

# EMFF Annual Implementation Report 2022

## 1. Identification of the annual implementation report

<b>CCI</b>	2014UK14MFOP001
<b>Title</b>	United Kingdom European Maritime and Fisheries Fund Annual Implementation Report 2021
<b>Version</b>	V0.2
<b>Reporting year</b>	2022
<b>Date of approval of the report by the Monitoring Committee (Art 113.d of EMFF)</b>	30 May 2023

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

### **2.1. Management of the Programme**

The 2020 Annual Implementing Report set out the significant challenges faced by UK Authorities as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic. As highlighted in the 2021 report, the UK had fully adjusted to remote or hybrid ways of working.

Scheme implementation progressed well in 2022, owing to successful communications between UK Intermediate Bodies (IBs) and beneficiaries, who have provided flexibility to delay or scale back operations due to external factors.

At the 31 December 2022, the UK EMFF allocation is 97% committed with a total of €234.3/£204.8million awarded to projects. As expected within the latter years of the programme, commitments have slowed down, however a further £4.8million EMFF has been committed across Union Priorities with the majority of this in Union Priority 3. This is as advised in the 2021 report heavily impacted by exchange fluctuation (see section 2.6).

UK spending progressed well during 2022. €14.9/£12.8million has been certified and claimed in the reporting year, bringing UK EMFF expenditure to a total of €192.4/£168.7million and representing 79% of the allocation.

The EMFF Senior Steering Group met in September 2021 with the next meeting scheduled for Spring 2023 – this meeting will be to consider key programme issues, impacts and updates as we move into the final year of the EMFF scheme.

The EMFF Programme Monitoring Committee met in November 2022 and provided valuable oversight of programme delivery across the UK, the main focus of the meeting was the proposed Operational Programme amendment, during which the objectives and approach were outlined, ahead of PMC approval being sought. The amendment to the Operational Programme was proposed to PMC to re-allocate surplus funding planned for Coronavirus-response initiatives and those underperforming measures to the more heavily oversubscribed areas of the scheme. It was also planned to utilise any remaining allocation to plan accordingly for existing projects' requirements (i.e. to support change requests where projects face increased costs as a result of external factors) and exchange fluctuations.

The Operational Programme amendment was approved by PMC on 15 December 2022 and submitted to the European Commission for consideration and approval on 16 December 2022.

The result, output and financial indicators and targets for EMFF as shown in Section 3.2 have been amended where appropriate (based on budget moves), in line with the amended Operational Programme, which was approved by the Commission in February 2023

## **2.2. Calls for proposals**

Closures across measures varied across the UK in 2022.

England exhausted core budget and DCF earlier in the EMFF scheme, with the majority of activity in 2022 focussing on Union Priority 3, within Control and Enforcement. They will be looking to potentially re-open some articles (primarily within Union Priorities 1, 2, and 5) in 2023 if required to maximise budget allocation.

In Northern Ireland and Scotland, EMFF remained closed for new applications during 2022. At present there are no plans in either Intermediate Body to reopen for future calls.

Within Wales, Union Priority 3 (Art 76) and Union Priority 4 (Article 63) remained open for applications across all of 2022. Union Priorities 1, 2 and 5 were open for applications between January and June 2022. There are no current plans to open for any future calls other than in Article 42 (Union Priority 1).

## **2.3. Financial Implementation, Output Indicators and Result Indicators at an OP level – assessment at 31 December 2022**

Since the UK programme opened for applications in 2016, 2,949 operations have been selected with a total value of €395.6/£341.1million. Of this, a majority of €303.7/£261.8million (77%) is public funding and €237.6/£204.8 is EMFF, representing 97% of the overall EMFF budget of €243.1/£209.6million.

The total value of projects with declared expenditure is €331.5/£290.8million, of which €248.2/£217.7 is public funding. EMFF expenditure of €192.4/£168.6million has been certified, accounting for 79% of the overall budget, up from 71% in the previous year.

Of the 2,949 operations selected, a majority of 2,675 (91%) are completed with the final claim paid, a further 11 (<1%) await payment on their final claim. 117 (4%) projects are under partial implementation and 93 (3%) have yet to declare expenditure. 53 projects (2%) have been abandoned or interrupted following partial implementation, with some expenditure paid.

In relation to the gender of beneficiaries, 1,882 (64%) are male, 60 (2%) are female, 46 (2%) other. 961 (33%) of projects concern broader organisations, not individuals.

The size of the operators requesting assistance are 2,016 (68%) micro enterprises, 271 (9%) small, 88 (3%) medium, 9 (<1%) large and 565 (19%) non-SMEs.

As seen in previous years, the most successful results indicators are those related to maintaining employment (Union Priorities 1, 2 and 4), reducing of accidents and injuries (Union Priority 1) and the creation of new businesses (Union Priority 4). Indicators seeking to boost revenue and profitability are also continuing to perform well in Union Priorities 1 and 5, with a lesser performance noted under Union Priority 2.

The least performing indicators are found under Union Priorities 1 and 6 and concern change in the coverage of Natura 2000 sites, or other spatial protection measures.

#### **2.4. Implementation of measures**

Information on the implementation of measures under the individual Union Priorities is included in Section 3.1.

#### **2.5. Reporting**

The UK upheld its regulatory reporting requirements throughout 2022. The EMFF Accounts and Assurance package was accepted by the Commission with the accounts assessed as complete, accurate and true. The quality of the UK Article 97 return was assessed by FAME as free of error.

#### **2.6. External factors**

External factors have continued to affect the implementation of the EMFF programme throughout 2022. The ongoing impacts of the Coronavirus pandemic, EU Exit and the Ukraine War (impacting supply chain and availability of raw materials) and the global energy crisis and overall cost of inflation have been felt by EMFF Authorities and their beneficiaries.

In consultation with beneficiaries, IBs have found that a number of projects will be delayed or scaled back as a result of the impact these factors have had on the price and availability of raw materials and availability of key staff/contractors to implement and complete the works. These issues have led to a surge in the number of change requests being submitted to IBs for assessment, impacting capacity in some IB's to process claims. IB's have noted that they are experiencing these impacts across all sectors and applicant types.

Exchange fluctuation is discussed throughout this report and is of key concern when ensuring the UK allocation of €243.1million is not heavily over or undersubscribed. As at December 2020, the UK allocation was worth £217.5million, two years onwards in 2022, the sterling equivalent is £209.6million.

The Managing Authority are continuing to track the risk surrounding exchange fluctuation on the UK programme risk register. IBs also monitor this individually noting their devolved budget arrangements and use this to inform whether future calls for applications should be made.

### **3. Implementation of the Union priorities**

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

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

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

From the 26 available measures under this Priority, 19 are selected in the UK Operational Programme (OP).

Measures in England, Scotland and Northern Ireland were largely closed throughout 2022 as discussed in Section 2, with one project being awarded by Northern Ireland at the beginning of the year. In Wales, UP 1 was open for applications between January and June 2022, which saw eight projects being awarded.

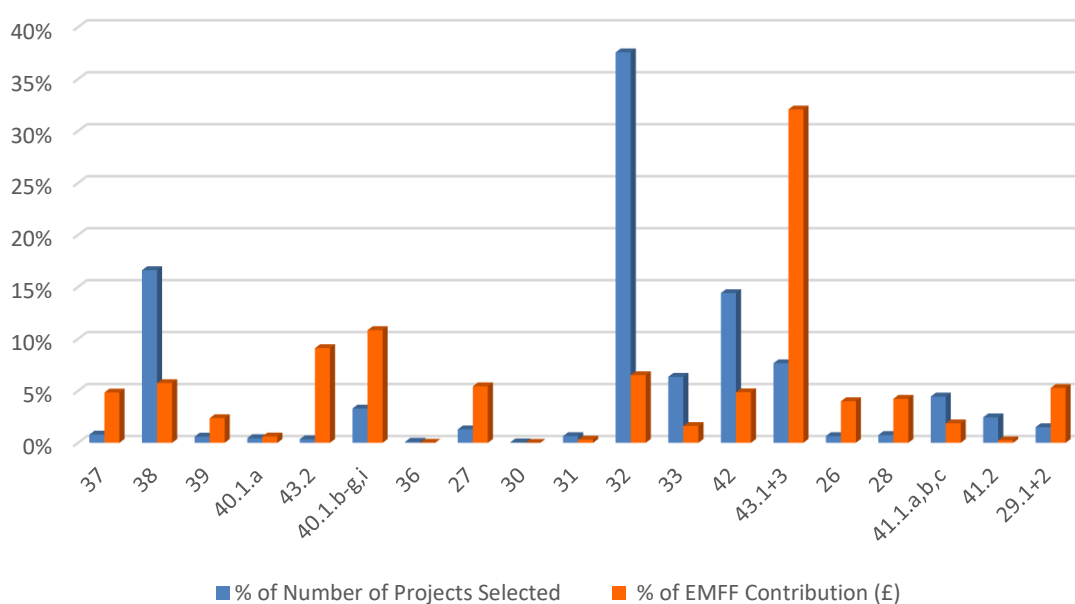
Since the UK opened for applications in 2016, 1,999 projects with an EMFF value of €73.2/£63.1million have been approved, which is 100.1% of the Union Priority 1 budget of €72.5million.

1,962 projects with EMFF expenditure of €66.8/£58.8million have been declared to the Managing Authority, representing 92% of the UP 1 budget.

Most approved projects fall under Health and Safety (751, 38%), limiting the impact of fishing on the marine environment (332, 17%) and added value, quality and use of unwanted catches (288, 14%).

The measures attracting the highest budget requirements are Ports and Harbours and Protection and Restoration of Marine Biodiversity, representing 32% and 11% of UP 1 commitments.

**Figure 1; Union Priority 1 Distribution of Funding by Volume of Projects and EMFF Value**



## **Progress Towards 2023 Milestones**

Financial Indicator – €89.2/£78.4million of public expenditure has been certified to the Commission against the milestone of €96.7million (92%).

Output Indicators – Of the nine Output Indicators applicable to UP 1, all have achieved over 95% of their 2023 target. Once all approved projects have declared expenditure, UP 1 output indicator targets will be at least 96% met, with seven currently fulfilling or exceeding their targets.

### **1.1 – Innovation, Advisory Services and Partnerships with Scientists**

54 operations have been selected. Of these, 52 have declared expenditure against a milestone of 54 (96%). Once all of the selected operations declare expenditure, the OI will be achieved.

### **1.2 – Systems of allocation of fishing opportunities**

Two operations have been selected, both have declared expenditure against a milestone of two, leading to fulfilment of the 2023 milestone.

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

448 operations have been selected. 430 have declared expenditure, exceeding the milestone of 378 (114%).

### **1.4 – Conservation measures, reduction of the fishing impact on the marine environment and adaptation to the protection of species**

360 operations have been selected. 358 have declared expenditure against a milestone of 377 (95%).

### **1.6 – Protection and restoration of marine biodiversity**

75 operations have been selected, with 74 declaring expenditure against a milestone of 76 (99%).

### **1.7 – Energy efficiency, mitigation of climate change**

89 operations have been selected, with 86 declaring expenditure against a milestone of 89 (97%).

### **1.8 – Replacement or modernisation of engines**

49 operations have been selected. 47 have declared expenditure against a milestone of 47 (100%), leading to fulfilment of this OI.

### **1.9 – Promotion of human capital and social dialogue, diversification, start-ups for fishermen and health/safety**

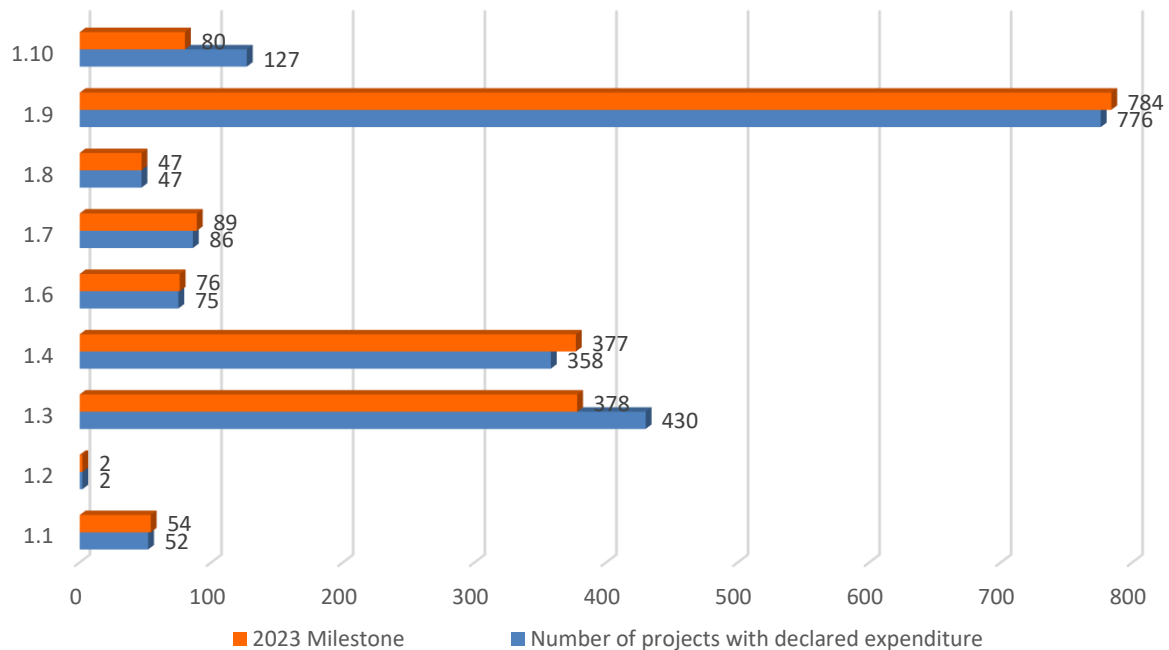
795 operations have been selected. 776 have declared expenditure against a milestone of 784 (99%).

### **1.10 – Temporary cessation of fishing effort**

127 operations have been selected; all have declared expenditure against a milestone of 80, exceeding the 2023 target by a total of 47 outputs (159%).



**Figure 2; Output indicator progress against 2023 milestones**



### Financial Implementation

1,999 projects with an EMFF value of €71.9/£63.1million have been approved representing a small under commitment of less than 1% of the overall EMFF budget of €72.5/£62.5million.

The total value of projects committed is €138.1/£119.1million, of this, 71% (€97.8/£84.3million) is public funding; the remaining 29% (€40.3/£34.8million) comes from private sources.

Of the public funding awarded, 75% (€71.9/£63.1million) is EMFF representing an increase of £0.3million from the commitments reported at 31 December 2021. Due to the exchange fluctuation it appears there is a decrease of €1.3million than that reported in 2021.

The total value of projects with declared expenditure is €127.7/£112.4million. Of this, 71% (€89.2/£78.4million) is public funding.

Of the public funding declared, 75% (€66.8/£58.8million) is EMFF representing an increase of €8.4/£7.2million in comparison with the position as at the 31 December 2021.

### Output Indicators

A total of 1,999 operations have been selected. A majority of 1,907 (95%) are completed with the final claim paid, a further four (<1%) await payment on their final claim. 42 projects (2%) are under implementation, and 22 (1%) have yet to declare expenditure. 20 (1%) have been abandoned by beneficiaries, and four (<1%) have been interrupted following partial implementation.

In relation to the gender of beneficiaries, 1,590 (80%) are male, 17 (<1%) are female and 12 (<1%) are other. Gender codes are not applicable to 380 (19%) of projects, where beneficiaries are organisations.

Size of the operators requesting assistance were 1,629 (81%) micro enterprises, 122 (6%) small, 19 (1%) medium and five (1%) large. SME definitions are not applicable to 224 (11%) operators; in these cases, beneficiaries are public bodies and other non-SMEs.

A further 84 outputs have been achieved in 2022, resulting in a total of 1,999 outputs against Union Priority 1 and indicating that 98% of projects have commenced or completed their spending.

### **Result Indicators**

From programme launch to the 31 December 2022, the top performing result indicators are those related to employment maintained, reduction in accidents and injuries and change in net profits, where 2023 outcomes are 283%, 122 and 82% achieved respectively.

The least performing results indicator is change in the coverage of spatial protection measures. Projects falling under this measure aims to improve the management of existing sites, rather than to expand or develop new sites.

Previously reported results have been removed from the original year of reporting where post project monitoring activity by IBs has replaced an indicative result with a validated outcome; in these cases, a validated result has been supplied in 2022.

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

From the 14 available measures under this Priority, 10 are selected in the UK Operational Programme (OP).

Measures in England, Scotland and Northern Ireland were largely closed throughout 2022 as discussed in Section 2. In Wales, UP 2 was open for applications between January and June 2022, which saw two projects being awarded.

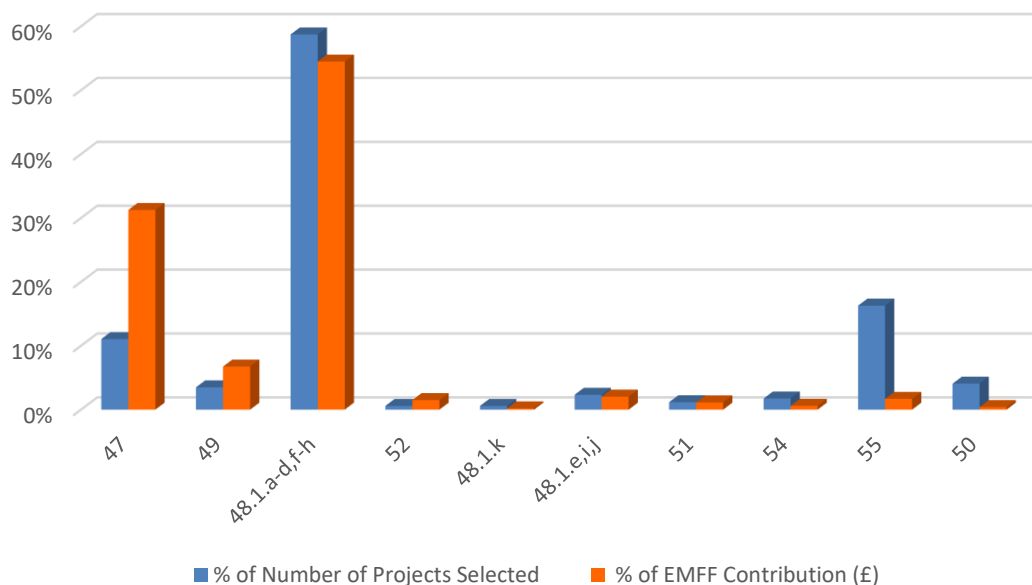
Since the UK opened for applications in 2016, 172 projects with an EMFF value of €18.4/£15.9million have been approved, representing 91% of the UP 2 budget of €20.1/£17.3million.

172 projects with EMFF expenditure of €15.0/£13.2million have been declared to the Managing Authority, representing 75% of the budget.

Most approved projects fall under Productive investments in aquaculture (101, 59% of Union Priority 2 projects). A further 28 (16%) relate to Public Health Measures, which was launched as a Coronavirus-response initiative during 2020.

Productive investments have attracted the highest budget requirements under UP 2, accounting for 51% of EMFF commitments. Innovation in aquaculture has also received high uptake, and accounts for 28% of priority commitments.

**Figure 3; Union Priority 2 Distribution of Funding by Volume of Projects and EMFF Value**



#### Progress Towards 2023 Milestones

Financial Indicator – €20.0/£17.6million of public expenditure has been certified to the Commission against the milestone of €26.7million (75%).

Output Indicators – Of the five Output Indicators applicable to UP 2, two have achieved or exceeded their 2023 milestone. Once all approved projects have

declared expenditure, three OIs (60%) will have achieved over 97% of their 2023 target, and the remaining two will achieve 79-89% of their target.

#### 2.1 – Innovation and Advisory Services

25 operations have been selected. Of these, 23 have declared expenditure against a milestone of 24 (96%). Once all of the selected operations declare expenditure, the OI will be overachieved at 104%.

#### 2.2 – Productive investments in aquaculture

106 operations have been selected. Of these, 98 have declared expenditure against a milestone of 109 (90%). Once all of the selected operations declare expenditure, the OI will be 97% achieved.

#### 2.3 – Limiting the impact of aquaculture on the environment

Three operations have been selected, all have declared expenditure against a milestone of three, leading to fulfilment of the 2023 milestone.

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

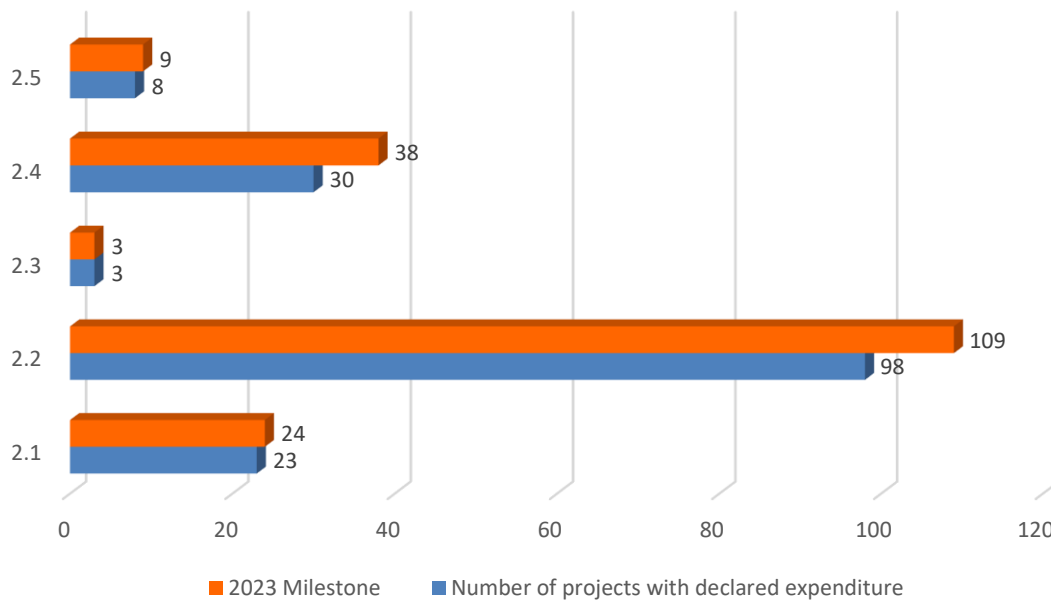
30 operations have been selected. Of these, 30 have declared expenditure against a milestone of 38 (79%). Once all projects selected declare expenditure, the OI will be 79% achieved.

#### 2.5 – Promoting human capital of aquaculture in general and of new aquaculture farmers

Nine projects have been selected, all have declared expenditure against a milestone of three, leading to fulfilment of the 2023 milestone.

The 2023 target for the OI 2.4, is underachieved due to relatively low subscription to Public Health Measures as a coronavirus-response initiative.

**Figure 4; Output indicator progress against 2023 milestones**



## Financial Implementation

172 projects with an EMFF value of €18.4/£15.9million have been approved, representing 92% of the EMFF allocation of €20.1/£17.3million.

The total value of projects committed is €43.2/£37.2million. Of this, 57% (€24.6/£21.2million) is public funding; the remaining 43% (€18.6/£16.0million) comes from private sources.

Of the public funding awarded, 75% (€18.4/£15.9million) is EMFF representing a slight increase from the commitments reported at 31 December 2021. The progression toward committing the UP 2 allocation is impacted by exchange fluctuation as noted in section 2.

The total value of projects with declared expenditure is €35.4/£31.1million. Of this, 56% (€20.0/£17.6million) is public funding.

Of the public funding declared, 75% (€15.0/£13.2million) is EMFF representing an increase of €1.5/£1.3million in comparison with the position at 31 December 2021.

## Output Indicators

A total of 172 operations have been selected. A majority of 146 (85%) are completed with the final claim paid, 16 projects (9%) are under implementation, 6 (3%) have yet to declare expenditure and four (2%) have been abandoned by a beneficiary following partial implementation.

In relation to the gender of beneficiaries, 108 (89%) are male and 13 (11%) are female. Gender codes are not applicable to 51 (30%) of projects, where beneficiaries are organisations, as opposed to individuals.

Size of the operators requesting assistance were 118 (75%) micro enterprises, 34 (22%) small, three (2%) medium and two (1%) large. SME definitions are not

applicable to 15 (9%) operators; in these cases, beneficiaries are public bodies and other non-SMEs.

A further 20 outputs have been achieved in 2022, resulting in a total of 172 outputs under Union Priority 2 and indicating that 94% of projects have commenced or completed their spending.

### **Result Indicators**

From programme launch to the 31 December 2022, the top performing indicator under Union Priority 2 is maintaining employment, where completed projects have exceeded the 2023 target by a margin of 443%, with projects contributing to the maintenance of 328 jobs against a target of 74.

The remaining results indicators are making steady progress toward their 2023 objectives. The indicator concerning increase in the volume of aquaculture production is 66% achieved. The UK expect that further benefits will be achieved in this area, along with value of aquaculture and net profits with the completion of the remaining UP 2 projects.

Previously reported results have been removed from the original year of reporting where post project monitoring activity by Intermediate Bodies has replaced an indicative result with a validated outcome; in these cases, a validated result has been supplied in 2022.

### 3.1.3. Union Priority 3 - Fostering the implementation of CFP

From the available measures under this Priority, all (3) are selected in the UK Operational Programme.

Following the end of the DCF programming period, EMFF DCF measures were closed in 2021. Control and Enforcement initiatives remained open in 2022, during which time the Control and Capability Programme (CCP) continued.

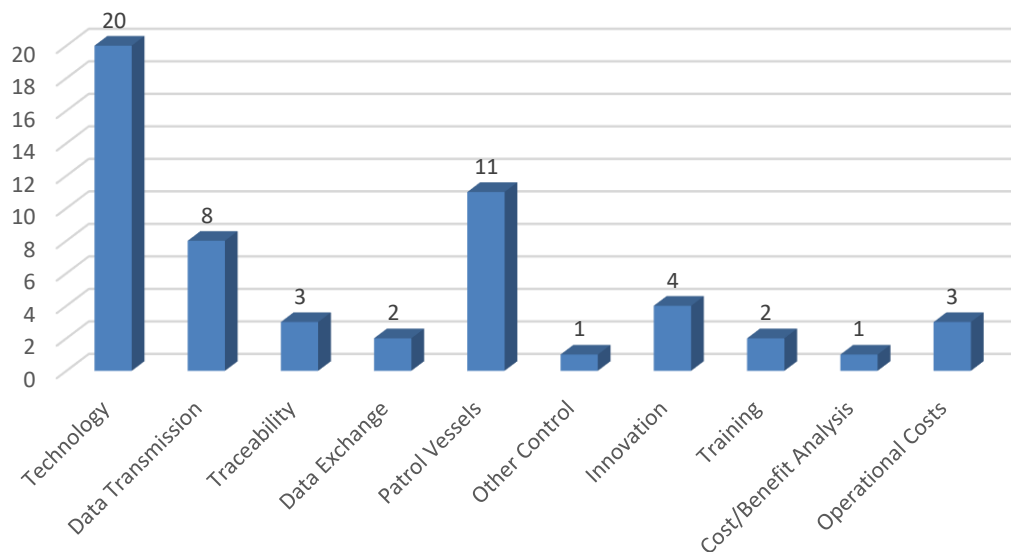
Since the UK opened for applications in 2016, 91 projects with an EMFF value of €96.1/£82.9million have been approved, representing 98% of the UP 3 budget of €97.7/£84.2million.

79 projects with EMFF expenditure of €70.2/£61.3million have been declared to the Managing Authority, representing 72% of the budget.

#### Control and Enforcement Update

Control and Enforcement accounts for 62% of Union Priority 3 projects, with 56 operations selected. Of these, most relate to the purchase, installation, and development of technology (16).

**Figure 5; Approved projects under Control & Enforcement**



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

- Redevelopment of IT as an enabler to improve compliance, including Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS), software applications for use by enforcement officers, catch recording systems and data exchange;
- Developing training programmes for compliance officers;
- Upgrading patrol vessels to monitor inshore fisheries and funding surveillance activities in Specific Control & Inspection Programme (SCIP) areas.

A catch recording phone application was developed to allow the creation and submission of catch records for all English and Welsh under 10 metre (U10m) flag vessels that fish in UK waters. Latest reports confirm that on average, 96% of trips covered by the catch recording licence condition are now being recorded, providing valuable data to support better fisheries management, sustainable fishing, and traceability of produce. In 2023, work will start on enforcing the data quality, accuracy, and timeliness aspects of Catch Recording submissions. As at December 2022, qualitative information on the improvement to catch records since implementation is not yet available.

## **Data Collection Framework Update**

The Data Collection programming period completed on the 31 December 2020. The UK provided its final annual report concerning the collection of primary biological, technical, environmental and socio-economic data on the 28<sup>th</sup> of May 2021.

In June 2021, the European Commission's Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF) working group convened to review the UK report, seeking to evaluate the quality of data collected in accordance with Article 11(2) of the DCF Regulation 2017/1004; no data issues were identified, allowing the UK DCF programme to be closed.

IBs have worked closely with DCF partners to reclaim DCF funding from the European Commission. At the 31 December 2022, the DCF programme has reclaimed €54.1/£44.0million (104%) of its allocation from the Commission, leaving small balances to be processed for payment in 2023; these balances all fall within the EU DCF programming period, relating to eligible activities prior to the 31 December 2020.

As outlined in the OP, work has focussed on:

- the collection, management and use of data for the purpose of scientific analysis and implementation of the CFP;
- biological sampling of stocks covered by the CFP;
- research surveys at sea;
- at-sea monitoring of commercial and recreational fisheries;
- collection of economic and socio-economic data for marine fisheries, aquaculture and processing;
- development and improvement of data collection and management systems; and
- coordination and support for research on the marine environment.

## **Progress Towards 2023 Milestones**

Financial Indicator – €85.3/£74.4million of public expenditure was certified to the Commission against the milestone of €116.4million (73%).

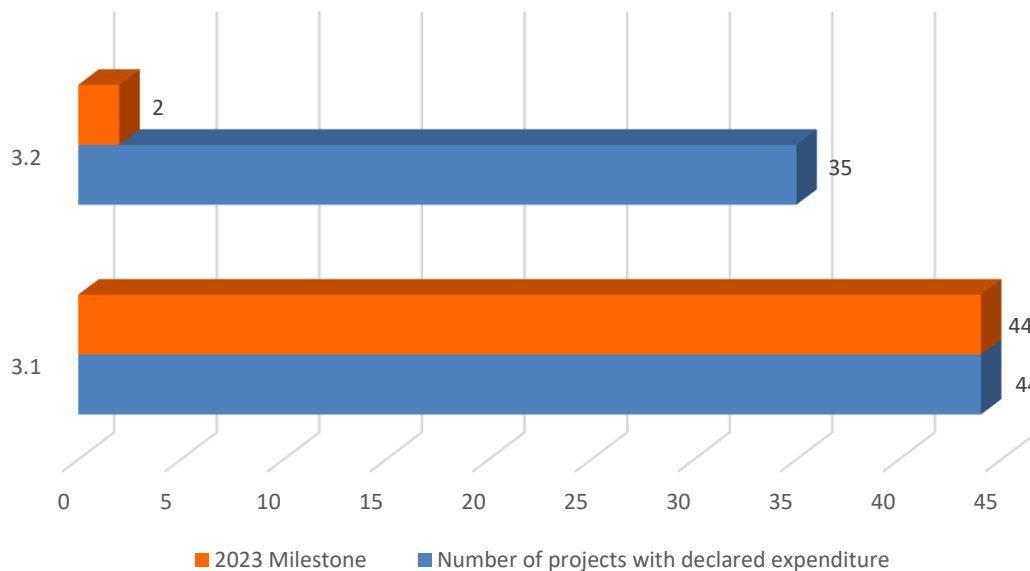
Output Indicators – of the two Output Indicators applicable to UP 3, both have exceeded their objectives.



3.1 – Implementing the Union's control, inspections and enforcement system  
56 operations have been selected. Of these, 44 have declared expenditure against a milestone of 44 (100%).

3.2 – Supporting the collection, management and use of data  
35 operations have been selected. Of these, 35 have declared expenditure against a milestone of two. This milestone concerns compliance with the DCF Regulation 2014-2016 and the Data Collection Multi-Annual Programme Regulation 2016-2020.

**Figure 6; Output indicator progress against 2023 milestones.**



### Financial Implementation

91 projects with an EMFF value of €95.4/£82.9million have been approved, representing 98% of the UP 3 budget of €97.7/£84.2million. Of the public budget of €116.4/£100.9million, €114.1/£99.1million has been allocated to projects.

The total value of projects committed is €114.2/£99.1million, of this, >99% is public funding; remaining funds come from other sources.

Of the public funding awarded, 84% (€96.1/£82.9million) is EMFF representing an increase of €2.8/£4.0million from the commitments reported up to the 31 December 2021. The continued progress from the previous year shows that focus has returned to the delivery of the UK Strategy for Control following the re-prioritisation of staff to work on Covid-response initiatives.

The total value of projects with declared expenditure is €85.3/£74.4million. Of this, >99% is public funding.

Of the public funding declared, 82% (€70.2/£61.3million) is EMFF representing an increase of €4.1/£3.8million against the position at the 31 December 2021.

### **Output Indicators**

A total of 91 operations have been selected. A majority of 64 (70%) are completed with the final claim paid, two projects (2%) await payment on their final claim. 13 projects (14%) are under implementation, 11 (12%) have yet to declare expenditure, and one project has been abandoned by a beneficiary following partial implementation.

One large operator (1%) has requested assistance toward the Data Collection Framework programme. SME definitions are not applicable to the remaining operators 90 (99%) where beneficiaries are public bodies.

23 outputs have been achieved in 2022, resulting in a total of 91 outputs under Union Priority 3 and indicating that 87% of projects have commenced or completed their spending.

### **Result Indicators**

Individual projects do not directly contribute to the results indicators aligned to UP 3, which concern serious infringements detected, landings subject to control and increase in fulfilment of data calls. These indicators are measured at the national level, based on a combination of UP 3 projects and broader DCF/enforcement activity are reported separately to STECF.

### 3.1.4. Union Priority 4 - Increasing employment and territorial cohesion

All available Union Priority 4 measures are selected in the UK Operational Programme. Across the UK, 19 Fisheries Local Action Groups have been selected to deliver their Local Development Strategies through these measures.

Throughout 2022, Union Priority 4 measures in England, Scotland and Northern Ireland were closed, whilst the programme remained open in Wales throughout 2022.

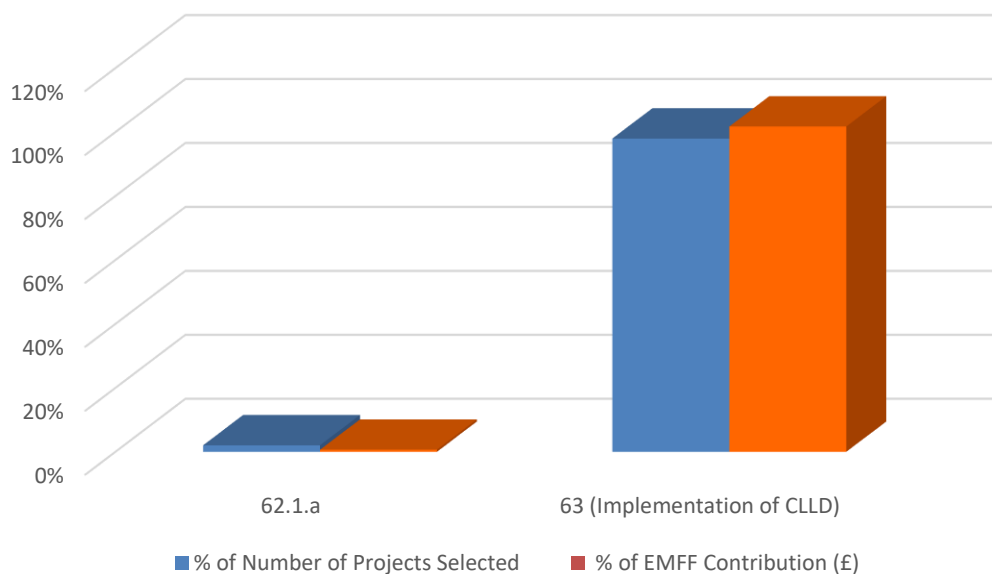
As outlined in earlier AIR's as most UK FLAGs had fully committed their allocations, no further networking events are planned. Support to active FLAGs has remained available on a remote basis, via UK Intermediate Bodies.

Since the UK opened for applications in 2016, FLAGs have facilitated the approval of 443 operations with an EMFF value of €13.1/£11.3million representing 96% of the UP 4 budget of €13.7/£12.0million.

A total of 392 projects with EMFF expenditure of €11.0/£9.7million have been declared to the Managing Authority, representing 80% of the budget.

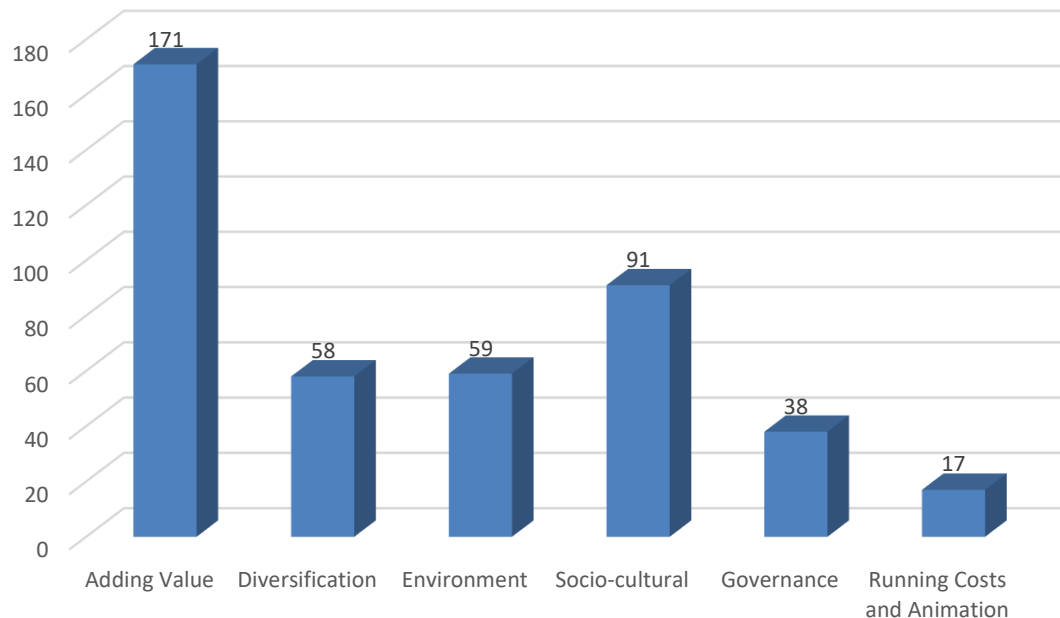
Most approved projects fall under the implementation of local development strategies, with 434 projects approved (98% of all UP 4 projects, and 99% of the EMFF budget allocated to UP 4), there are a further nine projects which provided preparatory support to UK FLAGs.

**Figure 7; Union Priority 4 Distribution of Funding by Volume of Projects and EMFF Value**



Approved projects under Implementation of community-led local development strategies mainly relate to added value, with 171 projects approved. Socio-cultural investments are also popular, with 91 projects approved.

**Figure 8; Approved projects under Implementation of local development strategies**



### Progress Towards 2023 Milestones

Financial Indicator – €14.6/12.9million of public expenditure has been certified to the Commission against a milestone of €18.2/£14.3million (80%).

As outlined in the 2021 AIR, the UK programme has failed to attract projects under Article 64, Regional Co-operation (OI 4.3). It was proposed that Article 64 would be removed from the UK programme during the Operational Programme amendment undertaken in December 2022. This was accepted by the European Commission and as such all associated targets have been removed from the UK scheme.

Output Indicators – Of the two Output Indicators applicable to UP 4, both have achieved their 2023 targets, a summary of these are set out below;

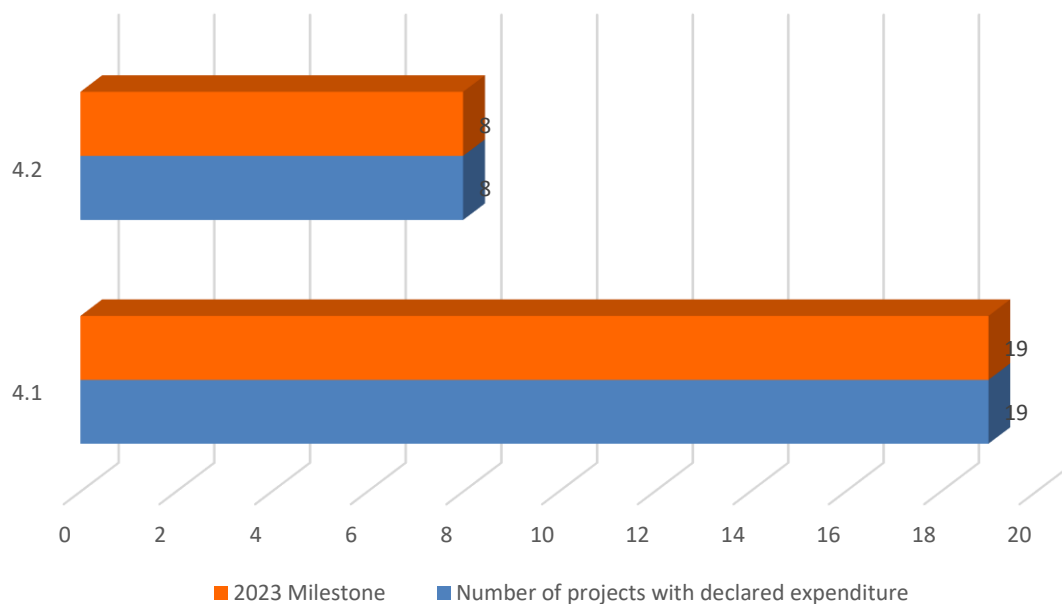
#### 4.1 – Local Development Strategies selected

This milestone has been met with the required 19 FLAG Local Development Strategies selected. As at the 31 December 2022, the UK's 19 Fisheries Local Actions Groups have facilitated a total of 434 implementation projects, seeking to foster community-led local development.

#### 4.2 – Projects on preparatory support

Nine operations have been selected. Of these, eight have declared expenditure against the target of eight, leading to fulfilment of the 2023 target.

**Figure 9; Output indicator progress against 2023 milestones**



### Financial Implementation

Since the start of the programming period, 434 projects with an EMFF value of €13.1/£11.3million have been approved, representing 96% of the EMFF budget allocation of €13.7/£11.8million.

The total value of projects committed is €23.3/£20.1million, of this, 75% (€17.4/£15.0million) is public funding; the remaining 25% (€5.9/£5.1million) comes from private sources.

Of the public funding awarded, 75% €13.1/£11.3million is EMFF representing an increase (€3.7/£3.0million) from the commitments reported to the 31 December 2021.

The total value of projects with declared expenditure is €19.9/£17.1million. Of this, 73% (€14.6/£12.9million) is public funding.

Of the public funding declared, 75% (€11.0/£9.7million) is EMFF representing an increase of €1.6/£1.4million in comparison with the position at the 31 December 2021.

### Output Indicators

A total of 434 operations have been selected. A majority of 366 (83%) are completed with the final claim paid, a further three projects (<1%) have completed and await payment of their final claim. 41 projects (9%) are under implementation, 41 (9%) have yet to declare expenditure and 10 (2%) has been abandoned by a beneficiary following partial implementation.

In relation to the gender of beneficiaries, 133 (30%) are male, 25 (6%) are female and 31 (7%) are other. Gender codes are not applicable to 248 (57%) of projects, where beneficiaries are organisations, as opposed to individuals.

Size of the operators requesting assistance were 202 (46%) micro enterprises, 42 (9%) small, 22 (5%) medium and one (<1%) large. SME definitions are not applicable to 185 (40%) operators; in these cases, beneficiaries are public bodies and other non-SMEs.

### **Result Indicators**

The specific result indicators aligned to Union Priority 4 concern the creation of employment and businesses. As at the 31 December 2022, both indicators are performing well. Projects completed to date have resulted in the creation of 139 roles and 18 businesses. On this basis, the 2023 targets for each indicator have been 75% and 120% achieved, up from 65% and 100% at the end of 2020 owing to the completion of additional UP 4 projects.

Referring to employment created, as shown in table 1, previously reported results have been removed from the original year of reporting where post project monitoring activity by Intermediate Bodies has replaced an indicative result with a validated outcome; in these cases, a validated result has been supplied in 2022.

### 3.1.5. Union Priority 5 - Fostering marketing and processing

From the five available measures under this Priority, three are selected in the UK Operational Programme.

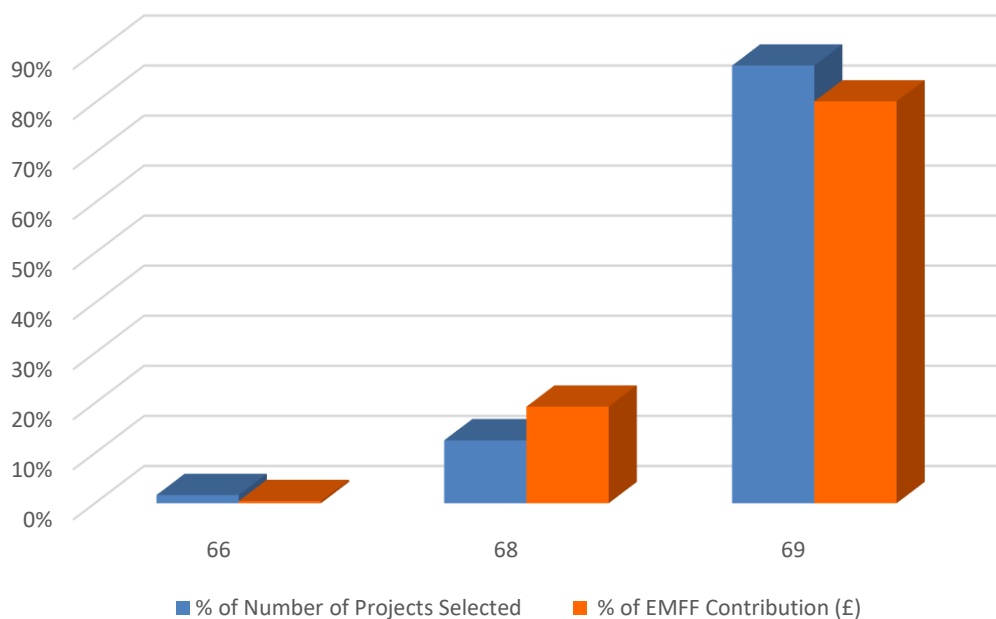
Measures in England, Scotland and Northern Ireland were largely closed throughout 2022 as discussed in Section 2. In Wales, UP 5 was open for applications between January and June 2022, which saw three projects being awarded.

Since the UK opened for applications in 2016, 186 projects with an EMFF value of €21.7/£18.7million have been approved, representing 93% of the UP 5 budget.

174 projects with EMFF expenditure of €19.4/£17.1million have been declared to the Managing Authority, representing 83% of the budget.

Most approved projects fall under processing of fishery and aquaculture products (160, 86% of Union Priority 5 projects). This measure has also attracted the highest budget requirements under UP 5, accounting for 80% of commitments under the priority.

**Figure 10; Union Priority 5 Distribution of Funding by Volume of Projects and EMFF Value**



### Progress Towards 2023 Milestones

Financial Indicator – €25.9/£22.8million of public expenditure was certified and declared to the Commission, against the milestone of €31.2million (83%).

Output Indicators – Of the three Output Indicators applicable to UP 5, all three (100%) have achieved, or exceeded their 2023 targets.

### 5.1 – Number of producer organisations or associations of producer organisations supported for production and marketing plans

Three operations have been selected. Of these, three have declared expenditure against a milestone of three (100%), achieving the 2023 target.

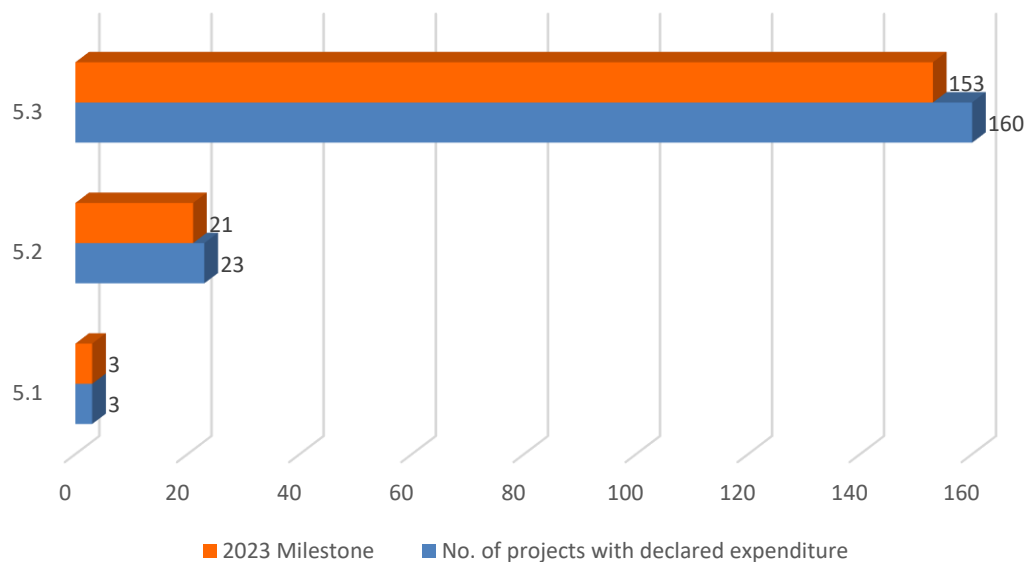
### 5.2 – Marketing measures and storage aid

23 operations have been selected, of these 22 (96%) have declared expenditure against a milestone of 21, exceeding the 2023 target (105%).

### 5.3 – Processing projects

160 operations have been selected, of these, 152 have declared expenditure against a milestone of 153 (99%). Once all awarded projects declare expenditure, the target will be exceeded (105%).

**Figure 11; Output indicator progress against 2023 milestones**



## Financial Implementation

Since the start of the programming period, 186 projects with an EMFF value of €21.7/£18.7million have been approved, representing 93% of the EMFF budget allocation of €23.4.0/£20.2million.

The total value of projects committed is €56.0/£48.2million, of this, 52% (€28.9/£24.9million) is public funding; the remaining 48% (€27.1/£23.4million) comes from private sources.

Of the public funding awarded, €21.7/£18.7million (81%) is EMFF representing a decrease of €0.5million from the commitments reported to the 31 December 2021.

The total value of projects with declared expenditure is €59.9/£43.8million. Of this, 52% (€25.9/£22.8million) is public funding.

Of the public funding declared, 75% (€19.4/£17.1million) is EMFF representing an increase of €1.3/£1.2million in comparison with the position to the 31 December 2021.



## **Output Indicators**

A total of 186 operations have been selected. A majority of 167 (90%) are completed with the final claim paid, a further two projects (1%) have completed and are awaiting payment of the final claim. Eight projects (4%) are under implementation and four projects (2%) have yet to declare expenditure. From programme launch to date, four projects (2%) have been abandoned by a beneficiary following partial implementation and a further project (<1%) has been interrupted following partial implementation.

In relation to the gender of beneficiaries, 51 (27%) are male, four (2%) are female and three (2%) are other. Gender codes are not applicable to 128 (69%) of projects, where beneficiaries are organisations, as opposed to individuals.

Size of the operators requesting assistance were 66 (35%) micro enterprises, 73 (40%) small and 44 (24%) medium. SME definitions are not applicable to three (2%) operators; in these cases, beneficiaries are non-SMEs.

A further 14 outputs have been achieved in 2022, resulting in a total of 186 outputs under Union Priority 5 and indicating that 95% of projects have commenced or completed their spending.

## **Result Indicators**

The top performing result indicators under UP 5 concern changing the value and volume of first sales in non-producers organisations, where completed projects have fulfilled UK targets to 110% and 83% respectively.

The remaining result indicators concern changing the value and volume of first sales in producer organisations, where 2023 targets are 52% and 50% achieved.

Previously reported results have been removed from the original year of reporting where post project monitoring activity by Intermediate Bodies has replaced an indicative result with a validated outcome; in these cases, a validated result has been supplied in 2022.

### 3.1.6. Union Priority 6 - Fostering the implementation of Integrated Maritime Policy

From the three available measures under this Union Priority, two are selected in the UK Operational Programme.

Measures in England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales were largely closed throughout 2022 as discussed in Section 2, with no new projects being approved during this time under Union Priority 6.

Since the UK opened for applications in 2016, 32 projects with an EMFF value of €5.1/£4.4million have been approved, leading to a slight underspend (4%) in Union Priority 6, where the EMFF budget is €5.2/£4.5million.

32 projects with EMFF expenditure of €4.3/£3.8million have been declared to the Managing Authority, representing 83% of the budget.

As reported previously most approved projects under Integrated Maritime Policy relate to promotion of the protection of the marine environment, and the sustainable use of marine and coastal resources, 29 projects (91% of Union Priority 6 projects), and 96% of EMFF funding. A high volume of the operations selected relate to Marine Protected Areas and Natura 2000 sites, with coverage of 465 thousand and 67 thousand kilometres squared respectively. Three further investments are approved under improving knowledge on the state of the marine environment.

**Figure 12; Union Priority 6 Distribution of Funding by Volume of Projects and EMFF Value**



### Progress Towards 2023 Milestones

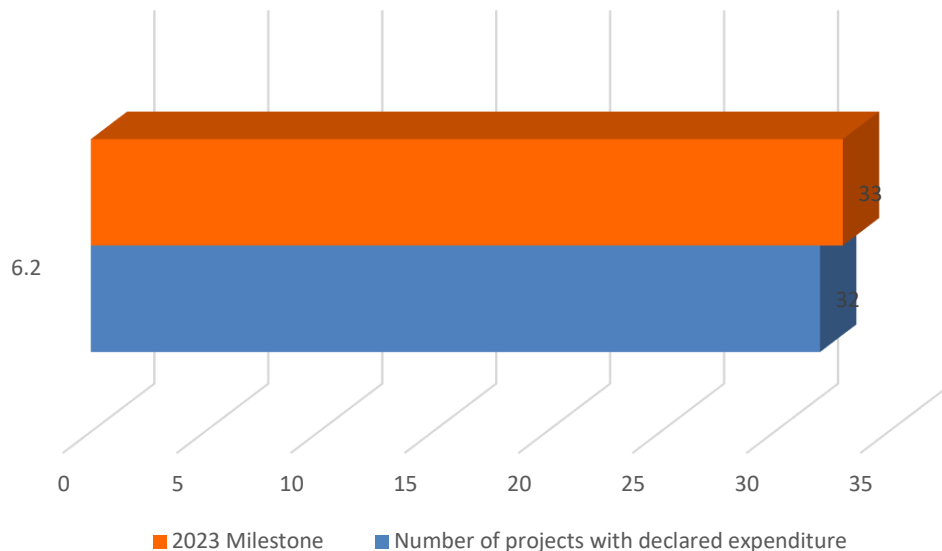
Financial Indicator – €5.8/£5.0million of public expenditure was certified to the Commission against the milestone of €6.9million (84%), representing an increase from 66% as at 31 December 2021.

Output Indicators – One output indicator is linked to Union Priority 6 of the EMFF scheme, which is on track to be achieved, as set out below;

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

32 operations have been selected. Of these, 32 have declared expenditure against the above milestone of 33, the 2023 target will be 97% achieved.

**Figure 13; Output indicator progress against 2023 milestones**



### Financial Implementation

Since the start of the programming period, a total of 32 projects with an EMFF value of €5.1/£4.4million have been approved, representing 96% of the EMFF budget allocation of €5.2/£4.5million. Of the available public budget of €6.9/£5.9million, €6.8/£5.8million has been allocated to projects. The total value of projects committed is €6.8/£5.8million, showing that UP 6 projects are being funded entirely from public sources.

Of the public funding awarded, 75% (€5.1/£4.4million) is EMFF representing a decrease of <£0.3million from the commitments reported previously.

The total value of projects with declared expenditure is €5.8/£4.9million. 100% of this is public funding.

Of the public funding declared, 74% (€4.3/£3.8million) is EMFF representing an increase of €1.1/£1.0million in comparison with the position at the 31 December 2021.

At this late stage in the programme, UP 6 projects are progressing well toward completion.

## **Output Indicators**

A total of 32 operations have been selected. A majority of 22 (69%) are completed, eight (25%) are under implementation and two (6%) have yet to declare expenditure.

In relation to the gender of beneficiaries, 1 (3%) is female. Gender codes are not applicable to the remaining 31 (97%) of projects where beneficiaries are organisations, as opposed to individuals.

Size of the operators requesting assistance were 1 (3%) micro enterprise. SME definitions are not applicable to the remaining 31 (97%) operators; in these cases, beneficiaries are public bodies, or other non-SMEs.

A further 7 outputs have been achieved in 2022, resulting in a total of 32 outputs under Union Priority 6 and indicating that 94% of projects have commenced or completed their spending.

## **Result Indicators**

Indicators relating to change in the coverage of Natura 2000 areas designated under the Birds and Habitats directives (6.2.a) and change in the coverage of other spatial protection measures (6.2.b) reported only minor benefits in 2022. One completed project made a small contribution toward changing the coverage of Natura 2000 sites, bringing about an additional 0.3 kilometres squared (cumulative 3.0 kilometres squared).

Consultation with Intermediate Bodies has identified that the completed projects under Union Priority 6 largely facilitate an improved management of Natura 2000 or other spatial protection sites, as opposed to a change in their coverage.

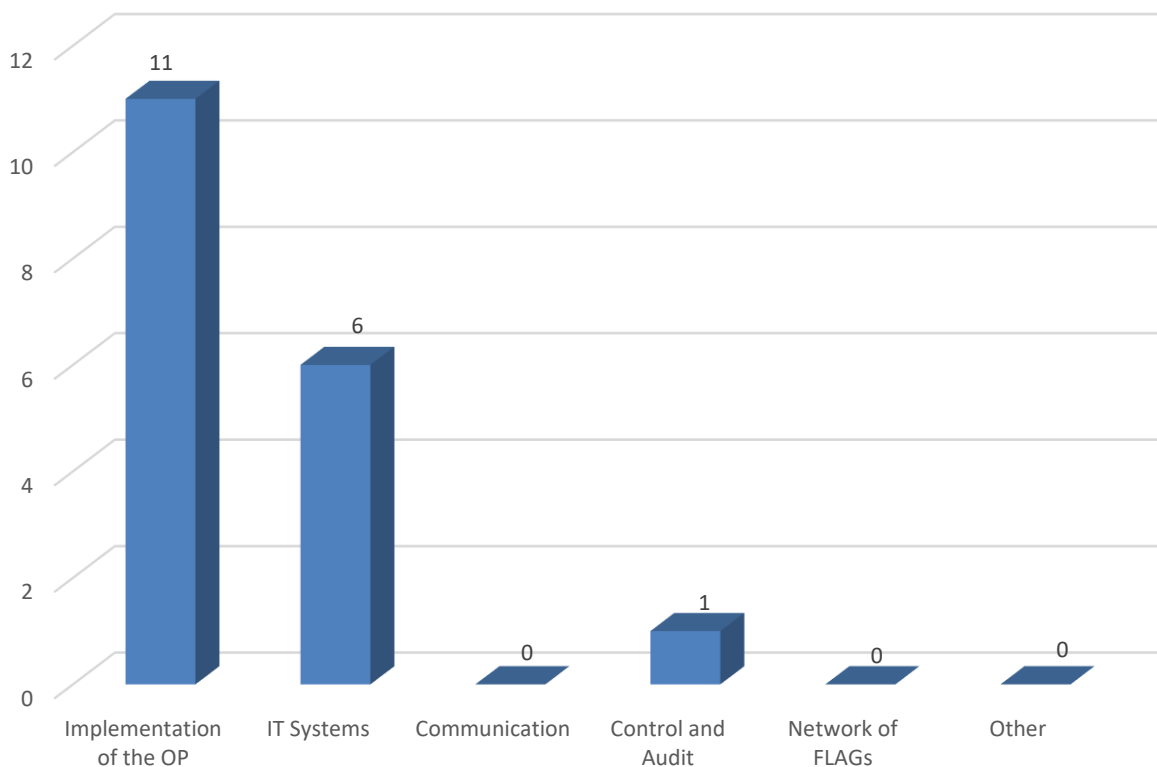
### 3.1.7. Technical Assistance

The UK EMFF technical assistance budget is being used to fund the implementation and ongoing costs relating to the E-System which has been developed to assist in the funding process by making it easier for applicants to apply and increase efficiency within the delivery bodies. Staff costs across some of the UK will also be funded for the effective management and administration of the scheme.

Since the UK EMFF programme launched in 2016, 26 projects with an EMFF value of €10.0/£8.6million have been approved, representing 93% of the EMFF Technical Assistance budget of €10.7million. Expenditure of €5.6/£4.9million has been declared to the Managing Authority, representing 52% of the budget.

Approved projects under Technical Assistance mainly relate to the implementation of the operational programme, 11 projects are approved for these purposes. Technical Assistance is also being utilised for “other” purposes, such as meetings/engagement (seven projects) and IT systems (six projects). Investments covering communication activities, control and audits and network of FLAG’s each have one operation approved.

**Figure 14; Approved projects under Technical Assistance**



### Financial Implementation

26 projects with an EMFF value of €10.0/£8.6million have been approved, representing 90% of the EMFF budget allocation of €10.7/£9.2million. Of the available public budget of €14.3/£12.3million, €13.4/£11.5million has been allocated to projects.

The total value of projects committed is €13.4/£11.5million, showing that Technical Assistance projects are being funded solely from public sources.

Of the public funding awarded, 76% (€10.0/£8.6million) is EMFF representing a increase of £0.5million from the commitments reported to the 31 December 2021.

The total value of projects with declared expenditure is €7.4/£6.6million. 100% of this is public funding.

Of the public funding declared, 75% (€5.6/£4.9million) is EMFF representing an increase of €0.2/£0.1million in comparison with the position at the 31 December 2021.



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

Specific objective	Result indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Yearly value									Cumulative value
				2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	
3 – Ensuring a balance between fishing capacity and available fishing opportunities	1.3 - Change in net profits	Thousand Euros	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4 – Enhancement of the competitiveness and viability of fisheries enterprises, including of small scale coastal fleet, and the improvement of safety or working conditions	1.3 – Change in net profits	Thousand Euros	3,819.796	0	0	143.05	850.77	780.98	426.02	374.47	564.36	18.16	3,107.94
4 – Enhancement of the competitiveness and viability of fisheries enterprises, including of small scale coastal fleet, and the improvement of safety or working conditions	1.5 – Change in fuel efficiency of fish capture	Litres fuel/Tonnes landed catch	-33	0	0	0	-3.57	-20.00	-16.00	-17.37	-0.68	0	Not applicable
4 – Enhancement of the competitiveness and viability of fisheries enterprises, including of small scale coastal fleet, and the improvement of safety or working conditions	1.8 – Employment maintained (FTE) in the fisheries sector or complementary activities	FTE	1,346.477	0	0	119.00	228.5	907.5	298	1,542.80	721	66	3,885.30



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

Specific objective	Result indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Yearly value									Cumulative value
				2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	
4 – Enhancement of the competitiveness and viability of fisheries enterprises, including of small scale coastal fleet, and the improvement of safety or working conditions	1.9.a – Change in the number of work-related injuries and accidents	Number	-219.225	0	0	0	-18	-75	-66	-74	-45	0	-280
4 – Enhancement of the competitiveness and viability of fisheries enterprises, including of small scale coastal fleet, and the improvement of safety or working conditions	1.9.b – Change in the % of work-related injuries and accidents in relation to total fishers	%	-5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Not applicable
5 – Provision of support to strengthen technological development and innovation, including increasing energy efficiency, and knowledge transfer	1.3 – Change in net profits	Thousand Euros	4,111.77	0	0	3.91	263.79	1,523.38	700.86	926.20	26.31	42.60	3,487.11
5 – Provision of support to strengthen technological development and innovation, including	1.5 – Change in fuel efficiency of fish capture	Litres fuel/Tonnes landed catch	-33	0	0	-131.01	-194.13	-144.64	-40	-140.20	-109.09	-29.38	Not applicable



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

Specific objective	Result indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Yearly value									Cumulative value
				2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	
1 – Provision of support to strengthen technological development, innovation and knowledge transfer	2.1 – Change in volume of aquaculture production	Tonnes	232.543.00	0	0	0	0	0	59.00	2.00	1.60	0	62.60
1 – Provision of support to strengthen technological development, innovation and knowledge transfer	2.2 – Change in value of aquaculture production	Thousand Euros	92,203	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	80.50	0	80.50
1 – Provision of support to strengthen technological development, innovation and knowledge transfer	2.3 – Change in net profit	Thousand Euros	80.634	0	0	0	0	0	14.42	0	50.31	0	64.74
2 – Enhancement of the competitiveness and viability of aquaculture enterprises, including improvement of safety or working conditions, in particular of SMEs	2.1 – Change in volume of aquaculture production	Tonnes	15,402.778	0	0	0	1,327.30	4,068.14	85.00	1,835.11	2,818.70	295.00	10,429.25
2 – Enhancement of the competitiveness and viability of aquaculture enterprises, including improvement of safety or working conditions, in particular of SMEs	2.2 – Change in value of aquaculture production	Thousand Euros	38,790.797	0	0	0	2,959.98	3,797.40	82.13	6,588.78	11,104.925	991.82	25,525.03

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

Specific objective	Result indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Yearly value									Cumulative value
				2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	
2 – Enhancement of the competitiveness and viability of aquaculture enterprises, including improvement of safety or working conditions, in particular of SMEs	2.3 – Change in net profit	Thousand Euros	9,068.366	0	0	8.94	494.21	2,730.99	172.33	1,050.88	1,414.17	500.50	6,372.04
2 – Enhancement of the competitiveness and viability of aquaculture enterprises, including improvement of safety or working conditions, in particular of SMEs	2.9 – Employment maintained	FTE	65.2	0	0	2.00	8.00	116.5	13.00	104.5	49.00	32.5	325.50
3 – Protection and restoration of aquatic biodiversity and enhancement of ecosystems related to aquaculture and promotion of resource-efficient aquaculture	2.5 – Change in the volume of production recirculation system	Tonnes	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3 – Protection and restoration of aquatic biodiversity and enhancement of ecosystems related to aquaculture and	2.7 – Aquaculture farms providing environmental services	Number	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1



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

Specific objective	Result indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Yearly value									Cumulative value
				2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	
4 – Promotion of aquaculture having a high level of environmental protection, and the promotion of animal health and welfare and of public health and safety	2.5 – Change in the volume of production recirculation system	Tonnes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4 – Promotion of aquaculture having a high level of environmental protection, and the promotion of animal health and welfare and of public health and safety	2.7 – Aquaculture farms providing environmental services	Number	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5 – Development of professional training, new professional skills and lifelong learning	2.9 – Employment maintained	FTE	6.683	0	0	0	0	12	0	17	12	0	41



**Union Priority 4 - Increasing employment and territorial cohesion**

Specific objective	Result indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Yearly value									Cumulative value
				2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	
1 – Promotion of economic growth, social inclusion and job creation, and providing support to employability and labour mobility in coastal and inland communities which depend on fishing and aquaculture, including the diversification of activities within fisheries and into other sectors of maritime economy	4.1 – Employment created (FTE)	FTE	186.0	0	0	0	13.7	42	11	57.6	21.0	19	164.3
1 – Promotion of economic growth, social inclusion and job creation, and providing support to employability and labour mobility in coastal and inland communities which depend on fishing and aquaculture, including the diversification of activities within fisheries and into other sectors of maritime economy	4.3 – Businesses created	Number	15	0	0	0	1	4	2	8	3	3	21



**Union Priority 5 - Fostering marketing and processing**

Specific objective	Result indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Yearly value									Cumulative value
				2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	
1 – Improvement of market organisation for fishery and aquaculture products	5.1.a – Change in value of first sales in PO's	Thousand Euros	653.299	0	0	0.2	38.76	277.92	28.25	0	0	0	345.13
1 – Improvement of market organisation for fishery and aquaculture products	5.1.b – Change in volume of first sales in PO's	Tonnes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1 – Improvement of market organisation for fishery and aquaculture products	5.1.c – Change in value of first sales in non-PO's	Tonnes	196.821	0	0	0	182.31	36.86	0	0	0	0	219.17
1 – Improvement of market organisation for fishery and aquaculture products	5.1.d – Change in volume of first sales in non-PO's	Tonnes	78.689	0	0	0	0	71.00	0	0	0	0	71.00
2 – Encouragement of investment in the processing and marketing sectors	5.1.a – Change in value of first sales in PO's	Thousand Euros	4,686.701	0	0	0	6.16	121.68	0	2,301.50	0	0	2,429.34
2 – Encouragement of investment in the processing and marketing sectors	5.1.b – Change in volume of first sales in PO's	Tonnes	6,130.00	0	0	0	0	2,712.33	0	-6.00	347.00	0	3,053.33
2 – Encouragement of investment in the processing and marketing sectors	5.1.c – Change in value of first sales in non-PO's	Tonnes	51,240.179	0	0	27.29	18,281.92	20,126.14	217.09	743.60	6,976.99	10,098.30	56,471.344

**Union Priority 5 - Fostering marketing and processing**

Specific objective	Result indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Yearly value									Cumulative value
				2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	
2 – Encouragement of investment in the processing and marketing sectors	5.1.d – Change in volume of first sales in non-PO's	Tonnes	20,440.311	0	0	16.59	1,933.00	8,146.63	204.00	2,177.65	3,067.60	-348.79	15,190.69



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

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

Selected relevant measures	Thematic objective	Output indicators												Cumulative value
		Indicator	Included in performance framework	Target value (2023)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	
Article 37 Support for the design and implementation of conservation measures	6	1.4 – N° of projects on conservation measures, reduction of the fishing impact on the marine environment and fishing adaptation to the protection of species	✓	13	0	0	0	4	4	3	4	1	0	16
Article 38 Limiting the impact of fishing on the marine environment and adapting fishing to the protection of species (+ art. 44.1.c Inland fishing)	6	1.4 – N° of projects on conservation measures, reduction of the fishing impact on the marine environment and fishing adaptation to the protection of species	✓	354	0	0	0	96	101	105	27	1	2	332
Article 39 Innovation linked to the conservation of marine biological resources (+ art. 44.1.c Inland fishing)	6	1.4 – N° of projects on conservation measures, reduction of the fishing impact on the marine environment and fishing adaptation to the protection of species	✓	10	0	0	0	3	0	4	3	2	0	12
Article 40.1.a Protection and restoration of marine biodiversity – collection of lost fishing gear and marine litter	6	1.6 – N° of projects on protection and restoration of marine biodiversity, ecosystems		1	0	0	0	1	0	-1	0	8	1	9

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

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

Selected relevant measures	Thematic objective	Output indicators												Cumulative value
		Indicator	Included in performance framework	Target value (2023)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	
Article 43.2 Fishing ports, landing sites, auction halls and shelters – investments to facilitate compliance with the obligation to land all catches	6	1.3 – N° of projects on added value, quality, use of unwanted catches and fishing ports, landing sites, actions halls and shelters	✓	8	0	0	0	3	1	2	0	0	1	7

**TABLE 2 Output indicators for the EMFF**

Union priority 1 - Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based fisheries														
2. Protection and restoration of aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems														
Selected relevant measures	Thematic objective	Output indicators												Cumulative value
		Indicator	Included in performance framework	Target value (2023)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	
Article 40.1.b-g, i Protection and restoration of marine biodiversity – contribution to a better management or conservation, construction, installation or modernisation of static or movable facilities, preparation of protection and management plans related to NATURA2000 sites and spatial protected areas, management, restoration and monitoring marine protected areas, including NATURA 2000 sites, environmental awareness, participation in other actions aimed at maintaining and enhancing biodiversity and ecosystem services (+ art. 44.6 Inland fishing)	6	1.6 – N° of projects on protection and restoration of marine biodiversity, ecosystems		75	0	0	0	6	12	27	20	1	0	66

Union priority 1 - Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based fisheries														
3. Ensuring a balance between fishing capacity and available fishing opportunities														
Selected relevant measures	Thematic objective	Output indicators												Cumulative value
		Indicator	Included in performance framework	Target value (2023)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	
Article 36 Support to systems of allocation of fishing opportunities	6	1.2 – N° of projects on systems of allocation of fishing opportunities		2	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2

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

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

Selected relevant measures	Thematic objective	Output indicators												Cumulative value
		Indicator	Included in performance framework	Target value (2023)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	
Article 27 Advisory services (+ art. 44.3 Inland fishing)	3	1.1 – N° of projects on innovation, advisory services and partnerships with scientists	✓	21	0	0	0	3	6	3	6	4	4	26
Article 30 Diversification and new forms of income (+ art. 44.4 Inland fishing)	3	1.9 – N° of projects on promotion of human capital and social dialogue, diversification and new forms of income, start-ups for fishermen and health/safety		1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Article 31 Start-up support for young fishermen (+ art. 44.2 Inland fishing)	3	1.9 – N° of projects on promotion of human capital and social dialogue, diversification and new forms of income, start-ups for fishermen and health/safety		13	0	0	0	6	4	1	0	0	2	13
Article 32 Health and safety (+ art. 44.1.b Inland fishing)	3	1.9 – N° of projects on promotion of human capital and social dialogue, diversification and new forms of income, start-ups for fishermen and health/safety		740	0	0	0	157	168	206	134	64	22	751
Article 33 Temporary Cessation of Fishing Activities	3	1.10 – N° of projects on temporary cessation		80	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	127	0	127



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

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

Selected relevant measures	Thematic objective	Output indicators												Cumulative value
		Indicator	Included in performance framework	Target value (2023)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	
Article 42 Added value, product quality and use of unwanted catches (+ art. 44.1.e Inland fishing)	3	1.3 – N° of projects on added value, quality, use of unwanted catches and fishing ports, landing sites, actions halls and shelters	✓	247	0	0	0	87	65	49	52	24	11	288
Article 43.1 + 3 Fishing ports, landing sites, auction halls and shelters - investments improving fishing port and auctions halls infrastructure or landing sites and shelters; construction of shelters to improve safety of fishermen (+ art. 44.1.f Inland fishing)	3	1.3 – N° of projects on added value, quality, use of unwanted catches and fishing ports, landing sites, actions halls and shelters	✓	123	0	0	0	30	29	39	16	18	21	153

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

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

Selected relevant measures	Thematic objective	Output indicators											Cumulative value	
		Indicator	Included in performance framework	Target value (2023)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021		2022
Article 26 Innovation (+ art. 44.3 Inland fishing)	3	1.1 – N° of projects on innovation, advisory services and partnerships with scientists	✓	23	0	0	0	2	5	1	3	0	2	13
Article 28 Partnerships between fishermen and scientists (+ art. 44.3 Inland fishing)	3	1.1 – N° of projects on innovation, advisory services and partnerships with scientists	✓	10	0	0	0	1	4	1	2	2	5	15
Article 41.1.a, b, c Energy efficiency and mitigation of climate change – on board investments; energy efficiency audits and schemes; studies to assess the contribution of alternative propulsion systems and hull designs (+ art. 44.1.d Inland fishing)	4	1.7 – N° of projects on energy efficiency, mitigation of climate change		89	0	0	0	35	14	27	7	1	5	89
Article 41.2 Energy efficiency and mitigation of climate change - Replacement or modernisation of main or ancillary	4	1.8 – N° of projects on replacement or modernisation of engines		47	0	0	0	10	9	15	8	0	7	49

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

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

Selected relevant measures	Thematic objective	Output indicators												Cumulative value
		Indicator	Included in performance framework	Target value (2023)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	
engines (+ art. 44.1.d Inland fishing)														

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

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

Selected relevant measures	Thematic objective	Output indicators												Cumulative value
		Indicator	Included in performance framework	Target value (2023)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	
Article 29.1 + 29.2 Promoting human capital and social dialogue - training, networking, social dialogue; support to spouses and life partners (+ art. 44.1.a Inland fishing)	8	1.9 – N° of projects on promotion of human capital and social dialogue, diversification and new forms of income, start-ups for fishermen and health/safety		30	0	0	0	8	3	7	9	2	1	30

Union priority 2 - Fostering environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based aquaculture														
1. Provision of support to strengthen technological development, innovation and knowledge transfer														
Selected relevant measures	Thematic objective	Output indicators												Cumulative value
		Indicator	Included in performance framework	Target value (2023)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	
Article 47 Innovation	3	2.1 – N° of projects on innovation, advisory services	✓	19	0	0	0	1	7	2	4	-1	6	19
Article 49 Management, relief and advisory services for aquaculture farms	3	2.1 – N° of projects on innovation, advisory services	✓	5	0	0	0	1	2	1	1	0	1	6

Union priority 2 - Fostering environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based aquaculture														
2. Enhancement of the competitiveness and viability of aquaculture enterprises, including improvement of safety or working conditions, in particular of SMEs														
Selected relevant measures	Thematic objective	Output indicators												Cumulative value
		Indicator	Included in performance framework	Target value (2023)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	
Article 48.1.a-d, f-h Productive investments in aquaculture	3	2.2 – N° of projects on productive investments in aquaculture	✓	106	0	0	0	25	24	24	13	5	10	101

Union priority 2 - Fostering environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based aquaculture														
2. Enhancement of the competitiveness and viability of aquaculture enterprises, including improvement of safety or working conditions, in particular of SMEs														
Selected relevant measures	Thematic objective	Output indicators												Cumulative value
		Indicator	Included in performance framework	Target value (2023)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	
Article 52 Encouraging new sustainable aquaculture farmers	3	2.5 – N° of projects on promoting human capital of aquaculture in general and of new aquaculture farmers		1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1

Union priority 2 - Fostering environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based aquaculture														
3. Protection and restoration of aquatic biodiversity and enhancement of ecosystems related to aquaculture and promotion of resource efficient aquaculture														
Selected relevant measures	Thematic objective	Output indicators												Cumulative value
		Indicator	Included in performance framework	Target value (2023)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	
Article 48.1.k Productive investments in aquaculture - increasing energy efficiency, renewable energy	4	2.2 – N° of projects on productive investments in aquaculture	✓	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Article 48.1.e, i, j Productive investments in aquaculture - resource efficiency, reducing usage of	6	2.2 – N° of projects on productive investments in aquaculture	✓	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	4

Union priority 2 - Fostering environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based aquaculture														
3. Protection and restoration of aquatic biodiversity and enhancement of ecosystems related to aquaculture and promotion of resource efficient aquaculture														
Selected relevant measures	Thematic objective	Output indicators												Cumulative value
		Indicator	Included in performance framework	Target value (2023)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	
water and chemicals, recirculation systems minimising water use														
Article 51 Increasing the potential of aquaculture sites	6	2.4 – N° of projects on increasing potential of aquaculture sites and measures on public and animal health		1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2

Union priority 2 - Fostering environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based aquaculture														
4. Promotion of aquaculture having a high level of environmental protection, and the promotion of animal health and welfare and of public health and safety														
Selected relevant measures	Thematic objective	Output indicators												Cumulative value
		Indicator	Included in performance framework	Target value (2023)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	
Article 54 Aquaculture providing environmental services	6	2.3 – N° of projects on limiting the impact of aquaculture on the environment (ecomangement, audit schemes,		3	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	3

Union priority 2 - Fostering environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based aquaculture														
4. Promotion of aquaculture having a high level of environmental protection, and the promotion of animal health and welfare and of public health and safety														
Selected relevant measures	Thematic objective	Output indicators												Cumulative value
		Indicator	Included in performance framework	Target value (2023)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	
		organic aquaculture environmental services)												
Article 55 Public health measures	3	2.4 – N° of projects on increasing potential of aquaculture sites and measures on public and animal health		37	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	13	0	28

Union priority 2 - Fostering environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based aquaculture														
5. Development of professional training, new professional skills and lifelong learning														
Selected relevant measures	Thematic objective	Output indicators												Cumulative value
		Indicator	Included in performance framework	Target value (2023)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	
Article 50 Promoting human capital and networking	8	2.5 – N° of projects on promoting human capital of aquaculture in general and of new aquaculture farmers	√	8	0	0	0	0	5	2	0	0	0	7

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

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

Selected relevant measures	Thematic objective	Output indicators											Cumulative value	
		Indicator	Included in performance framework	Target value (2023)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021		2022
Article 77 Data collection	6	3.2 – N° of projects on supporting the collection, management and use of data	✓	2	1	0	0	4	2	17	2	6	3	35

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

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

Selected relevant measures	Thematic objective	Output indicators											Cumulative value	
		Indicator	Included in performance framework	Target value (2023)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021		2022
Article 76 Control and enforcement	6	3.1 – N° of projects on implementing the Union's control, inspections and enforcement system		44	0	0	0	1	5	19	5	6	20	56





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

**1. Improvement of market organisation for fishery and aquaculture products**

Selected relevant measures	Thematic objective	Output indicators												Cumulative value
		Indicator	Included in performance framework	Target value (2023)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	
Article 66 Production and marketing plans	3	5.1 – N° of producers organisations or associations of producers organisations supported for production and marketing plans		3	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	3
Article 67 Storage aid	3	5.2 – N° of projects on marketing measures and storage aid		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Article 68 Marketing measures	3	5.2 – N° of projects on marketing measures and storage aid	✓	21	0	0	0	9	6	5	1	1	1	23

**2. Encouragement of investment in the processing and marketing sectors**

Selected relevant measures	Thematic objective	Output indicators												Cumulative value
		Indicator	Included in performance framework	Target value (2023)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	
01 - Article 69 Processing of fisheries and aquaculture products	3	5.3 – N° of projects on processing	✓	153	0	0	0	65	52	20	3	8	12	160

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

**1. Development and implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy**

Selected relevant measures	Thematic objective	Output indicators											Cumulative value	
		Indicator	Included in performance framework	Target value (2023)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021		2022
Article 80.1.b Promotion of the protection of marine environment, and the sustainable use of marine and coastal resources	6	6.2 – N° projects on the protection and improvement of knowledge on marine environment	✓	30	0	0	0	0	5	5	6	6	7	29
Article 80.1.c Improving the knowledge on the state of the marine environment	6	6.2 – N° projects on the protection and improvement of knowledge on marine environment	✓	3	0	0	0	0	1	1	-1	2	0	3

**TABLE 3 Financial indicators for the EMFF**

Financial indicators												
Union Priority	Milestone (2018)	Target value (2023)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Cumulative value
1 – Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge-based fisheries	€12,626,559.00	€96,726,455.00	0	0	0	€10,079,625.29	€18,301,253.45	€22,797,882.95	€16,451,735.89	€10,346,043.81	€ 11,205,507.90	€ 89,182,049.29
2 – Fostering environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge-based aquaculture	€4,291,192.00	€26,737,035.00	0	0	0	€2,198,565.14	€5,054,383.84	€4,202,722.87	€2,561,739.59	€4,022,635.19	€ 1,984,325.08	€20,024,371.71
3 – Fostering the implementation of the CFP	€27,178,185.00	€116,421,330.00	0	0	0	€14,227,134.07	€14,323,553.83	€26,473,453.62	€4,168,141.69	€20,962,096.86	€ 5,153,468.62	€ 85,307,848.69
4 – Increasing employment and territorial cohesion	€3,339,313.00	€18,227,868.00	0	0	0	€342,980.09	€2,729,611.82	€3,892,626.94	€3,979,005.47	€1,564,908.34	€ 2,114,281.68	€ 14,623,414.34
5 – Fostering marketing and processing	€7,920,039.00	€31,189,604.00	0	0	0	€6,082,199.42	€8,570,944.21	€4,802,009.71	€1,615,957.65	€3,051,842.48	€ 1,776,566.55	€25,899,520.02

**Financial indicators**

<b>Union Priority</b>	<b>Milestone (2018)</b>	<b>Target value (2023)</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>Cumulative value</b>
6 – Fostering the implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy	€1,707,095.00	€6,882,215.00	0	0	0	€0.00	€352,608.80	€493,635.98	€1,073,063.55	€2,379,732.80	€ 1,453,482.70	€5,752,523.83
7 – Technical assistance			0	0	0	€63,267.37	€3,267,148.56	€1,833,707.89	€982,445.35	€830,999.36	€ 469,635.91	€ 7,447,204.44

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

**See Annex I**

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

##### **4.1. Actions taken to fulfil the ex-ante conditionalities**

Please refer to the 2017 report for an update on the actions taken to fulfil the ex-ante conditionalities.

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

Progress towards the 2023 targets is monitored by the Managing Authority through the Quarterly Performance Report provided to the Programme Monitoring Committee and Senior Steering Group. The Managing Authority and Intermediate Body assessment is that all financial and output indicators are progressing well towards their 2023 objectives, which some instances of output indicators exceeding their 2023 targets.

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

- **Financial Indicators:** Amounts certified to the Commission by way of payment applications up to the 31 December 2022, minus confirmed irregularities have been used to assess the performance against 2023 financial targets. Amounts subject to ongoing verification as a result of ongoing audits and inspections are included with the UK financial indicators; once a conclusion is reached on “de-risked” funding, amounts will be removed from the year in which they were in query. Where amounts are regular, they will contribute to the financial indicator for the year in which this decision was reached. Where amounts are confirmed to be irregular, values will be entirely excluded from the implementation report.
- **Output Indicators:** Referring to the UK Infosys Report on project implementation to the 31 December 2022, only projects with the code 3 (operation completed (for which all expenditures have been paid to the beneficiary), code 4 (operation under implementation, for which some expenditure has been declared by the beneficiary to the Managing Authority) and code 5 (operation fully implemented, but for which all expenses have not necessarily been paid to the beneficiary) have been used to assess progress towards the 2023 output indicators. For alignment with Financial Indicators, further investigation has been undertaken to determine where these projects had yet to have their expenditure certified to the Commission, such projects have also been excluded from output indicators. The UK did not count any projects with a code 0 (operation covered by a decision granting aid but for which no expenditure has yet been certified to the Commission) project status.
- **Result Indicators:** Per the implementing report to the 31 December 2021, where the UK previously provided indicative results on all active or completed projects, results are now reported for completed and/or fully implemented projects only (UK Infosys projects with the code 3 or 5). In addition, previously reported results have been updated where post project monitoring activity by UK Intermediate Bodies has replaced an indicative result with a validated outcome. Finally, performance against result indicators has been aggregated at the level of the specific objective to prevent double counting.

This approach is in line with guidance received by the Fisheries and Aquaculture Monitoring and Evaluation Unit (FAME), who recommended that the UK utilise its final Operational Programme amendment to redistribute total 2023 result indicator targets according to the planned weightings per specific objective. The UK intend to adopt this guidance, which enables the programme to avoid perceived underperformance due to the overrepresentation of 2023 targets; essentially that the programme-level target for each specific result indicator is repeated against each specific objective to which it applies.

### **Union Priority 1**

As at 31 December 2022, €89.2/£78.4million of public expenditure has been certified to the Commission against the 2023 milestone of €96.7million (92%).

As discussed in section 3, nine of the Output Indicators are applicable to Union Priority 1. Of these, four have met or exceeded their 2023 targets, and a further five have achieved at least 96% of their 2023 targets. Based on the number of projects selected, all Output Indicators will fully achieve their 2023 targets.

### **Union Priority 2**

As at 31 December 2022, €20.0/£17.6million of public expenditure was certified against the 2023 milestone of €26.7million (75%).

Five Output Indicators are aligned to Union Priority 2 of the UK EMFF programme. Of these, one has achieved its 2023 target. A further three have achieved at least 89% of their 2023 targets. The least performing output indicator is 2.4, where 2023 target is 79% achieved.

### **Union Priority 3**

As at 31 December 2022, €85.3/£74.4million of public expenditure was certified against the 2023 milestone of €116.4million (73%).

Of the two Output Indicators, one has significantly exceeded its 2023 milestone, with 1,750% achievement. The remaining indicator has met its target with 100% achieved.

### **Union Priority 4**

As at 31 December 2022, €14.6/£12.9million of public expenditure was certified against the 2023 milestone of €18.2million (80%).

Of the two Output Indicators, one has met their 2023 target, with the remaining Indicator fully expected to meet their 2023 target based on the number of projects selected.

It was outlined in the 2021 AIR that output indicator, 4.3, would be removed from the UK Programme, this exercise was undertaken as part of the Operational Programme amendment undertaken in December 2022.



## **Union Priority 5**

As at 31 December 2021, €25.9/£22.7million of public expenditure was certified against the 2023 milestone of €31.2million (83%).

Of the three Output Indicators, one has exceeded its 2023 target, one has fully met their 2023 target and one has achieved 99% of its target, and will exceed based on the number of projects selected.

## **Union Priority 6**

As at 31 December 2022, €5.8/£4.9million of public expenditure was certified against the 2023 target of €6.9million (84%).

Currently, the Output Indicator is 91% achieved. Once all selected projects declare expenditure, the OI will be broadly achieved (97%).

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

There have been no cases of serious infringements as referred to in Article 10(1).

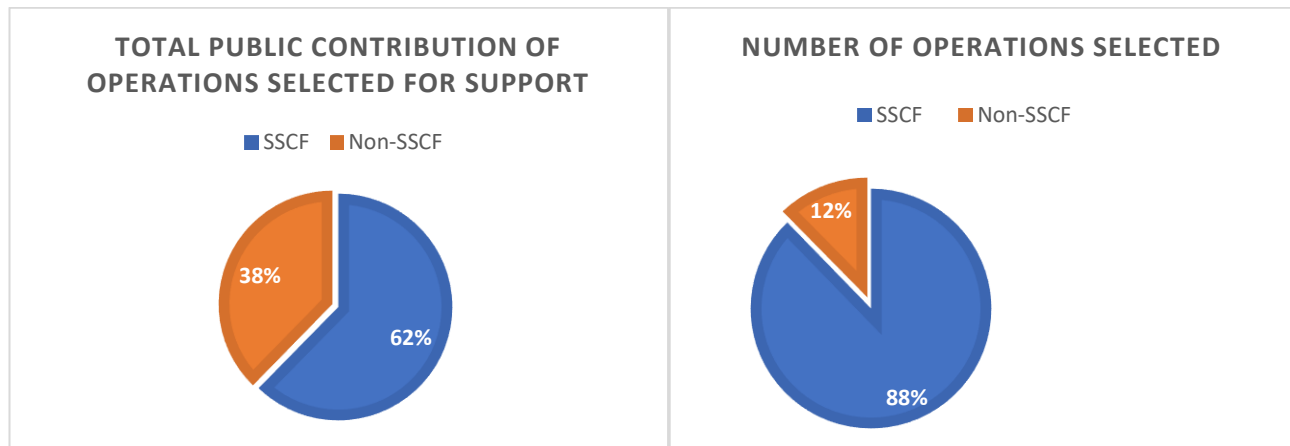
As at 31 December 2022, a total of five projects have failed to meet their durability of operations conditions as set out in Article 10(2) of the above regulation. These projects concern three operators in receipt of funds under union priority 1 of the UK programme, where vessels have been sold, or sunk. In line with the requirements of Article 71(1) of the Common Provisions Regulation 1303/2013, all operators affected have partially repaid their public funding to the Intermediate Body(s) concerned.

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

Under Article 41(2) Energy efficiency and mitigation of climate change – replacement or modernisation of main or ancillary engines, 49 projects have been selected since the start of the programme with public assistance of €344 thousand (£302 thousand) being awarded.

In accordance with the Article 41(8), 60.4% of the total public support allocated to Article 41(2) is committed to operators from the Small Scale Coastal Fishing (SSCF) sector. Of the 48 projects selected, 43 relate to the Small Scale Coastal fleet, with total public support of €216 thousand (£188 thousand) awarded.

**Figures 15 and 16; The Total Public Contribution and Number of Operations Selected Under Energy Efficiency and Mitigation of Climate Change – Replacement or Modernisation of Main or Ancillary Engines (Article 41(2))**



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

Per Annex V of the EMFF Regulation, each Intermediate Body is aware of the need to publish a list of EMFF operations including all of the required data fields as per point 1 of Annex V bi-annually. All operations approved up to the 31 December 2022 have been published on the Intermediate Bodies' websites. A central link to UK Intermediate Body Transparency Initiatives is published on the UK Managing Authority [website](#).

While UK Intermediate Bodies have continued to ensure that their Transparency Initiatives are updated, no further publicity activities were undertaken in 2022. Publicity activities have been reduced in line with the lack of budget remaining under industry facing measures, the UK approach from external promotion such as the sharing of good news stories and road shows, to internal promotion where there has been a need to progress control and enforcement initiatives, such as the UK Control and Capability Programme (CCP). In the Operational Programme the UK listed all publicity activities that would be undertaken throughout the duration of the programme, these activities were undertaken prior to 2022, when budget remained available to new proposals.

As set out in Section 2 of the report, UK Intermediate Bodies are monitoring their programmes closely, tracking key issues such as recycling and exchange fluctuation. Should budget become available to new projects, particular measures will be re-launched, and publicised accordingly.

The UK EMFF Communication Strategy was developed in 2015 this was reviewed following implementation and presented to PMC members in January 2017. This review confirmed that the Strategy itself had been an effective tool to ensure that awareness of the UK EMFF scheme, and its associated opportunities, were well understood by potential applicants. The significant level of budget commitment to industry facing measures as at the end of 2020, 2021 and 2022

provides a strong indication that the opportunity to access EMFF funds has been well understood across the Industry.

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

Since the UK opened for applications, with “go live” dates spread throughout 2016, there have been two external evaluations of the EMFF. These evaluations were summarised in the 2020 Annual Implementation report, the broad findings of each are set out below;

### **Socio-Economic Evaluation**

The EMFF sponsorship body (DEFRA) conducted an evaluation of the implementation and early impact of the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund in 2019, also referred to as the socio-economic evaluation of the EMFF. This evaluation focused on the process and delivery elements of the EMFF and was presented to the Programme Monitoring Committee in November 2020 and was formally published in 2021. The report highlighted that;

- The overall opinion of grant recipients accessing the scheme was positive
- The effectiveness of the delivery model at each UK Intermediate Body varies, partly because the situation faced by each is different
- Grants received have resulted in both intended and unintended benefits, with several interviewees reporting wider impacts for third parties (i.e., local suppliers)
- There appears to be some geographical variation in the uptake of grants

During the course of the fieldwork a large number of grant recipients commented that future access to grant schemes like the EMFF will be crucial to the long-term stability of UK fishing industries and the supporting infrastructure. Should there be a new scheme, the study identified that the following should be considered;

- Provision of support to enable applicants to access schemes
- Provision of funding to assist applicants with meeting upfront costs of their investments and retrospectively reclaiming grants
- Requirements for match funding
- Sharing of ideas and best practice between FLAGs
- Review of intervention rates for particular activities
- Review of eligibility criteria to classify what type of investments are eligible, and particularly what type of investments would lead to an increase in fishing effort
- Avoiding gaps in funding between EMFF and future scheme(s)
- Implications for future evaluation

### **Environmental Evaluation**

An Evaluation of the Environmental Benefits delivered through the EMFF in England was commissioned by DEFRA and published in November 2019. In summary, the evaluation found

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

The UK Managing Authority are committed to undertaking a third evaluation. In accordance with Article 56(3) of the Common Provisions Regulation 1303/2013, the UK are required to undertake an assessment as to how support from the EMFF has contributed to the objectives for each union priority. This impact evaluation will be commissioned in early 2023.

## **9. Citizen's summary**

This is provided as an attachment to this report in document; **Citizens Summary for the UK European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) 2022.**

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

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

## **11. The Contribution To Macro-Regional and Sea Basin Strategies**

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

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

Support for improving the infrastructure of ports and landing sites under Union Priority 1 will contribute to Priority 3, improving accessibility and connectivity, and support for community led

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