



European Union

European Structural
and Investment Funds

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

Growth Programme for England

ESI Funds Growth Programme Board

European Maritime & Fisheries Fund (EMFF) Programme Update

Purpose:

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

Recommendation(s):

That the Growth Programme Board notes the report.

Summary:

Final position: 1,578 projects funded with an EMFF grant value of £83m.

1. The EMFF scheme in England closed for new projects on 31 December 2023. A total of 1578 projects were funded with an EMFF grant value of £83m, plus a national match element of £13m.

Core Scheme

2. 1,512 projects approved under the 'core' programme (excluding Control and Enforcement activities and Data Collection Framework measures). The final EMFF core commitment figure is £43.1m and National match of £9.5m.
3. Core scheme expenditure at 31 December 2023 is £40.1m (93% of core commitments).
4. Recycled commitments of almost £3m in the core scheme enabled MMO to reopen EMFF for new applications in May 2023. A further £2.92m was awarded to 36 projects that could complete ahead of the scheme defrayal deadline of 31 December 2023.
5. Claims for the 36 relaunched projects continue and are on course to achieve full expenditure.
6. The popular areas for funding in the core scheme were:
 - Fishers' Health and Safety – safety equipment and on-board vessel investments (481 projects attracting £2.8m EMFF);
 - Limiting the impact of fishing on the marine environment – more selective fishing gear and practices (275 projects, attracting £2.9m EMFF);
 - Processing and marketing – of fisheries and aquaculture products (89 projects, attracting £5.1m EMFF);

- Adding value and quality – to caught and unwanted fish products (119 projects, attracting £0.9m EMFF);
- Infrastructure investments – in ports, harbours, landing sites and auction halls (123 projects, £12.8m EMFF);
- Investments in aquaculture – new units, diversification of production and species, modernisation of existing units (54 projects, £2.7m EMFF);
- Promotion of human capital – job creation, improving social dialogue, training (22 projects, £2.5m EMFF);
- Protection/restoration of marine biodiversity and ecosystems – collection of waste, Natura 2000 sites, increasing environmental awareness (64 projects, £5.4m EMFF).

Community Led Local Development

7. The allocated budget of £4.2m for the six Fisheries Local Action Groups (FLAGs) was committed to 153 projects across the network. All projects that delivered in accordance with the Local Development Strategies (LDS) and business plans for each FLAG area. A total of £4m was paid out to the FLAG projects.

Data Collection Framework

8. £21.1m EMFF funded UK fisheries data collection directed towards meeting obligations set out in the Data Collection Framework and included: collection of biological data on fish stocks; data on fishing activity (capacity, effort, catches and landings) and social and economic data for marine fisheries, aquaculture and the processing industries.

Control and Enforcement

9. £15m EMFF was committed to control and enforcement projects that are ensuring full implementation and enforcement of the Control Regulation and other control measures. To date £13.4m spend has been realised in this area, with claims for the remaining funding ongoing.

Post EMFF

10. The MMO Grants Team continues to administer several domestic and UK funding schemes on behalf of Defra, providing ongoing support to our seafood industry post EMFF. Helping to build capability across the UK seafood sector supply chain, through investment to improve capability at ports, harbours processing and aquaculture facilities, as well as supporting social and economic welfare of coastal communities.

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