Priority 3.</p>
<p>Data or evidence used to estimate the value of milestones and targets and the calculation method (e.g. unit costs, benchmarks, standard or past rate of implementation, expert advice, conclusions of ex-ante evaluation)</p>	<p>Output targets were calculated on the basis of the UK’s past data collection experience, and expert advice. Data collection measures will be funded within the framework of two National Programmes.</p> <p>Milestones for output indicators were set in line with milestones for financial indicators.</p>
<p>Information on how the methodology and mechanisms to ensure consistency in the functioning of the performance framework have been applied in line with the provisions of the Partnership Agreement</p>	<p>As set out in the UK Partnership Agreement, while the performance framework for each individual programme will be set at programme level, an overview of ESI fund performance will be derived through an amalgamation of data drawn from individual performance frameworks.</p> <p>In line with the principles of the UK Partnership Agreement, for each of the six EMFF Union Priorities, an output indicator will be selected to feed into the single set of indicators for all ESI funds. The output indicators for each priority will be selected on the basis that they accurately represent the UK’s strategic priorities for the EMFF, and</p>

	so will enable an accurate assessment of the performance of the fund. The financial indicator for each priority will also feed into this set of indicators.
--	---

Union priority	4 - Increasing employment and territorial cohesion
-----------------------	--

Rationale for the selection of output indicators included in the performance framework , including an explanation of the share of financial allocation represented by operations, which will produce the outputs, as well the method applied to calculate the share, which must exceed 50% of the financial allocation to the priority	<p>The output indicators have been selected because they link to measures which are central to the achievement of the UK’s strategic priorities for the fund.</p> <p>Output indicator 4.1 and 4.2 have been selected for Union Priority 4. These indicators link to the number of FLAGS in operation in the UK. Articles 62.1.a and 63 will support the development of local action plans and their implementation. This is linked to the UK’s policy goal to support increased economic, environmental and social sustainability and more specific aims of investment in coastal communities and promotion of social cohesion.</p> <p>The share of financial allocation represented by the output indicators is calculated to be in excess of 50% of the allocation to each Union Priority. The share was calculated by multiplying predicted unit costs (based on past experience) for a project by the likely uptake.</p>
Data or evidence used to estimate the value of milestones and targets and the calculation method (e.g. unit costs, benchmarks, standard or past rate of implementation, expert advice, conclusions of ex-ante evaluation)	<p>Output targets were calculated on the basis of the UK’s past experience by looking at uptake of similar projects under the EFF. In order to calculate the financial indicator for each priority, the UK aggregated the cost of each measure under that priority, based on the likely unit cost of the measure multiplied by an assumed rate of implementation. The rate of implementation was calculated on the basis of past experience or, where this was not possible, on the basis of expert advice.</p> <p>Milestones for output indicators were set in line with milestones for financial indicators.</p>
Information on how the methodology and mechanisms to ensure consistency in the	As set out in the UK Partnership Agreement, while the performance framework for each

<p>functioning of the performance framework have been applied in line with the provisions of the Partnership Agreement</p>	<p>individual programme will be set at programme level, an overview of ESI fund performance will be derived through an amalgamation of data drawn from individual performance frameworks.</p> <p>In line with the principles of the UK Partnership Agreement, for each of the six EMFF Union Priorities, an output indicator will be selected to feed into the single set of indicators for all ESI funds. The output indicators for each priority will be selected on the basis that they accurately represent the UK's strategic priorities for the EMFF, and so will enable an accurate assessment of the performance of the fund. The financial indicator for each priority will also feed into this set of indicators.</p>
--	---

Union priority	5 - Fostering marketing and processing
-----------------------	--

<p>Rationale for the selection of output indicators included in the performance framework , including an explanation of the share of financial allocation represented by operations, which will produce the outputs, as well the method applied to calculate the share, which must exceed 50% of the financial allocation to the priority</p>	<p>The output indicators have been selected because they link to measures which are central to the achievement of the UK's strategic priorities for the fund.</p> <p>Output indicators 5.2 and 5.3 have been selected for Union Priority 5. Output indicator 5.2 (Article 68) will assist with setting up new Producer Organisations and improve marketing capability in the sector. Output indicator 5.3 (Article 69) will lead to more energy efficient and innovative processing approaches. Innovation will focus on utilising by-catch and unfamiliar species.</p> <p>The share of financial allocation represented by the output indicators is calculated to be in excess of 50% of the allocation to each Union Priority. The share was calculated by multiplying predicted unit costs (based on past experience) for a project by the likely uptake.</p>
<p>Data or evidence used to estimate the value of milestones and targets and the calculation method (e.g. unit costs, benchmarks, standard or past rate of implementation, expert advice, conclusions of ex-ante evaluation)</p>	<p>Output targets were calculated on the basis of the UK's past experience by looking at uptake of similar projects under the EFF. In order to calculate the financial indicator for each priority, the UK aggregated the cost of each</p>

	<p>measure under that priority, based on the likely unit cost of the measure multiplied by an assumed rate of implementation. The rate of implementation was calculated on the basis of past experience or, where this was not possible, on the basis of expert advice.</p> <p>Milestones for output indicators were set in line with milestones for financial indicators.</p>
Information on how the methodology and mechanisms to ensure consistency in the functioning of the performance framework have been applied in line with the provisions of the Partnership Agreement	<p>As set out in the UK Partnership Agreement, while the performance framework for each individual programme will be set at programme level, an overview of ESI fund performance will be derived through an amalgamation of data drawn from individual performance frameworks.</p> <p>In line with the principles of the UK Partnership Agreement, for each of the six EMFF Union Priorities, an output indicator will be selected to feed into the single set of indicators for all ESI funds. The output indicators for each priority will be selected on the basis that they accurately represent the UK's strategic priorities for the EMFF, and so will enable an accurate assessment of the performance of the fund. The financial indicator for each priority will also feed into this set of indicators.</p>

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

<p>Rationale for the selection of output indicators included in the performance framework, including an explanation of the share of financial allocation represented by operations, which will produce the outputs, as well the method applied to calculate the share, which must exceed 50% of the financial allocation to the priority</p>	<p>The output indicators have been selected because they link to measures which are central to the achievement of the UK's strategic priorities for the fund.</p> <p>Output indicator 6.2 is selected for this Union Priority. Articles 80.1.b and 80.1.c will support the implementation of MSP and MSFD, focusing on filling in knowledge gaps to help improve the UK's management of the marine environment. This links to the UK's policy goal of supporting the increased environmental sustainability of the sector.</p> <p>The financial allocation to this Union Priority was determined by the Commission. The</p>
--	---

	<p>output indicators represent all measures and the complete financial allocation under Union Priority 6.</p>
<p>Data or evidence used to estimate the value of milestones and targets and the calculation method (e.g. unit costs, benchmarks, standard or past rate of implementation, expert advice, conclusions of ex-ante evaluation)</p>	<p>Output targets were calculated on the basis of the UK's past experience by looking at uptake of similar projects under the EFF. In order to calculate the financial indicator for each priority, the UK aggregated the cost of each measure under that priority, based on the likely unit cost of the measure multiplied by an assumed rate of implementation. The rate of implementation was calculated on the basis of past experience or, where this was not possible, on the basis of expert advice.</p> <p>Milestones for output indicators were set in line with milestones for financial indicators.</p>
<p>Information on how the methodology and mechanisms to ensure consistency in the functioning of the performance framework have been applied in line with the provisions of the Partnership Agreement</p>	<p>As set out in the UK Partnership Agreement, while the performance framework for each individual programme will be set at programme level, an overview of ESI fund performance will be derived through an amalgamation of data drawn from individual performance frameworks.</p> <p>In line with the principles of the UK Partnership Agreement, for each of the six EMFF Union Priorities, an output indicator will be selected to feed into the single set of indicators for all ESI funds. The output indicators for each priority will be selected on the basis that they accurately represent the UK's strategic priorities for the EMFF, and so will enable an accurate assessment of the performance of the fund. The financial indicator for each priority will also feed into this set of indicators.</p>

8. FINANCING PLAN

8.1 Total EMFF contribution planned for each year (€)

Year	EMFF main allocation	EMFF performance reserve
2014	0.00	0.00
2015	63,055,178.00	4,024,799.00
2016	32,017,719.00	2,043,684.00
2017	32,536,660.00	2,076,808.00
2018	33,293,754.00	2,125,133.00
2019	33,521,409.00	2,139,664.00
2020	34,126,351.00	2,178,278.00
Total	228,551,071.00	14,588,366.00

8.2 EMFF contribution and co-financing rate for the union priorities, technical assistance and other support (€)

Union priority	Measure under the Union Priority	Total support			Main allocation (total funding less performance reserve)		Performance reserve		Performance reserve amount as proportion of total Union support $h = f / a * 100$
		EMFF contribution (performance reserve included)	National counterpart (performance reserve included)	EMFF co-financing rate	EMFF support	National counterpart	EMFF Performance reserve	National counterpart	
		a	b	$c = a / (a + b) * 100$	d = a - f	e = b - g	f	g = b * (f / a)	
1 - Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based fisheries	1 - Article 33(1)(a),(b),(c), Article 34 and Article 41(2) (Article 13(2) of the EMFF)	172,278.00	172,278.00	50.00%	98,478.00	98,478.00	73,800.00	73,800.00	5.99%
1 - Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based fisheries	1b - Article 33(1)(d) and Article 44(4a)	1,178,550.00	392,850.00	75.00%	1,178,550.00	392,850.00	0.00	0.00	
1 - Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based fisheries	2 - Financial allocation for the rest of the Union priority 1 (Article 13(2) of the EMFF)	71,107,874.00	23,702,625.00	75.00%	66,839,242.00	22,279,748.00	4,268,632.00	1,422,877.00	
2 - Fostering environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based aquaculture	-	20,052,776.00	6,684,259.00	75.00%	18,866,251.00	6,288,751.00	1,186,525.00	395,508.00	5.92%
3 - Fostering the implementation of the CFP	1 - the improvement and supply of scientific knowledge and collection and management of data (Article 13(4) of the EMFF)	52,029,032.00	13,007,258.00	80.00%	48,130,846.00	12,032,712.00	3,898,186.00	974,546.00	6.77%
3 - Fostering the implementation of the CFP	2 - the support to monitoring, control and enforcement, enhancing institutional capacity and an efficient public administration without increasing the administrative burden (Article 76(2)(a) to (d) and (f) to (l)) (Article 13(3) of the EMFF)	43,612,974.00	4,845,886.00	90.00%	40,937,420.00	4,548,602.00	2,675,554.00	297,284.00	
3 - Fostering the implementation of the CFP	3 - the support to monitoring, control and enforcement, enhancing institutional capacity and an efficient public administration without increasing the administrative burden (Article 76(2)(e)) (Article 13(3) of the EMFF)	2,048,326.00	877,854.00	70.00%	2,012,326.00	862,425.00	36,000.00	15,429.00	
4 - Increasing employment and territorial cohesion	-	13,670,901.00	4,556,967.00	75.00%	12,855,871.00	4,285,290.00	815,030.00	271,677.00	5.96%
5 - Fostering marketing and processing	1 - Storage aid (Article 67) (Article 13(6) of the EMFF)	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00		6.99%
5 - Fostering marketing and processing	2 - Compensation for outermost regions (Article 70) (Article 13(5) of the EMFF)	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00		
5 - Fostering marketing and processing	3 - Financial allocation for the rest of the Union priority 5 (Article 13(2) of the EMFF)	23,392,203.00	7,797,401.00	75.00%	21,757,564.00	7,252,521.00	1,634,639.00	544,880.00	
6 - Fostering the implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy	-	5,161,661.00	1,720,554.00	75.00%	5,161,661.00	1,720,554.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
7 - Technical assistance	-	10,712,862.00	3,570,954.00	75.00%	10,712,862.00	3,570,954.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
Total		243,139,437.00	67,328,886.00		228,551,071.00	63,332,885.00	14,588,366.00	3,996,001.00	6.00%

8.3 EMFF contribution to the thematic objectives of the ESI funds

Thematic objective	EMFF contribution (€)
03 - Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises, the agricultural sector (for the EAFRD) and the fisheries and aquaculture sector (for the EMFF)	85,234,209.00
04 - Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	1,563,815.00
06 - Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency	127,656,368.00
08 - Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility	17,972,183.00

9. HORIZONTAL PRINCIPLES

9.1 Description of the actions to take into account the principles set out in articles 5*, 7 and 8 of the CPR

9.1.1 Promotion of equality between men and women and non-discrimination

The number of women employed in the fisheries sector is low: the Office for National Statistics' 2012 Annual Labour Market Survey showed that only around 6.5% of people employed in the marine fishing industry were female. However, it is worth noting that the 2014 STECF report on "The Economic Performance of the EU Fish Processing Industry" shows that in 2012 43% of the UK processing sector workforce is female.

The main reason for the comparative under-representation in the fish catching sector is the nature of much of the work undertaken rather than constraints on specific groups. The UK has a well-established legal structure that prohibits discrimination on the grounds of race, sex, sexuality, religion or disability. The UK is also a signatory to the European Convention on Human Rights and is committed to implementing the reforms under the Lisbon Agenda, which includes increasing the number of women in work. In the UK the Equality Act 2010 legally protects people from discrimination in the workplace.

The delivery of the Programme will operate within the established UK legal framework covering equalities. Intermediate Bodies (IBs) will be responsible for ensuring the proactive promotion of equality at all stages of programme implementation (design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation). This will include, for example, the preparation of literature and publicity material, guidance for delivery staff, and the criteria for targeting of support under the programme. All applications for support under the Programme will be equally judged on their merits by the respective IBs. Unsuccessful applicants will be informed via letter as to why their application failed, to ensure transparency in the assessment process.

Each IB will also collect and monitor equality-related data from applicants for funding. This will enable IBs to monitor the rate at which those with protected characteristics are applying to the scheme, and the success of those with protected characteristics in securing EMFF funding. As part of the process of monitoring and evaluation, each IB will then be able to draw conclusions from this data and take action as appropriate to ensure that the programme's implementation takes place in line with Article 7 of the Common Provisions Regulation and the UK's own domestic equality legislation.

In accordance with Article 113 of the EMFF Regulation, the Programme Monitoring Committee will be consulted on and approve the selection criteria for financed operations, taking into account the need to promote equality and good relations and to eliminate discrimination. Promoting equal opportunities to achieve a diverse and balanced workforce in the fisheries and aquaculture sector will be included in the examples given to achieve the baseline 'social' selection criteria. The Programme Monitoring Committee will also examine actions taken by the managing authority and IBs to promote equality. The Programme

Monitoring Committee will examine the equality data collected by IBs and issue recommendations as appropriate to ensure the programme is in line with the principles outlined above.

9.1.2 Sustainable development

Sustainable development is a significant component of the UK's ambitions for EMFF funding. As described in section three of the OP, the UK has set policy goals for EMFF funding which derive from the needs identified in the SWOT analysis. These include adapting to the requirements of CFP reform and supporting increased economic, environmental and social sustainability in the sector. The UK has also considered sustainable growth under the Europe 2020 strategy in setting its objectives for the fund.

EMFF funding will be used to help the sector transition to sustainably managed and discard-free fisheries. For example, Article 39 will be used for pilot projects linked to pot design limiting by-catch and Article 43.2 for improvements to onshore infrastructure that require changes to comply with CFP reform. CFP reform will also be supported through improved data collection, monitoring and control and enforcement through Articles 76 and 77. The UK will use EMFF support under Article 40.1 to help the effective management and monitoring of Natura 2000 sites, including the development, assessment and monitoring of fisheries management measures as well as projects on habitat restoration. Article 48.1.e, i and j will support the need for innovation and modernisation in development of sustainable aquaculture. These projects will enable producers to reduce water use, improve its quality and increase efficiency thus also contributing to the implementation of the European Water Framework Directive.

The UK will support the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) and the Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) Directive under Article 80. The UK's Marine Strategy Part One sets out the UK's approach, including relevant targets and indicators, to achieving or maintaining Good Environmental Status (GES) under the MSFD. GES is about sustainable development and involves protecting the marine environment, preventing its deterioration and restoring it where practical, while using marine resources sustainably. The Directive covers targets and indicators relating to biological diversity, non-indigenous species introductions, commercially exploited fish and shellfish populations, food webs, human-induced eutrophication, sea floor integrity, hydrographical conditions, concentrations of contaminants, contaminants in fish and other seafood, litter and noise. Monitoring the targets and indicators will demonstrate the UK's progress towards sustainable use of the marine environment. The objective of the MSFD to achieve GES through marine strategies which apply the ecosystem-based approach is in line with the objectives and approaches by the Regional Sea Convention OSPAR. EMFF funding under Article 80 will be used to support the MSP Directive which will assist in ensuring that activities taking place at sea are as efficient and sustainable as possible. Support will also focus on identification of gaps in current data or evidence and improved data and evidence gathering to support the development of Marine Plans and MSFD-related monitoring, assessment and measures. It will be used to establish baselines and monitoring for some key elements of the marine environment and to tackle more difficult or complex issues such as cumulative impacts or

future analysis as well as filling knowledge gaps that remain in our understanding of the marine environment and marine ecosystem processes.

The UK has a Multiannual National Plan for development of sustainable aquaculture which aims to demonstrate how the UK will foster growth within the industry. Aquaculture is one of the UK's key strategic food production sectors and helps to underpin sustainable economic growth and EMFF funding will be used to support this. For example, funding will be available for innovation and research under Article 47 to reduce the impact on the environment and increase sustainable use of resources and production methods under Article 48.

The UK will support the Europe 2020 sustainable growth objectives through promotion of the use of more energy efficient equipment in the fishing industry under Article 41 and for the aquaculture industry under Article 48. Support for the processing of products under Article 69 will support projects aiming to make the industry more energy efficient. Through CLLD, FLAGs will support its local communities by supporting projects that promote the sustainability of the environment and achieve a sustainable economy.

The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), undertaken as part of the development of the OP, identified and evaluated possible environmental effects and the development of appropriate control measures (mitigation measures) to either avoid, reduce or offset the potential effects identified. The SEA was considered alongside the development of the OP and the measures selected for support by the UK. The final SEA report did not identify any strongly negative effects associated with measures proposed for inclusion and subsequently no changes to the OP were recommended by the evaluators.

9.2 Indication of the indicative amount of support to be used for climate change objectives

EMFF measures contributing to the climate change objectives	Coefficient %
01 - Article 37 Support for the design and implementation of conservation measures	0.00
02 - 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)	40.00
03 - Article 39 Innovation linked to the conservation of marine biological resources (+ art. 44.1.c Inland fishing)	40.00
04 - Article 40.1.a Protection and restoration of marine biodiversity – collection of lost fishing gear and marine litter	0.00
05 - Article 43.2 Fishing ports, landing sites, auction halls and shelters – investments to facilitate compliance with the obligation to land all catches	0.00
01 - 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)	40.00

02 - Article 36 Support to systems of allocation of fishing opportunities	40.00
01 - Article 27 Advisory services (+ art. 44.3 Inland fishing)	0.00
02 - Article 30 Diversification and new forms of income (+ art. 44.4 Inland fishing)	0.00
03 - Article 31 Start-up support for young fishermen (+ art. 44.2 Inland fishing)	0.00
04 - Article 32 Health and safety (+ art. 44.1.b Inland fishing)	0.00
05 - Article 33 Temporary cessation of fishing activities	40.00
08 - Article 42 Added value, product quality and use of unwanted catches (+ art. 44.1.e Inland fishing)	0.00
09 - 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)	40.00
01 - Article 26 Innovation (+ art. 44.3 Inland fishing)	40.00
02 - Article 28 Partnerships between fishermen and scientists (+ art. 44.3 Inland fishing)	0.00
03 - 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)	100.00
04 - Article 41.2 Energy efficiency and mitigation of climate change - Replacement or modernisation of main or ancillary engines (+ art. 44.1.d Inland fishing)	100.00
01 - 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)	0.00
01 - Article 47 Innovation	40.00
02 - Article 49 Management, relief and advisory services for aquaculture farms	0.00
01 - Article 48.1.a-d, f-h Productive investments in aquaculture	40.00
02 - Article 52 Encouraging new sustainable aquaculture farmers	0.00
01 - Article 48.1.k Productive investments in aquaculture - increasing energy efficiency, renewable energy	40.00
02 - Article 48.1.e, i, j Productive investments in aquaculture - resource efficiency, reducing usage of water and chemicals, recirculation systems minimising water use	40.00
03 - Article 51 Increasing the potential of aquaculture sites	40.00
01 - Article 54 Aquaculture providing environmental services	40.00
02 - Article 55 Public health measures	0.00
01 - Article 50 Promoting human capital and networking	0.00
01 - Article 77 Data collection	0.00
01 - Article 76 Control and enforcement	0.00
01 - Article 62.1.a Preparatory support	0.00
02 - Article 63 Implementation of local development strategies (incl. running costs and animation)	40.00
03 - Article 64 Cooperation activities	0.00
01 - Article 66 Production and marketing plans	0.00
02 - Article 67 Storage aid	0.00
03 - Article 68 Marketing measures	0.00
01 - Article 69 Processing of fisheries and aquaculture products	40.00
02 - Article 80.1.b Promotion of the protection of marine environment, and the sustainable use of marine and coastal resources	40.00
03 - Article 80.1.c Improving the knowledge on the state of the marine environment	40.00

The indicative EMFF contribution (€)	Share of the total EMFF allocation to the operational programme (%)
40,385,444.25	16.61%

10. EVALUATION PLAN

Objectives and purpose of the Evaluation Plan

The aim of this evaluation plan is to ensure that sufficient and appropriate evaluation activities are undertaken for the 2015-2022 EMFF plan and that appropriate resources are available to support these activities in order to consider the general impact and to assess the effectiveness, efficiency and relevance of EMFF operations.

Specifically, this evaluation plan identifies how:

- the UK will evaluate delivery in relation to the Union priorities set out in Article 6 and, in particular, the specific objectives outlined in Table 1 below;
- the information needed for programme steering will be provided and how it will feed into the enhanced Annual Implementation Report (AIR) in 2017;
- the information needed to demonstrate interim progress to objectives will be provided and how it will feed into the enhanced AIR in 2019;
- data required for evaluation purposes will be available at the right time in the appropriate format including for ex-post evaluation; and
- results are available at key points (2017 and 2019) to allow aggregation across the EU of certain key information.

Fulfilling the UK's data collection and enforcement obligations

1. Fulfilment of UK's obligations in these areas.

To fulfil these objectives, it is helpful to identify a clear set of principles to underpin the United Kingdom's evaluation plan:

- **Proportionate**: the scale of the monitoring and evaluation activity on different parts of the programme needs to be proportionate to the size of the different elements within the programme.
- **Diverse**: different techniques will need to be deployed for monitoring and evaluating different aspects of the programme. Therefore a one-size-fits-all approach is not appropriate.
- **Timely**: ensure the monitoring and evaluation activity is undertaken at the right time in order to inform programme managers/Ministers/stakeholders of the impact and effectiveness of the programme.
- **Targeted**: linked in with the need for the monitoring and evaluation activity to be proportionate, it should also be targeted on capturing whether the programme is delivering on the policy priorities. The more clearly defined the strategic objectives of the programme, the easier it will be to focus on whether these objectives are being

achieved.

Governance and coordination

Within the United Kingdom, the Marine Management Organisation (MMO), as Managing Authority, will have responsibility for overseeing and coordinating activities for the evaluation of the EMFF programme in accordance with the Evaluation Plan. The MMO will be responsible for delivering monitoring and evaluation outputs to the Commission where required and will draw together and coordinate the evaluation activities conducted at a regional level. MMO will liaise with the four Intermediate Bodies (IBs): the Scottish Government, the Welsh Assembly Government, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Northern Ireland, and the MMO departments which will be responsible for data collection and implementation of EMFF in England. The IBs will support the process by ensuring use of the IT systems that underpin programme operations. There will be two E-Systems across the UK, which will enable consistent reporting against the financial and output indicators. The collection and management of information by the IBs, for use in the monitoring and evaluation of the OP will be documented in Service Level Agreements.

Evaluation topics and activities

A number of evaluation topics will be examined over the programming period to support the effective implementation and achievement of objectives. These will focus in particular on the UK's progress towards meeting output and result targets set in the Operational Programme. They will include assessing:

- Progress against the result and impact indicators and to identify the net effects from the programme, including progress toward the Specific Objectives of the Programme;
- the impact of the EMFF on the implementation of the landing obligation;
- the added value of the CLLD approach in comparison to other approaches to EMFF funding and support for evaluation activity undertaken at the Fisheries Local Action Group level;
- the effective use of EMFF funding to support CFP reform in the United Kingdom (other than with regard to the implementation of the landing obligation);
- economic benefits of the fund for the fisheries sector and fisheries communities;
- the governance and uptake of the scheme following launch;
- the alignment of funds to the priorities of each IB and the UK as a whole;
- assessment of the outcomes from 'innovation'; and
- ad hoc workshops with key stakeholder groups to measure industry view on progress towards key EMFF objectives, and barriers to progress.

Data and information strategy

A number of evaluation topics will be examined over the programming period to support the effective implementation and achievement of objectives. These will focus in particular on the UK's progress towards meeting output and result targets set in the Operational Programme. They will include assessing:

- Progress against the result and impact indicators and to identify the net effects from the programme, including progress toward the Specific Objectives of the Programme;
- the impact of the EMFF on the implementation of the landing obligation;
- the added value of the CLLD approach in comparison to other approaches to EMFF funding and support for evaluation activity undertaken at the Fisheries Local Action Group level;
- the effective use of EMFF funding to support CFP reform in the United Kingdom (other than with regard to the implementation of the landing obligation);
- economic benefits of the fund for the fisheries sector and fisheries communities;
- the governance and uptake of the scheme following launch;
- the alignment of funds to the priorities of each IB and the UK as a whole;
- assessment of the outcomes from 'innovation'; and
- ad hoc workshops with key stakeholder groups to measure industry view on progress towards key EMFF objectives, and barriers to progress.

Data and information strategy

Information used to monitor and evaluate the EMFF will be gathered from a mixture of data sources.

1. The application form from project holders

Application forms will capture the majority of information required for the output indicator suite. They will be designed by the IB for each scheme's measure operational needs with questions added to satisfy monitoring and evaluation needs. They will also capture some result and impact indicator information, for example around changes in employment and profitability arising from EMFF actions.

2. Existing Management and Official Data

These existing data sources will be utilised and potentially amended to capture the information required for monitoring, linking to other datasets to enhance the analysis where necessary.

3. Bespoke surveys

There may be occasions when the information is better obtained by carrying out surveys. These surveys will be targeted at collecting information for impact indicators and evaluation of the programme. They will be designed to address any data gaps. Result indicators may be measured either through administrative records or through evaluation methods such as sample surveys.

By contrast impact indicators are more likely to be determined at the evaluation stage, using other tools and wider sources of data to build up a picture of the net impact of the programme on its wider strategic objectives.

Beneficiaries will be obliged to provide information for monitoring and evaluation as part of their EMFF contract and this requirement will be highlighted in the information and guidance provided. This will include submission of information not only via the applications and claims process, but also via bespoke surveys as outlined above. IBs and FLAGs will need to coordinate and capture this data. IBs will work to minimise the inconvenience to beneficiaries when collecting information for the monitoring and evaluation of the fund.

Timeline

The key stages in the monitoring and evaluation of the EMFF are outlined below.

Pre 2014 to 2015 – Baseline

2016 – Ex post evaluation of EFF

2016, 2018 and 2020 – Annual Implementation Reports (AIR). 2017 and 2019 – Enhancing AIRs.

2017 – Interim evaluation

2022 – 2024 – Ex post evaluation

Baseline: The Baseline will:

- Draw on the work undertaken for the ex-ante evaluation of the 2014-20 programme and the ex post evaluation of the 2007-14 programme.
- Ensure that sufficient level of detail is captured in the application and claims form so as to inform on future monitoring.

- Include specific questions in annual surveys (e.g. the annual fleet survey) so the UK can obtain a baseline picture on key indicators.
- Utilise information held by independent sources (academics, NGOs).
- Draw on monitoring data previously submitted to the EC.

Annual Implementation Reports (2016, 2018 and 2020): The first AIR is due May 2016. The UK will have information to report on output and result indicators for these intermediate AIRs as submitted by IBs from data collection methods as described above. This information will ensure that the UK EMFF Managing Authority are able to comply with Article of Regulation (EU) 1362/2014.

Enhanced Annual Implementation Reports: The enhanced AIRs will cover progress towards targets and uptake of measures within the 2017 report, including progress against the milestones set out in the Performance Framework, and establishing interim achievements of the programme in the 2019 report. The enhanced AIRs will include information on performance of the complementary result indicators and the relevant evaluation questions. Therefore the complementary result indicators will be reported on three times during the programme: twice in the enhanced AIRs and again in the ex post evaluation. Although result information will be added to the applicant claim reimbursement forms at the outset of the programme, it is envisaged that further development of the complementary result indicators will be taken forward in 2016 to ensure data gaps are minimised.

The 2019 enhanced AIR will additionally include an interim assessment against the impact indicators and EU strategy and objectives.

Ex Post Evaluation: This is the responsibility of the Commission.

Evaluation of the progress of external stakeholders towards achieving key objectives will be undertaken early in the programme to allow changes for longer term monitoring if necessary. Data collection for the 2017 AIR may be informed by a series of workshops with key stakeholders.

Specific requirements for evaluation of CLLD

Under the EMFF, FLAGs will provide regular reports on their financial performance to the relevant IB. In addition, the UK's national FLAG forum may produce an annual report on the performance of FLAGs against financial, output and result indicators, which will feed into the production of the AIR. The annual report will provide summarised information on the types and coherence of projects supported with the specific objectives outlined within the Local Development Strategies and the Operational Programme.

The national FLAG forum will also be a key contributor for supporting the CLLD aspects of the interim and an ex post evaluations focusing on the effectiveness of the FLAGs in the UK.

Communication

The Communication and Engagement Strategy will be set-up for the whole of the EMFF programme, which will include the need to share information on how the programme is progressing against its objectives, and its contribution to EU objectives.

To this end the UK will ensure that the results of the on-going monitoring and evaluation activities are made publically available on the UK Managing Authority website, through designated areas on the IBs websites, the monitoring committee and other means as appropriate e.g. FLAG Networks. This will include the Annual Implementation Reports (AIRs), alongside any additional reports produced by the IBs which capture the impact of the programme e.g. other evaluations and the ex-post evaluation. This information will be of use to senior policy officials in all devolved administrations.

Resources

The UK MA and IBs are staffed by teams who are experienced in both grant funding delivery and the issues which affect the fisheries sector. Across the EFF programme there was an average of 30 FTE which managed the scheme in accordance with the Management & Control System to achieve the outcomes of the Operational Programme. These roles focused not only on the management of the grant application process, but the provision and support of internal and external reviews of the scheme. This focus on reviews and evaluation will continue under the EMFF programme with the grades and associated FTEs of staff involved being determined as the scheme develops and moves into the delivery phase.

Under the EFF, each evaluation exercise undertaken cost around €90,902, and it is expected this cost to be similar under the new programme. The Technical Assistance budget will be used to cover this work.

11. PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTING ARRANGEMENTS

11.1 Identification of authorities and intermediate bodies

Authority/body	Name of the authority/body	Email
Managing authority	Marine Management Organisation (MMO) – Corporate Services Directorate	joanne.simpson@marinemanagement.org.uk
Certifying authority	Marine Management Organisation - Finance Directorate	john.humphreys@marinemanagement.org.uk
Audit authority	Government Internal Audit Agency – Internal Audit	mark.turley@giaa.gov.uk
Intermediate body of the managing authority	Marine Management Organisation – Operations Directorate	emff.queries@marinemanagement.org.uk
Intermediate body of the managing authority	Marine Scotland – Fisheries Grants Team	emff@scotland.gsi.gov.uk
Intermediate body of the managing authority	Northern Ireland Department of Agriculture and Rural Development – Fisheries Grants Unit	seafisheries@dardni.gov.uk
Intermediate body of the managing authority	Welsh Government – Scheme Management Unit	SMU@Wales.GSI.Gov.UK

11.2 Description of the monitoring and evaluation procedures

The EMFF UK Managing Authority is responsible for coordinating monitoring and evaluation activities of the UK EMFF scheme. To support this all of the Intermediate Bodies will use online Grant Management Systems (GMSs) to manage EMFF funding applications throughout the life cycle. In general, the GMSs will enable the timely reporting of information to support the Monitoring and Evaluation of the Financial and Output Indicators targets in the OP. The GMSs will also allow reporting of project based indicators which can be used as part of Result Indicator monitoring and evaluation to assess the impact of EMFF funding against sector wide Result Indicator targets. Where appropriate the EMFF UK Managing Authority will work with external specialised contractors to produce the various evaluations of the EMFF scheme. These evaluations will be used to meet the regulatory requirements of the scheme as monitoring key performance areas including progress towards achieving the release of funding under the Performance Framework.

Applicants may be asked to complete a progress report when a claim is submitted. For projects lasting more than a year before the final claim is submitted, applicants may be requested to submit progress reports after each year, and this will be the opportunity to review

the indicators and targets and if necessary amend them. The UK Managing Authority will be responsible for collating data on each measure for the annual and final implementation reports. The programme will be monitored to ensure compliance and that the Operational Programme is correctly implemented, especially with regard to the financial and output indicators.

11.3 General composition of the Monitoring Committee

The composition of the UK Monitoring Committee will cover key sectoral and regional interests as appropriate to reflect the diverse nature of the EMFF interventions. In addition to representatives from the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Marine Management Organisation, the UK Audit and Certifying Authorities, and the four Intermediary Bodies, who have expertise in control and surveillance, and science and marine knowledge, membership of the Monitoring Committee comprises of representatives from the industry in the catching, aquaculture and processing sectors (~27%), representatives from the inshore fleet and FLAGs (~6%), environmental groups (~6%), scientific and research representatives (~8%) and the rivers trust (~2%). The Monitoring Committee will be supported by an Industry-Government taskforce, and partnership groups consisting of industry experts to input to delivery of the EMFF.

The European Commission shall also be invited to attend Monitoring Committee meetings, as will representatives from the Monitoring Committees overseeing the coordination of the other ESI Funds.

The composition of the Monitoring Committee will be kept under review to ensure that representation is correct to meet the programme priorities and the delegation of tasks which are required of the Committee.

11.4 A summary description of the information and publicity measures to be carried out in accordance with Article 120

The UK Managing Authority will ensure compliance with information and publicity measures ensuring the widest possible media coverage using various forms and methods of communication at the appropriate level.

The UK Managing Authority will organise the following information and publicity measures:

- (a) a major information activity publicising the launch of the operational programme;
- (b) at least twice during the programming period major information activity which promotes

the funding opportunities and the strategies pursued and presents the achievements of the operational programme;

(c) displaying the flag or emblem, as appropriate, of the European Union in front of, or at a place visible to the public, at the premises of each managing authority;

(d) at least twice a year publishing electronically the list of operations awarded grant funding;

(e) giving examples of operations, by operational programme, on the single website or on the operational programme's website that is accessible through the single website portal ;

(f) a specific section of the single website shall be dedicated to give a short summary of innovation and eco-innovation operations;

(g) updating information about the operational programme's implementation, including its main achievements, on the single website or on the operational programme's website that is accessible through the single website portal.

In the devolved administrations, the in-house grants teams will assist potential applicants and beneficiaries with information on the EMFF, the applications, assessment and claims processes, as well as signposting other potential sources of advice and assistance.

Website

The IBs and MA will promote the programme through their websites. Details of awarded grants will be placed on the website. Details will cover who the beneficiary is (legal persons only), how much the grant was awarded and a short description of the project. Each Administration will be responsible for the upkeep and monitoring of information to ensure it is up to date.

Press

The IBs and MA will place articles in both the national fishing press and local media to both promote the EMFF programme and detail grant awards. At publicity events, IBs and MA will be responsible for the development of their own publicity arrangements and clearance of Press Releases.

The level of UK press coverage and Advertising value equivalent of media coverage will be collected throughout the programming period.

Partnerships

Where possible, IBs and MA will make use of internal and external partners to publicise the EMFF Programme.

12. INFORMATION ON THE BODIES RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTING THE CONTROL, INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT SYSTEM

12.1 Bodies implementing the control, inspection and enforcement system

Name of the authority/body
Department for Agriculture and Rural Development for Northern Ireland (DARD), Fisheries and Enforcement Division
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
English Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authorities
Marine Management Organisation
Marine Scotland
Single Authority Coordination Group : UK Fisheries Enforcement and Control Coordination Group (UKFECCG)
Welsh Government

12.2 Brief description of human and financial resources available for fisheries control, inspection and enforcement

The UK has a control and enforcement complement of 610 FTEs, of which some 425 are enforcement officers. The total UK budget is currently £31.6m.

In fulfilment of Article 5(5) with reference to a single authority to coordinate the control activities of all national authorities, responsible for coordinating the collection, treatment and certification of information on fishing activities and for reporting to and transmitting all information to the Commission, a new group the UK Fisheries Enforcement and Control Coordination Group (UKFECCG) has been set up. UKFECCG includes members from all UK Fisheries Administrations and sits as a high-level oversight group to coordinate action across the whole United Kingdom.

As identified in the SWOT and needs analysis, commercial fisheries will remain an important sector in the UK and CFP reform and improved management in respect of the landing obligation will remain a key priority. Availability of public expenditure to fund reforms, data collection and control and enforcement with austerity measures affects the ability to match fund. The UK anticipates a situation where CCTV may be applied to some fleet segments or parts of segments in order to enhance monitoring and control capabilities across a range of areas. It aims to improve its IT systems providing greater functionality and better communications in order to address the data gaps with science, resource limitations and potential management challenges.

12.3 The major equipment available, in particular the number of vessels, aircraft and helicopters

UK fisheries administrations own the following assets:

- 24 fisheries protection vessels
- 2 surveillance aircraft
- 15 RIBs

In addition the MMO has access to 3 Royal Navy Patrol vessels and all administrations have access to additional fast inshore vessels/RIBs.

The 2 surveillance aircraft provide some 800 hours flying time a year.

The SWOT analysis identified the need for improved management approaches to help stabilise stocks and enhance the sustainability of the industry which will in turn lead to increased efficiencies. To do this, the UK proposes to adapt or replace existing surface and aerial surveillance assets (provided they are used for at least 60% per year) as necessary to ensure that they remain fit for purpose to take account of the new monitoring requirements of the revised CFP. This will be done in close collaboration across all regulatory bodies and delivery agencies to ensure that the best value for money option is achieved with the UK.

12.4 List of selected types of operations

Type of Operation	Description
<p>a - The purchase, installation and development of technology, including computer hardware and software, vessel detection systems (VDS), closed-circuit television (CCTV) systems and IT networks enabling the gathering, administration, validation, analysis, risk management, presentation (by means of the websites related to control) and exchange of, and the development of sampling methods for, data related to fisheries, as well as interconnection to cross-sectoral data exchange systems</p>	<p>The UK anticipates a situation where CCTV may be applied to some fleet segments or parts of segments in order to enhance monitoring and control capabilities across a range of areas, which will support the need identified in the SWOT analysis for surveillance equipment to support CFP compliance and the objective in the strategy for compliance with the landing obligation. It will also introduce improvements to the VMS Hub and exploit other developing technologies in order to provide greater functionality and more efficient monitoring of fishing activity. To support the difficulties in monitoring activities of the small scale fleet, as identified as a weakness in the SWOT, the UK will also develop sampling plans to enhance monitoring and data capture for the under 10 metre fleet. Further improvements are planned to the UK Monitoring, Control and Surveillance System which is used to monitor fishing activity by the UK fleet.</p>

Type of Operation	Description
<p>b - The development, purchase and installation of the components, including computer hardware and software, that are necessary to ensure data transmission from actors involved in fishing and the marketing of fishery products to the relevant Member State and Union authorities, including the necessary components for electronic recording and reporting systems (ERS), vessel monitoring systems (VMS) and automatic identification systems (AIS) used for control purposes</p>	<p>The SWOT identified more efficient cooperation between regulatory bodies as a need, which could be met through improved IT systems. The UK will use 76.2.b to improve its IT systems through, in particular, enhancements to its ERS systems to provide greater functionality and better communication in order to be able to better process and analyse data captured on industry activity. This will maximise the efficiency of exchange of data between member states and its exploitation as intelligence to guide regulatory action. This action will include upgrading of the ERS Hub and any further necessary ERS system software upgrades. These operations support the objective in the strategy for development of IT tools and technologies.</p>
<p>c - The development, purchase and installation of the components, including computer hardware and software, which are necessary to ensure the traceability of fishery and aquaculture products, as referred to in Article 58 of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009</p>	<p>The UK will develop new ways of working to complete implementation and embedding within business as usual all required elements of the Control Regulation, for example, through standards setting and infrastructure development related to improved controls on traceability, which supports the need for improvement in this area identified in the SWOT, and activity monitoring. Areas to be addressed will include the development and embedding within businesses of identification tools such as codes, barcodes, electronic chips or similar devices. Operations will support the objective in the strategy for improved traceability of fisheries products.</p>
<p>d - The implementation of programmes aiming at exchanging and analysing data between Member States and analysing them</p>	<p>This will be achieved through the measures identified against Article 76.2(b). The SWOT analysis identified data gaps as a weakness with science and resource limitations and potential management challenges and the UK aims to improve this.</p>
<p>e - The modernisation and purchase of patrol vessels, aircrafts and helicopters, provided that they are used for fisheries control for at least 60 % of their total periodtime of use per year</p>	<p>The UK propose to adapt or replace existing surface and aerial surveillance assets as necessary in order to ensure that they remain fit for purpose to meet the new monitoring requirements of the revised CFP, as identified as a need in the SWOT analysis. This will be done in close collaboration across agencies</p>

Type of Operation	Description
	and regulatory bodies in the UK to ensure that best value for money is delivered. The UK does not propose the joint charter or purchase of control vessels using shared management funds. Operations under this measure will support the objective in the strategy for compliance with the landing obligation.
f - The purchase of other control means, including devices to enable the measurement of engine power and weighing equipment	Existing work on this activity will continue. However the SWOT analysis has identified that this activity is already sufficiently covered by UK regulatory authorities. Further use of EMFF funding in this area is likely to be limited to the replacement of expired or obsolete equipment.
g - The development of innovative control and monitoring systems and the implementation of pilot projects related to fisheries control, including fish DNA analysis or the development of web-sites related to control	The UK will continue to explore the potential to use new tools and technology to monitor activity that minimise the burdens on industry and regulators, including for instance the use of mobile phone technology to transmit VMS reports from inshore vessels. Such technology may prove useful in meeting specific new requirements under the landing obligation. Activity under this measure will support the need identified in the SWOT for development and implementation of innovative techniques to support CFP compliance, and links to this objective in the strategy.
h - Training and exchange programmes, including between Member States, of personnel responsible for the monitoring, control and surveillance of fisheries activities	UK Fisheries delivery bodies the MMO and the IFCA's are an independently Accredited Centre for the provision of training on fisheries control and enforcement. UK fisheries delivery bodies use this expertise to continue to invest in the already high skills and knowledge across a range of UK regulatory and inspection bodies e.g. MMO, IFCA's, Welsh Government, the Royal Navy, the Crown Dependencies, UK Border Force and personnel from other member states. During the course of the EMFF programme period this may be used for UK officials to attend EFCA training. This will help deliver increased collaboration across Member States on key compliance requirements including joint operations and sharing of best practice, as identified as a need in the SWOT analysis. Operations will also support the objective set

Type of Operation	Description
	in the strategy for continued need for training and development of staff.
i - Cost/benefit analysis and as well as assessments of audits performed and expenditure incurred by competent authorities in carrying out monitoring, control and surveillance	Although not a high priority, UK Fisheries Administrations acknowledge the benefit of external validation of their procedures and may wish to use these opportunities to verify the effectiveness of their enforcement activity.
j - Initiatives, including seminars and media tools, aimed at enhancing awareness, among both fishermen and other players such as inspectors, public prosecutors and judges, as well as among the general public, of the need to fight illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and of the implementation of the CFP rules	In order to raise awareness on key issues within CFP reform and thereby contribute towards increasing the level of compliance UK fisheries administrations will be conducting a range of activities including producing guidance and holding a range of engagement events with industry , other regulators and the wider public. This will also aid improvement of trust and working relationships, as identified as a weakness in the SWOT.
k - Operational costs incurred in carrying out more stringent control for stocks subject to specific control and inspection programmes established in accordance with Article 95 of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 and subject to control coordination in accordance with Article 15 of Council Regulation (EC) No 768/2005	The UK will make significant use of funding in this area to support maintaining current level of resources in implementation of National Control Action Plans (NCAPs) and SCIPs to ensure this remains a strength. The funding will particularly focus on the deployment of assets to monitor SCIP activity through pre-agreed JDPs. It will also, where appropriate, utilise the opportunities offered by Article 15 to further strengthen monitoring arrangements. Operations under this measure will support the objective in the strategy for the UK to play a full and active part in implementation of SCIPs.
l - Programmes linked to the implementation of an action plan established in accordance with Article 102(4) of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009, including any operational costs incurred	If the UK was subject to a Control Action Plan as per Article 102(4) of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 then the UK Fisheries Administrations would consider the content of the Control Action Plan and identify if this area of EMFF funding should be used to support the timely resolution of the actions within the Control Action Plan.

12.5 Link to priorities defined by the Commission

The EU priorities identified in Commission Decision 2014/464/EU, and the way in which the UK will support these and its own objectives, are set out below.

a. Implementation of action plans

The UK is not subject to an action plan at present and has assessed its priorities for control and enforcement on that basis.

b. Administrative capacity to comply with the implementation of a Union control, inspection and enforcement system

The UK has drawn up an action plan to address the absence of a single UK competent authority for control; this is set out in section 6.2.1.

c. Implementation of data validation systems and improvement of data exchange between Member States

Improvements will be made to data systems through investments in technology that will provide greater functionality, more efficient monitoring and improved exchange of data between Member States. Support for this objective will help address the need for improved collaboration, and supports the objective for improvements in data handling capacity and IT identified in the strategy for the fund.

d. Control and enforcement of the obligation to land all catches

Compliance and cooperation with the landing obligation will be supported through the purchase of surveillance equipment and innovative techniques. This is supported by the need for the adaptation or purchase of equipment to support CFP compliance in the SWOT analysis and is one of the key policy goals for EMFF identified in the strategy for the fund.

e. Control and enforcement of the catch certification scheme

The SWOT analysis identified that the UK has a highly developed system established to control IUU and the maintenance of the UK's high level of compliance is listed as an objective for UK control and enforcement in the strategy. The UK's continued provision of inspection resource and catch data will help to deter and prevent IUU activity.

f. Implementation of projects related to engine power

As identified as a strength in the SWOT analysis, engine power monitoring systems have been implemented across the UK and are being incorporated into business as usual. Support for the replacement of expired or obsolete equipment will assist in maintaining this.

g. Implementation of SCIPs

The UK has delivered the required level of involvement in SCIPs and has created capability to establish informal coordinated inspection plans outside of the structure of an SCIP, as identified in the SWOT analysis. EMFF support will be used to ensure that this level of involvement is maintained, and supports the strategic objective of playing a full and active part in the implementation of SCIPs.

h. Control coordination with other Member States under Article 15 of Regulation 768/2005

The UK will utilise the opportunities offered by Article 15 to further strengthen monitoring arrangements where appropriate. UK Fisheries Administrations act as an accredited centre for the provision of training on control and enforcement and will continue to use their expertise to invest in skills and knowledge within the UK and with Other Member states.

i. Control and enforcement of traceability requirements

Improved traceability will be achieved through development of new ways of working, standard settings and infrastructure to improve controls. This will support the need for improved controls on traceability for the small scale fleet and the strategic objective for full implementation of traceability requirements of the Control Regulation identified in the strategy.

13. DATA COLLECTION

13.1 A general description of activities of data collection foreseen for the period 2014-2020

1. Activities

The main activities over the period will be research surveys, port sampling of landings, sea sampling of discards, age reading, analyses of logbooks, collection of economic data and compilation of transversal data. The associated expenditure will be staff costs (salary inc. employers PRSI & pension contributions), travel and subsistence, sea allowances, vessel costs (fuel & lubricating oil, costs related to the vessel and the crew), consumable goods (fish samples, scientific consumables etc.), durable goods (fishing gear, nets, electronic measuring boards, UWTV equipment, IT equipment etc.).

Part A: for the period 2014-16

For the period 2014-2016, the United Kingdom will implement the National Programme 2011-2013 as laid down in the Commission Decision C(2013) 5568 of 30 August 2013

Additional activities not set out in the rolled-over programme may include:

(a) Landings obligation

Data will be needed to monitor the effects of the landing obligation. Requirements and recommendations are under consideration by the STECF.

(b) Evaluation of the impacts of the CFP

The UK is interested in understanding the impact of the reformed CFP (including the effectiveness of its implementation) on the UK fleet and marine environment. As such it is likely that the UK will conduct evaluations of different aspects of the reformed CFP over the DCF period. This will include process, impact and full economic evaluations in all areas of the reformed CFP. This will help ensure effective implementation as well as providing evidence on what is working well or poorly to help with the development of future policies.

(c) Research vessel surveys

Biological data and indices of abundance may be collected through participation in a number of internationally coordinated surveys in addition to those currently listed in the 2011-2013 programme (as rolled over to 2014 to 2016).

(d) Aquaculture activities

In addition to economic and production data collection, data collection on sustainable aquaculture, whilst not a requirement of the current DCF, may be carried out as an addition to the adopted programme. For England and Scotland and possibly other parts of the UK, a pilot study on data collection may be required to establish the extent of commercial confidentiality and Freedom of Information.

Part B: For the period post-2016

For the period 2017-2020, data collection activities will be specified at a later stage, in light of the revision of the Data Collection Framework (DCF) that should be adopted by then, in accordance with Article 25 of the Basic Regulation for the CFP. Once this revised DCF enters into force, the United Kingdom may revise this chapter of the Operational Programme accordingly to reflect the new data collection obligations and activities.

A number of possible areas to extend and change data collection activities under the EU Multi-Annual Programme (MAP) have already been identified.

(a) Evaluation of the effects of the fisheries sector on the marine ecosystem (including by-catch of non-fishery species)

Inclusion under DCF of indicators required by EAFM (ecosystem approach to fisheries management) and MSFD is indicated. As data collection obligations are finalised, survey work will be modified to ensure the collection of data relevant to the fish and fishery effect descriptors of the MSFD and on the incidental by-catch of seabirds and sea mammals.

(b) Social parameters

Data collection that is necessary to permit the evaluation of a range of possible social indicators is likely to be mandated under the data collection multi-annual programme. As those new obligations are finalised, existing survey work and monitoring programmes will be reviewed to identify gaps, and programmes will be modified or started.

(c) Aquaculture data

Extension of scope to include freshwater production is likely and collection of spatial information and information on sustainable production is a possibility.

(d) Landing obligation

Data will be needed to monitor the effects of the landing obligation.

(e) IT Infrastructure

The revised DCF is expected to include provisions to harmonise the data formats and collection so that data can be provided more efficiently to end users.

(f) Evaluation of the impacts of the CFP

As outlined in Section A above, the UK would like to undertake work to better understand the impact of the reformed CFP (including the effectiveness of its implementation) on the UK fleet and marine environment.

Bilateral and multilateral agreements

A number of existing bilateral agreements and verbal agreements are currently in place for the UK; however, they may be superseded as regional coordination of sampling is progressed and, between Member States, all landings into a particular country will be sampled as part of the sample frame defined by the country of landing as a part of its statistically sound sampling scheme.

2. Main categories of eligible expenditure over the whole period

These include elements set out under Article 77 of Regulation (EU) No. 508/2014 as follows:

1. the collection, management and use of data for the purpose of scientific analysis and implementation of the CFP including data processing and validation and quality control;
2. biological sampling of stocks covered by the CFP;
3. collection of economic and socio-economic data;
4. at-sea monitoring of commercial and recreational fisheries, including monitoring of by-catch of marine organisms such as marine mammals and birds;
5. research surveys at sea;
6. participation in regional and other coordination meetings; meetings of regional fisheries management organisations where the EU is a contracting party or an observer and meetings of international bodies responsible for providing scientific advice;
7. development and improvement of data collection and data management systems;
8. coordination and support for research on the marine environment.

13.2 A description of data storage methods, data management and data use

The UK will adapt systems in line with requirements identified under the revised DCF to improve effectiveness and efficiency of data collection and processing including increased supra-national coordination and efficiency of supply to end-users. Within the UK further integration of sub-national systems has been highlighted as being desirable. Developments here will need to be compatible with the varying development strategies within the different fisheries administrations. Details of existing methods for data storage, management and use and proposals already identified for improvement are as follows:

Transversal data

UK transversal data are held in a system of integrated databases on fishing vessel activity at sea, landings and sales of fish. These data systems known as IFISH (Integrated Fisheries System Holding data warehouse) and MCSS (Monitoring Control and Surveillance System) are the main sources for the transversal data required for the fleet segments of the UK fleet.

Information on fishing vessels is collected and maintained by the Registry of Shipping and Seamen (RSS) and the corresponding registries in the Channel Islands and Isle of Man, including their gross tonnage.

Economic data

Data on the economic activity of the fleet and the fish processing industry are collected for the whole of the UK by SEAFISH and captured in SPSS for fleet data and in Microsoft Access for the fish processing data.

Aquaculture data are collected and processed by the different administrations (CEFAS for England and Wales, Marine Scotland Science for Scotland and DARD-NI for Northern Ireland. UK data are collated by CEFAS.

Biological sampling and survey data bases

These data are collected and processed separately by the national administrations of England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland as follows:

England & Wales (E&W)

CEFAS uses two separate data bases to hold primary data collected during sampling of UK(E&W) fisheries at ports and at sea:

The Gathering and Reporting Information System (GARI) holds primary data on species length frequencies collected at ports and links into the English, Welsh and Northern Irish Fishing Activity Database (FAD) to retrieve data on fishery landings required to raise length and age compositions for sampled vessels.

The Fishery Observer database holds primary data on species catches and length frequencies of discarded and retained fish recorded at sea.

An integrated ('IBIS') system is under construction to connect the information from the biological sampling (GARI), transversal data (FAD/CEDER), discard (OBSERVER) and survey (FSS) databases. In the longer term the IBIS system could also connect with other UK countries' datasets as required.

Scotland

Scottish biological sample data from market and observer sampling of commercial sea fisheries are maintained as raw data (since 2008) on the Marine Scotland Science Fisheries Management Database (FMD). Catch data for assessment working groups are 'raised' using voyage data from the Marine Scotland 'FIN' activity database and biological sample data from FMD.

FIN is subject to a major 'refresh' due to the end-of-life status of its underlying platform. Future development of FMD will be a component part of the Scottish DCF programme.

Northern Ireland

AFBI uses three separate data bases to hold primary data collected during sampling of UK-NI fisheries by observers at sea, from port sampling and through the fisher self-sampling programme:

- The Discard Observer Database (DOD) holds primary data on species catches and length frequencies of discarded and retained fish recorded at sea by fishery observer staff together with details of vessels, gear, area, fishing activity etc. Similar data, but collected through a fisher self-sampling programme and analysed by AFBI laboratory staff, are held in the Discard Self-Sampling Database (DSD).
- The Fish Logging Database (FLD) holds primary data on species length frequencies from port based sampling at the trip level with aggregated sample weight and sex, (where appropriate). All age and maturity data for individual sampled fish from all sampling programmes are held within FLD, with integrated links to both the DOD and DSD to allocate biological information to original source data.

Future Developments

The compilation of UK data can be complex where this requires combining the results from the separate systems of different administrations. Further integration of such sub-national systems is desirable but may be difficult to achieve in practice where developments need to be compatible with varying development strategies within UK constituent countries.

Process for validation of data quality before transmission to end users

The UK will modify its procedures as determined through ongoing discussions by the STECF, Working Groups and Regional Coordination Meeting (RCMs).

Arrangements for participation in regional coordination groups for data collection

The UK will continue to participate in the North Sea & East Arctic RCM and the North Atlantic RCM in each of the years 2014 to 2020 and in any co-ordination groups identified as part of the revised structure. The UK will engage fully in discussions on contributing to regional sampling programmes for these years and also inter-sessionally as part of the corresponding regional coordination groups.

13.3 A description of how sound financial and administrative management in data collection will be achieved

1. Establishment of a National Correspondent (NC) to coordinate at a national level the scientific and technical aspects of the data collection work of institutes/bodies participating in the data collection programme

The UK NC will reside within the MMO. The MMO are empowered under Section 14 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 to co-ordinate the DCF national programmes and to compile and submit annual reports. A management team comprising the NC, science co-ordinators and other key staff will collaborate to coordinate implementation.

Science co-ordinators include staff from Cefas and the Environment Agency (from England), Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI Northern Ireland), the Welsh Government and Natural Resources Wales (for Wales) and Marine Scotland.

2. Relations between the National Correspondent and the Managing Authority and the Certifying Authority

The DCF NC and the DCF Partners (organisations who deliver DCF reporting) have no governance or control role in the validation and certification of EMFF funding used to fund DCF activities. In the majority of instances the DCF Partners are organisations which are entirely separate from the MA and IB. In these circumstances, the DCF Partners are managed

as a beneficiary largely in the same way as any other part of the EMFF scheme.

The only instances where the DCF Partner is part of the same organisation as the MA and/or the IB is within Marine Scotland and the MMO. In these circumstances, the work carried out by the DCF Partners is in an entirely separate team to the MA/IB – both areas are headed by a separate Executive Director. This separation ensures that the MA and IB can objectively assess and quality assure all of the evidence provided by the DCF Partner to reclaim EMFF funding.

The DCF NC provides an assurance role to the UK MA and IB as they confirm that the requests for funding reimbursement from the DCF Partners are for activities which have directly supported compliance with the DCF reporting requirements.

All of the DCF expenditure certified by the IBs for reclamation from the EC is subject to the same audit checks carried out by the UK Audit Authority and the full governance structure, including segregation of duties, is described within the UK EMFF Management & Control System.

3. Reporting arrangements relating to inclusion of information on data collection in Member States' Annual Implementation Reports

The NC will coordinate the production and submission of the DCF Annual Implementation Reports. Coordination will be directed through the DCF management team.

4. Arrangements for participation in regional coordination groups for data collection

The UK will participate in the North Sea & East Arctic and the North Atlantic RCMs and in any new co-ordination groups identified under EUMAP. The UK will engage fully in discussions to develop regional sampling programmes.

5. Arrangements for participation in scientific and experts meetings relevant for data collection

In addition to RCMs, the UK will continue to participate in various international working groups such as STECF/SGECA and PG ECON. Attendance is coordinated between DCF contributing organisations, through the UK NC.

6. Human and technical resources devoted to data collection including major equipment available

Sufficient staff and material resources are deemed to be in place to meet the current DCF requirements as represented in the National Programme 2014-2016. Some reallocation of

resources is expected to meet changing requirements under EUMAP. However not all activities can be co-funded at the 80% co-financing rate. Changes to resource requirements to meet altered or additional obligations under EUMAP have not been assessed nor is it possible to do this until the implications of these changes becomes clearer. Savings may be possible through increased regional co-operation and efficiency savings.

Biological and Aquaculture Data

These data are collected by the administrations of individual UK countries as follows:

CEFAS had 57 Technicians and 72 Scientists participating and working on the DCF in 2012. CEFAS has two laboratories; 3 outstations and one research vessel, the Endeavour.

Marine Scotland Science's Marine Laboratory participates in DCF activities in cooperation with other UK institutes. In 2012 48 scientists, 18 technicians and two finance staff participated in DCF activities, 24 staff attended related expert working groups and meetings convened by ICES and the STECF. Marine Scotland Science has two laboratories plus two smaller outstations. It operates two Marine Research Vessels, MRV Scotia (68m) and MRV Alba-na-Mara (27m). Both vessels are fitted with a range of deployment and recovery facilities for fishing gear and equipment, scientific and environmental sensors and data gathering systems. Marine Scotland Science also hosts its Marine Analytic Unit with staff engaged in economic research and the provision of fisheries statistics.

The AFBI participates in EU DCF in cooperation with the DARD and other UK institutes. In 2012 23 scientists and 21 technicians were involved in DCF activities. Part-time support is also provided by staff from the finance and IT departments. AFBI has seven sites throughout Northern Ireland of which two sites are involved in DCF activities. AFBI operates the research vessel RV Corystes.

The Welsh Government has a DCF coordinator with approximately 30% of time allocated to facilitation of data collection and engagement with the UK Coordination Group. In addition there is a team of 7 officers responsible for on-shore data collection and data input with approximately 25% of their time allocated to the process. The Welsh Government has a part-time research vessel with approximately 20 days per annum devoted to data collection. The process and use of the vessel is currently under review and it is likely that sea time will be amended as data needs increase. The Welsh Government is in the process of looking to extend the offshore observer programme, to complement CEFAS's work within Welsh waters.

Transversal data

Statistics on fishing activity are calculated using data collected and processed by officials responsible for control and enforcement of the UK Fisheries Administrations (MMO, Marine Scotland, DARD, Welsh Government and Departments in Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Man). Collation of data for the DCF will be led by the MMO's Statistics and Analysis Team

(part of the UK Government Statistical Service). The team comprises 11 full time staff, 4 of whom spend a significant proportion of their time on tasks supporting the DCF. Marine Scotland also have a statistics team comprising 5 full time staff, of whom 2 are engaged on DCF work.

Economic and Processing Sector Data

The Sea Fish Industry Authority, “SEAFISH” will collect information on economic variables and the processing sector under contract for the whole of the UK. SEAFISH is a Non-Departmental Public Body set up by the Fisheries Act 1981.

14. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

14.1 Description of the planned use of financial instruments

UK authorities have decided against the use of Financial Instruments following attendance at an FI Compass event due to the complexity and administrative burden of operating such a scheme.

14.2 Selection of the EMFF measures planned to be implemented through the financial instruments

EMFF Measure
01 - Article 37 Support for the design and implementation of conservation measures
02 - 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)
03 - Article 39 Innovation linked to the conservation of marine biological resources (+ art. 44.1.c Inland fishing)
04 - Article 40.1.a Protection and restoration of marine biodiversity – collection of lost fishing gear and marine litter
05 - Article 43.2 Fishing ports, landing sites, auction halls and shelters – investments to facilitate compliance with the obligation to land all catches
01 - 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)
02 - Article 36 Support to systems of allocation of fishing opportunities
01 - Article 27 Advisory services (+ art. 44.3 Inland fishing)
02 - Article 30 Diversification and new forms of income (+ art. 44.4 Inland fishing)
03 - Article 31 Start-up support for young fishermen (+ art. 44.2 Inland fishing)
04 - Article 32 Health and safety (+ art. 44.1.b Inland fishing)
05 - Article 33 Temporary cessation of fishing activities
08 - Article 42 Added value, product quality and use of unwanted catches (+ art. 44.1.e Inland fishing)
09 - 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)
01 - Article 26 Innovation (+ art. 44.3 Inland fishing)
02 - Article 28 Partnerships between fishermen and scientists (+ art. 44.3 Inland fishing)
03 - 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)
04 - Article 41.2 Energy efficiency and mitigation of climate change - Replacement or modernisation of main or ancillary engines (+ art. 44.1.d Inland fishing)
01 - 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)
01 - Article 47 Innovation
02 - Article 49 Management, relief and advisory services for aquaculture farms
01 - Article 48.1.a-d, f-h Productive investments in aquaculture
02 - Article 52 Encouraging new sustainable aquaculture farmers
01 - Article 48.1.k Productive investments in aquaculture - increasing energy efficiency, renewable energy
02 - Article 48.1.e, i, j Productive investments in aquaculture - resource efficiency, reducing usage of

	water and chemicals, recirculation systems minimising water use
	03 - Article 51 Increasing the potential of aquaculture sites
	01 - Article 54 Aquaculture providing environmental services
	02 - Article 55 Public health measures
	01 - Article 50 Promoting human capital and networking
	01 - Article 77 Data collection
	01 - Article 76 Control and enforcement
	01 - Article 62.1.a Preparatory support
	02 - Article 63 Implementation of local development strategies (incl. running costs and animation)
	03 - Article 64 Cooperation activities
	01 - Article 66 Production and marketing plans
	02 - Article 67 Storage aid
	03 - Article 68 Marketing measures
	01 - Article 69 Processing of fisheries and aquaculture products
	02 - Article 80.1.b Promotion of the protection of marine environment, and the sustainable use of marine and coastal resources
	03 - Article 80.1.c Improving the knowledge on the state of the marine environment

14.3 Indicative amounts planned to be used through the financial instruments

EMFF total amount 2014-2020 (€)

DOCUMENTS

Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent By
Justification for the UK OP Amendment	MS justification for OP amendment	16-Dec-2022	Justification for the UK OP Amendment		Justification for the UK OP Amendment		

LATEST VALIDATION RESULTS

Severity	Code	Message
Info		Programme version has been validated.
Warning	2.5.3	EU Support contribution in Table 8.2 is zero. Union Priority: "Fostering marketing and processing ", Measure: "Storage aid (Article 67) (Article 13(6) of the EMFF)"
Warning	2.27.1	EMFF Performance Reserve amount per Union Priority should be between 5% and 7% of the EMFF contribution, performance reserve included. Union Priority: "6", Actual amount: "0.00", Minimum expected amount: "258,083.05", Maximum expected amount: "361,316.27"