

**HEADING 2: Sustainable growth: natural resources****European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)**

Lead DG: MARE

**I. Overview*****What the programme is about?***

The EU has exclusive competence for the conservation of marine biological resources <sup>(1)</sup>, both in EU waters and in relation to the international obligations deriving from UNCLOS <sup>(2)</sup> and from other UN agreements to which the EU is a Party. The exclusive competence equally applies to the bilateral fisheries agreements signed with third countries. All these areas are regulated by the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). The EMFF helps Member States to comply with the rules of the Common fisheries policy (CFP) being necessary for the attainment of the objectives of the policy, such as the sustainable management of fisheries. The EMFF is not only directed to fisheries and innovation in fisheries, aquaculture and processing, but also to diversification and promotion of the economic development of fisheries dependent areas. The EMFF supports the implementation of operational programmes set out by MS that contribute to four of the eleven thematic objectives <sup>(3)</sup> of the ESI funds and translate the Europe 2020 strategic objectives into investment priorities.

***EU added value of the programme***

Given the structural challenges facing the European fisheries and aquaculture sector, as well as the limits of the financial resources of individual MS, MS are not in a position to sufficiently address the problems themselves. That is why these problems are better addressed at EU level through multi-annual financing, with focus on a select number of relevant priorities.

Achieving sustainable fisheries may have some negative social impacts for coastal communities in the short to medium term; this needs mitigation through diversification and encouragement of fishers to find employment in expanding maritime economy sectors. This is of particular importance to coastal communities dependent on fisheries, in particular in areas where the fishing sector still faces serious problems (such as the Mediterranean and Black Seas): here a policy at EU level can provide real added value.

Several factors related to aquaculture (e.g. allocation of space, issuing and renewing of licences) have a strong subsidiarity dimension. Many marine aquaculture sites operate in marine ecosystems, which go beyond national borders and the planning of the maritime space requires coordinated planning efforts at EU-level.

Control and enforcement, as well as data collection and scientific advice, are core elements for the effective implementation of the CFP. These activities, coordinated and co-financed at EU-level, represent significant savings and synergies in terms of costs and compliance over the comparable national mechanisms.

Maritime policy and the development of the blue economy is by nature cross-sectoral and transnational, e.g. through the development of sea-basin strategies that cover several Member States and (where appropriate) partner countries; and via efficiency gains in the use of funds, application of rules and the involvement of bodies/institutions, to reduce the fragmentation and duplication of actions. In this policy field, action at EU-level is likely to produce clear benefits compared to action only at Member State/regional level. Marine knowledge assembles data and makes it accessible across the EU, Common Information Sharing Environment (CISE) provides a common European maritime surveillance environment, while the sharing (at EU or sea basin levels) of coast guard capacities between agencies and Member States increases the effectiveness and efficiency of operations at sea. Maritime spatial planning is a way to better coordinate the common European maritime space and ensure coherence across borders (within and outside the EU). In blue growth areas such as ocean energy, when compared to separate Member State initiatives and budgets, the coordination of activities related to research (but also other non-technological issues) at European level accelerates the development of the sector (i.e. achieving the critical mass for investment and developing the market).

***Implementation mode***

Expenditure supporting the Fisheries and Maritime Policies is financed through a single fund, the EMFF, either directly or in the context of shared management with Member States. Shared management with Member States applies to measures to support fisheries, aquaculture and community-led local development, processing and marketing, compensation for the outermost regions, control and data collection activities as well as the Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP). Direct management is used to implement scientific advice, specific control and enforcement measures, voluntary contributions to international organisations, Advisory Councils, market intelligence, operations for the implementation of the IMP and communication activities.

<sup>(1)</sup> 3 (1) (d) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU).

<sup>(2)</sup> United Nations Convention for the Law of the Sea

<sup>(3)</sup> Thematic objectives (TO):

TO 3: competitiveness of SMEs in the fisheries sector;

TO 4: supporting the shift towards a carbon-free economy;

TO 6: preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resources efficiency;

TO 8: promoting sustainable and quality employment.

## II. Programme Implementation Update

### Implementation Status (2017-2019)

Shared management (2014-2020 envelope of EUR 5.687 million <sup>(4)</sup>):

Overall, the implementation of the EMFF reached cruising speed in 2019, meaning that the cycle of project implementation became normal and steady and that the related payment claims should lead to a normal absorption rate of the EU funding allocations. By the end of 2019, total EMFF payments from the EU budget to Member States amounted to EUR 1.94 billion (including pre-financing and interim payments), which is 34 % of the total commitments for the period 2014-2020.

The performance review carried out in 2019 showed that 70 % of EMFF Union Priorities had achieved their milestones. A 20 % share of all performance reserves, amounting to EUR 67 million, were made available for reallocation given that the associated priority had not met its milestone. The reallocation of the reserve (Article 22(5) of CPR) allowed most Member States to make a more comprehensive review of their Operational Programme. Only one Member State (Slovakia) has lost the performance reserve.

The risk of automatic decommitment of funds allocated to specific projects but not paid out after three years has halved, from EUR 63 million at the end of 2018 to EUR 31 million at the end of 2019, confirming an acceleration of the implementation.

Direct management (2014-2020 envelope of EUR 647 million):

The implementation of the work programme for directly managed actions follows the set objectives and the actions listed in the annual programmes.

Since 2017, the biggest part of the annual envelope is used for financing projects supporting the development of blue economy (e.g. innovative solutions for maritime challenges, sea basin-focused operations aiming at promoting job creations, innovation and entrepreneurship, etc.).

In addition, the Commission continued to support the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy by funding Regional Fisheries Management Organisations, including the implementation of the Malta MedFish4Ever declaration and the 2017-2020 strategy actions of the General Fisheries Commission of the Mediterranean.

Funding was also provided to the Advisory Councils and for scientific advice provided by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) and the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF). The Commission finances also the European Market Observatory for fisheries and aquaculture (EUMOFA), which is a key tool in providing market intelligence to stakeholders, and policy-makers and increase market transparency. The implementation of the work programme for directly managed actions is on track.

### Key achievements

Shared management:

From the beginning of the current programming period (2014-2020), over 8 700 fishing vessels, about 10 % of the EU fleet, benefited from the EMFF, 48 % of these vessels belonged to the small-scale coastal fishing fleet. The support provided continued to promote sustainable balance between fishing fleets and resources and the protection of the marine ecosystems. The EMFF has also supported over 2 000 operations related to better management of Natura 2000 areas, and more than 1 500 operations associated with other marine protected areas.

By the end of 2018 the Managing Authorities selected:

- 585 operations supporting innovation and new technologies with an EMFF contribution of around EUR 127 million;
- 26 559 operations addressing SMEs or private persons;
- 334 operations supporting the promotion of human capital and social dialogue -training, networking and social dialogue with an EMFF contribution of around EUR 11.8 million (excluding CLLD actions);
- 1 165 operations supporting energy efficiency with an EMFF contribution of around EUR 193 million;
- 14 893 projects addressing environment and resources efficiency with an EMFF contribution of EUR 532 million.

In total between 2014 and the end of 2018, more than 34 000 operations have been financed under the EMFF. The impact of these operations is delivered at the level of the coastal or maritime local communities. They help improve the sustainability of fishing, aquaculture and related activities, help maintain and protect the natural environment, encourage innovation and adoption of new technology, and increase cooperation and partnerships between businesses. This in turn adds value to the SMEs involved, supporting employment and creating a basis for growth in income. Examples of the types of projects include; replacing the engine in a fishing vessel with a more energy efficient engine, providing technical training to staff, increasing the capacity of a hatchery or installing an innovative water filtration system in an aquaculture facility. The operations financed by the EMFF benefit direct beneficiaries of the operations as well as having a multiplier effect along the production and supply chain and in related service

<sup>(4)</sup> This takes into account the automatic decommitments (N+3) and the loss of the performance reserve by Slovakia.

industries. It is estimated that more than 80.000 fishermen, their spouses/partners, and 18 000 members of producer organisations as well as 40 000 employees of processing companies, benefit from the support (based on the information provided by the MS).

Under Shared management, of the EUR 5.7 billion allocation, MS plan to allocate EUR 1 billion (17.5 %) to tackling climate issues. By the end of 2018, EUR 0.44 billion of all selected projects was attributed to climate change issues. [Reference [Annex III of the ESIF Strategic report 2019](#)]

Direct management:

In 2019, the Commission's work reflected the EU's strong commitment to the sustainability, prosperity and security of our oceans.

A key deliverable in 2019 is the new technical measures regulation (EU) 2019/1241 <sup>(5)</sup> laying down technical measures concerning the taking and landing of marine biological resources, the operation of fishing gear and the interaction of fishing activities with marine ecosystems. The rules are now aligned to the reformed common fisheries policy of 2013 to better ensure sustainable fishing and to protect the marine environment. Rules have also been simplified and decentralised.

As in previous years, the Commission managed the fisheries conservation policy in pursuit of achieving maximum sustainable yield (MSY) for fish stocks by 2020. Recent economic data show that sustainable fisheries pays off in terms of higher and stable yields, fleet profitability and jobs. This explains why the Commission's proposals on the fishing opportunities 2020 in the Atlantic, the Baltic and the Black Seas, underpinned by scientific advice and a socioeconomic impact analysis, could be successfully negotiated in Council. In addition, emergency measures closed the Eastern Baltic cod fishery for the second half of 2019. However, further efforts are still needed to reach MSY for all commercially exploited stocks by 2020.

Rules to better implement the landing obligation are laid down in multiannual plans <sup>(6)</sup>, or in their absence, in discard plans. For the first time, a management plan was put in place in 2019 for demersal fisheries in the western Mediterranean Sea. It is the fourth such plan, after the plans for the Baltic Sea, the North Sea and the Western Waters of the Atlantic. The Baltic plan was amended to ensure a proper follow-up to the 2020 fishing opportunities for the Baltic Sea. Following a joint recommendation from the Member States concerned, four new discard plans were introduced by delegated acts from the Commission followed by intensive exchanges with the European Parliament.

The Commission continued applying the new fisheries governance put in place in the Mediterranean and in the Black sea with the Malta MedFish4Ever Declaration of 2017 and the Sofia Declaration of 2018 aiming at rebuilding the fish stocks in the Black Sea and promoting small-scale fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea. Although the majority of the assessed fish stocks in the Mediterranean and in the Black sea are still overfished, recent data suggest that there has been a small improvement in exploitation. The Commission adopted and implemented further concrete actions to reverse the stocks situation and improve science and control, e.g. in October 2019 a proposal fixing the fishing opportunities for 2020 in the Mediterranean and Black Sea.

In the context of ocean governance, it is to point out that the first progress report on Ocean Governance of March 2019 shows that the 50 actions for safe, secure, clean and sustainably managed oceans in the EU and around the world are successfully being implemented, but some need further work. In addition, the EU and Canada signed an ocean partnership in July 2019. Whereas at the first Blue Partnership Forum for the Oceans (5 September, Brussels), the Commission, Chinese and European stakeholders defined joint actions that will implement the first Ocean Partnership, signed with China in July 2018.

The Commission had developed an IT tool, the Our Ocean Commitment (OOC) Tracker, allowing keeping track of all the OOC commitments made by stakeholders worldwide. The OOC Tracker was used for the first time in 2019 to report on the fulfilment of OOC.

The EU organised a record number of beach cleaning actions across Europe and the world, as part of the #EUBeachCleanUp campaign 2019, thus raising awareness about oceans pollution among Europeans. 77 actions took place in 69 countries. Over 40 000 people participated. Some 850 tons of waste was removed from the oceans and beaches.

The EU adopted directive 2019/904 on single-use plastics <sup>(7)</sup>, which addresses the 10 most found items on our beaches, including lost fishing gear, which accounts to some 27 % of all beach litter. Standards for recycling fishing gear were set. The posting online of maps of litter distribution in European waters through the European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet) will help determine appropriate responses.

Since November 2012, the Commission entered into formal dialogues with 25 third countries, i.e. officially warned them of the need to take effective action to fight against Irregular Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing (yellow card). Only a few countries have not shown the necessary reforms meaning that the fisheries products caught by their vessels cannot be imported into the EU (red card). A close dialogue with the EU helped Thailand to address its legal and administrative shortcomings in fisheries so that in 2019, the Commission could lift the yellow card it had issued in 2015. Also Taiwan successfully implemented the action plan as proposed by the Commission. In 2019, Ecuador was notified (yellow card) that it should develop an enforcement and sanctioning system to address IUU fishing. At this stage, the decision does not entail any trade measures. Also Panama was

<sup>(5)</sup> [Regulation \(EU\) No 2019/1241 of 20 June 2019 on technical measures.](#)

<sup>(6)</sup> The multiannual plans are crucial to the implementation of the common fisheries policy with the objective of ensuring the sustainability of our marine resources and fisheries sector.

<sup>(7)</sup> [Directive \(EU\) 2019/904 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 June 2019 on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment](#)

notified that it should ensure adequate control over the activities of its vessels to prevent and deter them from engaging or supporting IUU fishing.

The success of the common fisheries policy depends very much on the implementation of an effective fisheries control system. The added value of this system is its contribution to a wide level playing field where the rules are applied in all fisheries in the same harmonised way across the EU. The Commission's actions on control contribute thereby to the Commission's priority to boost jobs, growth and investments. By 2019, 11 control action plans were in force. In 2019, one action plan was closed and three new actions plans to address shortcomings in the fisheries control systems of Malta, Cyprus and Italy were put in place.

In 2019, DG MARE undertook several actions to boost investments in a sustainable blue economy, including:

- raising awareness, for example during the European Maritime Day. The conference focused on boosting a sustainable blue economy and its contribution to growth, jobs and prosperity;
- fostering policy dialogue on maritime matters, notably in the Black Sea and in the Atlantic, and
- supporting programme development and investment through dedicated technical assistance mechanisms and events in sea basin regions.

Given the specific strengths and weaknesses of each sea basin region in the EU, tailor-made strategies have been put in place. In 2019, the Commission continued its work to deliver on them. By way of example a Common Maritime Agenda for the Black Sea was endorsed on 21 May 2019 in Bucharest by Bulgaria, Georgia, Moldova, Romania, Russia, Turkey and Ukraine. The Commission facilitated this key deliverable. The goal is to cooperate on blue economy for a more sustainable and healthy ecosystem of the Black Sea.

The Commission and the World Bank launched the Blue Economy Development Framework, whose aim is to help (developing) coastal states transition to diverse and sustainable blue economies while building resilience to climate change. The first pilot studies were launched in India, Vietnam and Kiribati to generate important lessons for the growing community of blue donors around the world.

EUMOFA (European Market Observatory for Fisheries and Aquaculture Products) continued to be the reference Observatory for fisheries and aquaculture markets. This online service developed by the Commission is a market intelligence tool providing regular weekly indicators, monthly market trends and annual structural data along the supply chain. The number of visits to the database in October 2019 was 3.807, the highest number of visits ever registered (30 % more than in October 2018).

#### **Evaluations/studies conducted**

The key findings of the evaluations of the ESI funds (including the EMFF) were presented in the Programme Statement 2019 <sup>(8)</sup>.

The key findings of the mid-term evaluation of the direct management part of the EMFF were presented in the Programme Statement 2019. The SWD document on the results will be published soon.

#### **Forthcoming implementation**

Shared management:

With all programmes now fully operational, the implementation of the 2014-2020 EMFF has reached cruising speed. The progress is expected to continue. The performance review of the EMFF and other ESI funds in 2019 showed that MS are progressing with implementation, with 70 % of all milestones met. DG MARE will continue to support the MS in the implementation of their programmes and increase the rate of absorption. Meanwhile, support is also being provided to MS to prepare their programmes for the next programming period.

To respond to the 2020 COVID-19 crisis, the Commission proposed an amendment to the EMFF Regulation 508/2014 <sup>(9)</sup>, tabling a package of measures covering a more flexible re-allocation of the financial resources, compensation plans for temporary cessation of fishing activities, reductions in aquaculture production, and storage aid for producer organisations.

Direct management:

The amount allocated to actions in the 2020 Work Programme for procurement and grants totals EUR 90.4 million. The Commission will continue:

- implementing projects aiming at fostering the blue economy (e.g. actions to bring to market new products, services and business models in blue economy value chains and sustainable blue growth in Europe's sea basins);
- fostering international ocean governance by negotiating ocean partnerships;
- cooperating with stakeholders in the area of maritime spatial planning, marine observation and data, marine environmental improvement and common information-sharing for maritime safety and security;

<sup>(8)</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/sources/docoffic/official/reports/asr2019/esif\\_asr2019\\_swd\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/official/reports/asr2019/esif_asr2019_swd_en.pdf)

<sup>(9)</sup> COM(2020)142

Commission

proposal

[https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/docs\\_autres\\_institutions/commission\\_europeenne/com/2020/0142/COM\\_COM\(2020\)0142\\_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/docs_autres_institutions/commission_europeenne/com/2020/0142/COM_COM(2020)0142_EN.pdf)

- providing for scientific data, studies, etc. in order to base its decisions in the context of the CFP on the best available scientific advice;
- developing IT solutions in the area of control and enforcement of the CFP in the MS;
- supporting the work and programmes carried out by international organisations as well as Advisory Councils.

### **Outlook for the 2021-2027 period**

A post-2020 EMFF, which was proposed by the Commission on 12 June 2018, will move towards a simplified architecture along the following elements:

- **4 priorities** – These priorities describe the scope of support of the EMFF in line with the objectives of the CFP, of the maritime policy and of the international ocean governance actions.
- **Areas of support** – The articles of the Regulation do not lay down prescriptive measures but describe the different areas of support under each priority, providing a flexible framework for implementation.
- **No predefined measures or eligibility rules at Union level** – Under shared management, it is up to Member States to draw up their programme indicating therein the most appropriate means for achieving the priorities of the EMFF. They will be granted flexibility in the setting of the eligibility rules. A variety of measures identified by the Member States in the programmes may be supported under the rules set out in the EMFF and in the Common Provisions Regulation, provided they are covered by the areas of support.
- **Conditions and restrictions for certain areas** – It is necessary to set out a list of ineligible operations so as to avoid detrimental impacts in terms of fisheries conservation, for example a general prohibition of investments enhancing fishing capacity. Moreover, investments and compensations for the fishing fleet (permanent cessation of fishing activities, extraordinary cessation of fishing activities, acquisition of a vessel, engine replacement) will be strictly conditional upon their consistency with the conservation objectives of the CFP. This is key for ensuring that financial support is targeted to the achievement of those objectives.
- **Result indicators** – The performance of EMFF support will be assessed on the basis of indicators. Member States will report on progress towards established milestones and targets and the Commission will carry out an annual performance review based on annual performance reports prepared by Member States, allowing for early detection of potential implementation issues and corrective actions. A monitoring and evaluation framework is being established for that purpose to be in place before programming begins.

This proposal aims to simplify the delivery of the EMFF compared to the very complex architecture under the 2014-2020 period, which is based on a precise and rigid description of financing possibilities and eligibility rules ('measures'). This has complicated implementation for Member States and beneficiaries. Instead of listing the measures selected from a menu of eligible actions as currently, the national programmes should focus on the strategic priorities chosen by each Member State. This architecture will optimise programme implementation towards policy objectives on the basis of performance, in the context of an on-going dialogue between the Commission and Member States on the achievement of results. Flexibility, result-orientation and mutual trust between the Commission and Member States are thus the three principles of an effective simplification.

Under shared management, programmes will be prepared by Member States and approved by the Commission. In the context of regionalisation and with a view to encouraging Member States to have a more strategic approach during the preparation of programmes, the Commission will develop an analysis for each sea basin indicating the common strengths and weaknesses with regard to the achievement of the objectives of the CFP. That analysis will guide both the Member States and the Commission in negotiating each programme taking into account regional challenges and needs.

When assessing the programmes, the Commission will take into account the environmental and socioeconomic challenges of the CFP, the socioeconomic performance of the sustainable blue economy, the challenges at sea basin level, the conservation and restoration of marine ecosystems, the reduction of marine litter and climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Simplification will also be achieved through the Common Provisions Regulation, where most provisions related to implementation, monitoring and control are set out.

The EMFF will also support an effective knowledge-based implementation and governance of the CFP under direct and indirect management through the provision of scientific advice, the development and implementation of a Union fisheries control system, the functioning of Advisory Councils and voluntary contributions to international organisations. Under direct management, the EMFF will contribute to the promotion of clean and healthy seas and to the implementation of the European Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy developed in the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions of 16 January 2016, in coherence with the objective of achieving or maintaining a good environmental status in the marine environment. In addition, the EMFF will support international commitments and objectives under direct management as regards international ocean governance at bilateral, regional and multilateral levels, including to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, to improve the international ocean governance framework, to reduce pressures on oceans and seas, to create the conditions for a sustainable blue economy and to strengthen international ocean research and data.

*Allocation of resources*

The EMFF will be implemented under the following delivery systems:

- under shared management by Member States through EMFF programmes based on national strategies,
- by the Commission under direct or indirect management.

Shared management (86.5 %) and direct management (13.5 %). Such an allocation allows maintaining an appropriate balance between shared and directly managed resources.

Concerning shared management, after having deducted the value of the UK programme, Member States would retain, in nominal terms, 96.5 % of their 2014-2020 allocation. In order to ensure stability in particular with regard to the achievement of the objectives of the CFP, the definition of national allocations will be based on the 2014-2020 shares.

It is also proposed that amounts for certain areas of support under shared management are ring-fenced:

- control and enforcement and collection and processing of data for fisheries management and scientific purposes (minimum 15 % of the financial support allocated per Member State, except for land-locked countries),
- the outermost regions (ring-fenced amount covering both a compensation regime for additional costs and structural support).

### III. Programme key facts and performance framework

#### 1. Financial programming

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Regulation (EU) No 508/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 May 2014 on the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and repealing Council Regulations (EC) No 2328/2003, (EC) No 861/2006, (EC) No 1198/2006 and (EC) No 791/2007 and Regulation (EU) No 1255/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council	2014 – 2020	6 396,6

	Financial Programming (EUR million)							
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total Programme
Administrative support	3,3	3,4	3,7	3,7	3,5	3,6	3,6	24,8
Operational appropriations	116,1(*)	1 617,3	885,1	905,1	926,8	935,2	953,4	6 339,0
Executive Agency	0,8	1,9	2,6	2,9	3,0	3,2	3,3	17,8
<b>Total</b>	<b>120,3</b>	<b>1 622,6</b>	<b>891,4</b>	<b>911,7</b>	<b>933,4</b>	<b>942,1</b>	<b>960,3</b>	<b>6 381,6</b>

(\*)The appropriations for the year 2014 have been reviewed to take account of the transfer to subsequent years of the allocations not used in 2014 (reprogramming exercise carried-out in 2015 in accordance with Article 19 of the Multiannual Financial Framework Regulation).

#### 2. Implementation rates

	2019				2020			
	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate
Voted appropriations	942,055	99,77 %	651,903	99,87 %	960,254	95,75 %	769,899	40,78 %
Authorised appropriations (*)	1 086,044	99,59 %	844,783	99,82 %	962,844	95,64 %	771,774	40,78 %

(\*) Authorised appropriations include voted appropriations, appropriations originating from assigned revenues (internal and external) as well as carried-over and reconstituted appropriations; the execution rate is calculated on 15 April 2020

#### 3. Performance information

##### Programme performance

It is too early to say whether the four specific objectives of the EMFF have been achieved. The performance review showed that 70 % of all EMFF Union Priorities (UP) achieved their milestones (103), 30 % did not achieve their milestones (46). Seven Member States (AT, CZ, DK, FI, EL, IE, SE) met all their milestones, with a further eight (BE, ES, HU, MT, PL, PT, RO,UK) missing only one milestone. BG and SK were the poorest performers. SK met none of the milestones for the three UPs in their programme. Although BG met only one milestone of the six UPs in their programme, several constructive steps including the establishment of an action plan were taken. Performance is expected to improve. The same cannot be said of SK. It follows, therefore, that a Member State’s administrative capacity has a significant influence on milestone achievement.

With regard to specific UPs, UP3 (data collection and control) was extremely successful, with milestones met in 25 of the 27 Member States. Solid results were also seen in UPs 5 (marketing and processing), 6 (Integrated Maritime Policy) and 1 (sustainable fisheries). UP4 (Community-led Local Development) and UP2 (aquaculture) were less successful, but the milestones were still met in a majority of Member States. Where milestones have not been met, DG MARE has requested the Member State to put in place

mitigating actions to address the situation. These issues are monitored via annual review meetings and ongoing contact with the Member States.

That said, it should be pointed out that operations financed through shared management part have been helping improve the sustainability of fishing and aquaculture as well as maintain and protect the natural environment, encourage innovation and adoption of new technology and increase cooperation and partnerships between businesses and therefore contributing to achieving these objectives.

This in turn adds value to the SMEs involved, supporting employment and creating a basis for growth in income. This is illustrated among others by a positive upward trend in indicators 'Value of aquaculture production in the EU' and 'Employment created/maintained in the fisheries and aquaculture with support from the EMFF'.

Despite the late start of the EMFF programme due to late adoption of the related Regulation, a number of mitigating actions were taken to remedy the situation. Multiple operational programmes were modified accordingly, coupled with reallocation of funding, and other action plans to overcome delays in implementation. The amendments of national legislation and ongoing adaptation of the selection criteria reduced the time necessary for project selection. Via methodological support, increased frequency of calls, and simplification of IT interface for monitoring and certification, by end of 2019 the programme had fully eliminated all initial delays. There are elements however, that still hinder the smooth implementation of the programme, like the complexity of the national public and administrative procedures, complex acquisition of aquaculture licences, no possibilities of co-financing for potential interested beneficiaries. The Commission works continuously with the Member States in finding ways how to bring further improvement.

In addition, the mid-term evaluation of the direct part of the EMFF pointed out that there is almost universal agreement from stakeholders that the action supported by the EMFF did indeed contributed to meeting the objective of both and fisheries policies. They helped maritime policy through a more integrated governance, joined-up data, spatial plans that take into account neighbours, communication between maritime authorities with different responsibility, business support for emerging industries and sound criteria for assessing the state of the marine environment. Fisheries policy was supported through scientific advice, improved enforcement, structured stakeholder involvement, enhanced ocean governance and market intelligence.

In pursuit of fostering the implementation of the CFP, the Commission has been managing the fisheries conservation policy to achieve maximum sustainable yield (MSY) for fish stocks by 2020, which is demonstrated by a positive trend in the indicator on MSY levels. Recent economic data also show that sustainable fisheries pays off in terms of higher and stable yields, fleet profitability and jobs (see the indicators 'Profitability of the EU fishing fleet' and 'Fuel efficiency of fish capture'). Despite the overall improvement, there are areas such as the Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea where most of the stocks remain exploited beyond sustainable levels. The Commission adopted and implemented concrete regional action plans to reverse the stocks situation and improve science and control. An example of this is a proposal made in October 2019 that fixed the fishing opportunities for 2020 in the Mediterranean and Black Sea, and further addressed the data collection, scientific evaluation, ecosystem-based fisheries management, and the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing in the region.

The mid-term evaluation also noted that links with European Regional Development Fund could be improved and that a more comprehensive monitoring and evaluation system could be established. An indicator system is in preparation to facilitate the evaluations of the next programming period. The idea is to deliver a common monitoring and evaluation system (CMES) under direct management that is fully compatible to the shared management CMES. This includes common result indicators, common typologies and standardised implementation data. Work commenced in July 2019 and is currently in finalisation (April 2020).

#### Programmes' implementation 2014-2020 (Common Strategic Framework)\*

Thematic objectives of the Common Strategic Framework	Commitments 2014-2020 EUR million (1)	Cumulative payments declared by Member- states at end 2017 (2)**	(2)/(1) %
3.Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises Outputs:	2 742,8	1 308,3	24.3 %
4.Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors Outputs:	75,6		
6.Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency Outputs:	1 977,5		
8.Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility Outputs:	598		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5 393,9</b>	<b>1 308,3</b>	<b>24.3 %</b>

\*The data presented cover all adopted MS' Partnership Agreements, as well as all operational programmes.

\*\* In EMFF payment applications submitted by the MS there is no requirement to report on the amounts spent with regard to a given thematic objective. The amounts spent are reported by the MS at the level of priorities that might be made up of several thematic objectives. Information on the amounts spent by the MS with regard to the thematic objectives is therefore not available.

#### Specific objectives

**Specific Objective 1: Promoting competitive, environmentally sustainable, economically viable and socially responsible fisheries and aquaculture**

<b>Indicator 1: Labour productivity (in terms of gross value added per employee) in the EU fisheries sector</b>								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2011	Milestones foreseen							2023
EU fishing fleet: 38 700	Actual results							Increase in fisheries sector's productivity: (%) equals or exceeds that of the EU economy (%)
	41 300	42 800	49 000	51 200				
2011	Milestones foreseen							2023
EU aquaculture: 44 000	Actual results							Increase in fisheries sector's productivity: (%) equals or exceeds that of the EU economy (%)
	49 600	52 500	57 300					
2011	Milestones foreseen							2023
EU fish processing: 53 500	Actual results							Increase in fisheries sector's productivity: (%) equals or exceeds that of the EU economy (%)
	59 100	52 400	47 700	57 400				

Availability of Data: For 2018,

EU fishing fleet: The data is made available for fishing fleet and aquaculture in the month of August of year N+2 after the approval of the Scientific Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF).

EU aquaculture: The data on aquaculture will be available in December 2020 following the biannual meeting of the STECF Expert Working Group on Aquaculture.

EU fish processing: The data for fish processing will be available at a later stage.

<b>Indicator 2: Profitability of the EU fishing fleet by fleet segment</b>								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							2023
Average EU fishing fleet Net profit margin: 6.0 %				6.0-9.0 %	6.0-9.0 %	6.0-9.0 %	10.0-12.0 %	10.0-12.0 %
	Actual results							
	11.0 %	11.0 %	17.0 %	16.9 %				
2012	Milestones foreseen							2023
Small scale fleet: 8 %	Actual results							
	4 %	10 %	14 %	12 %				
2012	Milestones foreseen							2023
Large scale fleet: 5.3 %	Actual results							
	8.0 %	12.0 %	19.0 %	17.0 %				
2012	Milestones foreseen							2023
Long distance water fleet: 5.6 %	Actual results							
	24.0 %	6.0 %	15.0 %	15.0 %				

Availability of Data: For 2018 data is available for fishing fleet and aquaculture in the month of August of year N+2 after the approval of the Scientific Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF). In the case of fish processing it becomes available later.

<b>Indicator 3: Fuel efficiency of fish capture</b>								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2011	Milestones foreseen							2023
Ratio catches to fuel				5 %			10 % reduction	10 % reduction



consumption: ca. 2.05 kg of fish for 1 litre of fuel				reduction				
	Actual results							
	2.20 %	2.15 %	1.81 %	2.20 %				

Availability of Data: For 2018 data will be available at a later stage.

Indicator 4: Volume of discards of commercially exploited species								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2010	Milestones foreseen							2023
23 %		21 %		10 %		Max 5 %	Reduced	Reduced
	Actual results							

Comment: The Commission closely monitors the implementation of the Landing Obligation and reports annually to the European Parliament and the Council based on information provided by Member States, the Advisory Councils and other relevant sources. However, information on discard quantities presented by Member States is scant and, based on the questionnaires. It is not possible to say whether there have been any changes in discard quantities. In parallel, the Commission adopted its post 2020 EMFF legislative proposal in June 2018 where it emphasised the need to facilitate the implementation of the Landing Obligation through the support of investments in selective fishing gears, in the improvement of port infrastructures and in the marketing of unwanted catches. The Commission has also emphasised the need for a more effective enforcement and control of the Landing Obligation in its recent proposal for a revision of the Control Regulation, by proposing that certain vessels are equipped with continuous recording electronic monitoring devices including Close Circuit Televisions (CCTV).

Unit of measure: Percentage of discarded catches

Indicator 5: Value of aquaculture production in the EU								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2023
3.85				+2.25 % annual growth compared to 2016			4.89	4.89
	Actual results							
	3.89	4.13	4.90					

Narrative: Target: At least + 27 % compared to the baseline 2013

Unit of measure: EUR billion

Indicator 6: Relative value or volume of products placed on the market by Producers Organisations (POs), associations of POs or inter-branch organisations								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2023
BEL: 73 100	73 300	73 500	73 700	73 900	74 100	74 300	75 100	75 100
	Actual results							
	Milestones foreseen							2023
DNK: 285 235	286 035	286 835	287 635	288 435	289 235	290 035	293 235	293 235
	Actual results							
	Milestones foreseen							2023
DEU: 176 419	176 639	176 859	177 079	177 299	177 519	177 739	178 619	178 619
	Actual results							
	Milestones foreseen							2023
EST: 1 900	1 940	1 980	2 020	2 060	2 100	2 140	2 300	2 300
	Actual results							

	Milestones foreseen							2023
IRL: 171 426	173 426	175 426	177 426	179 426	181 426	183 426	191 426	191 426
	Actual results							
	Milestones foreseen							2023
GRC: 45	7 976	15 908	23 839	31 771	39 702	47 633	79 359	79 359
	Actual results							
	Milestones foreseen							2023
ESP: 1 342 243	1 352 104	1 361 965	1 371 825	1 381 686	1 391 547	1 401 408	1 440 851	1 440 851
	Actual results							
	Milestones foreseen							2023
FRA: 653 288	655 688	658 088	660 488	662 888	665 288	667 688	677 288	677 288
	Actual results							
	Milestones foreseen							2023
HRV: 0	0	889	1 778	2 667	3 556	4 444	8 000	8 000
	Actual results							
	Milestones foreseen							2023
ITA: 165 468	168 686	171 904	175 121	178 339	181 557	184 775	197 646	197 646
	Actual results							
	Milestones foreseen							2023
LVA: 8 794	8 794	8 794	8 794	8 794	8 794	8 794	8 794	8 794
	Actual results							
	Milestones foreseen							2023
LTU: 317 916	318 416	318 916	319 416	319 916	320 416	320 916	322 916	322 916
	Actual results							
	Milestones foreseen							2023
NLD: 419 723	419 753	419 783	419 813	419 843	419 873	419 903	420 023	420 023
	Actual results							
	Milestones foreseen							2023
POL: 46 080	46 610	47 140	47 670	48 200	48 730	49 260	51 380	51 380
	Actual results							
	Milestones foreseen							2023
PRT: 146 826	148 826	150 826	152 826	154 826	156 826	158 826	166 826	166 826
	Actual results							
	Milestones foreseen							2023
RON: 11 713	11 749	11 785	11 820	11 856	11 892	11 927	12 070	12 070
	Actual results							

Milestones foreseen								2023
SWE: 776 649	776 723	776 797	776 871	776 945	777 019	777 093	777 389	777 389
	Actual results							
Milestones foreseen								2023
GBR: 424 665	426 315	427 965	429 615	431 265	432 915	434 565	441 165	441 165
	Actual results							

Availability of Data: Due to unreliable data submitted by the MS in their AIRs no reporting is possible on this indicator at the moment.  
Source: EMFF operational programmes. Milestones are a linear extrapolation from the targets set for 2023

**Expenditure related outputs**

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Conservation, reduction of the fishing impact on the marine environment and fishing adaptation to the protection of species (UP1-SO1-measure 3)	11 06 60	Target 2023: 175	199.6
Energy efficiency, mitigation of climate change (UP1-SO5-measure 3)		Target 2023: 499	
Productive investments in aquaculture (UP2 SO2-measure 1)		Target 2023: 4 753	
Limiting the impact of aquaculture on the environment (UP2-SO4-measure 1)		Target 2023: 1 498	
Producers organisations or associations of producers organisations supported for production and marketing plans (UP5- SO1-measure 1)		Target 2023: 238	
Processing projects (UP 5- SO2-measure 1)		Target 2023: 1 894	
<b>Total</b>			<b>199.6</b>

Based on the total EMFF allocation for the above-mentioned measures as per the EMFF annual implementation reports due by the end of May 2018 (EUR 1 322 million for the whole programming period). The annual EMFF contribution is calculated in proportion to the EMFF tranche in the annual budget.

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Conservation, reduction of the fishing impact on the marine environment and fishing adaptation to the protection of species	F	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	P	0	0	134	278	810	*	
Energy efficiency, mitigation of climate change	F	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	P	0	0	3	75	262	*	
Productive investments in aquaculture	F	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	P	0	0	76	371	2 771	*	
Limiting the impact of aquaculture on the environment	F	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	P	*	30	40	162	1 461	*	
Producers organisations or associations of producers organisations supported for production and marketing plans	F	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	P	0	2	25	65	214	*	
Processing projects	F	F	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	P	P	30	83	210	1 233	*	

\*Data on selected operations for funding in 2018 to be sent by MS to the Commission by 31 March 2020

**Specific Objective 2:** Fostering the development and implementation of the Union’s Integrated Maritime Policy in a complementary manner to Cohesion policy and to the Common Fisheries Policy

**Indicator 1:** Marine knowledge 2020 initiative: Degree of use of the European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet) measured by the number of users downloading data

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
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2014	Milestones foreseen						2020
1 212	1 212			5 000			17 000
	Actual results						17 000
	1 234	2 645	4 967	14 916			

Comment: This indicator is not measured anymore. For the purpose of the strategic plan 2016-2020 this indicator was revised and replaced by 'Degree of use of the European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet) in terms of the number of downloads of data per month'. The latest reporting, as per the 2019 AAR, shows a steady to positive trend in the use of EMODnet.

Unit of measure: Unique visitors per month to the central portal

**Indicator 2:** Maritime Surveillance: Percentage of available cross-sectorial and/or cross-border data, as a percentage of the total information gap identified in the Impact Assessment on CISE (Common Information Sharing Environment)

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
0 %					10 % to 20 % increase in data exchange across sectors		20 % to 40 % increase in data exchange across sectors	20 % to 40 % increase in data exchange across sectors
	Actual results							

Comment: In April 2019, CISE entered in a transitional phase to operations, managed by EMSA under a Grant Agreement signed with MARE. The impact of CISE on the information gap will be measured only in 2021, when CISE is expected to become operational.

Unit of measure: Percentage of data gap closed

**Indicator 3:** Percentage of the surface area of marine waters conserved through spatial protection measures in the context of Article 13.4 of MSFD

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
Exclusive Economic Zone: 5.9 %				8.0 %			10.0 %	10.0 %
	Actual results							
			10.8 %	10.8 %	10.8 %	10.8 %		
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
0-12 nm zone: 10 %							20 %	20 %
	Actual results							

Comment: By the end of 2016, 10.8 % of the surface of Europe's seas had been designated as MPAs. The % of areas designated as Marine Protected Areas has increased over last years, but the official information as published in 2017 is based on 2016 data sets, which says that 10.8 % of Europe's waters are designated as MPAs.

Source: ETC/ICM Technical Report 04/2017 'Report on Spatial Analysis of Marine Protected Area Networks in Europe's Seas II, Volume A, 2017'

[https://icm.eionet.europa.eu/ETC\\_Reports/SpatialAnalysisOfMarineProtectedAreaNetworksInEuropesSeas\\_VolumeA\\_2017/Spatial %20Analysis %20MPA %20Networks\\_v1.5.pdf](https://icm.eionet.europa.eu/ETC_Reports/SpatialAnalysisOfMarineProtectedAreaNetworksInEuropesSeas_VolumeA_2017/Spatial%20Analysis%20MPA%20Networks_v1.5.pdf)

**Expenditure related outputs**

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
1. Number of contracts concluded to construct European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMOD net)	11 06 61	5	10.0
2. Actions supporting the exchange of information flows relevant to the 'Common Information Sharing Environment (CISE) for the surveillance of the EU maritime domain'.	11 06 61	6	6.4
3.Actions supporting the development of the Blue Economy in European Sea Basins (studies, pilot project, business cases)	11 06 61	10	21.0
4. Studies, pilot projects and expert support for the implementation of Maritime Spatial Planning in Member States and across European	11 06 61	4	4.7

sea basins			
5.Actions supporting the implementation of Marine Strategy Framework Directive(MSFD)	11 06 61	5	4.4
<b>Total</b>			<b>46.5</b>

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Number of contracts concluded to construct EMOD net	F	6	6	8	4	6	8	5
	P	5	3	4*	8	5	1	
Actions supporting the exchange of information flows relevant to the CISE for the surveillance of the EU maritime domain.	F(direct management)	2	2	13	12	12	6	6
	F(shared management)	Actions in 23 MS throughout the programming period						
	P	12	3	4	8	5	1	
Actions supporting the development of the Blue Economy in European Sea Basins (studies, pilot project, business cases)	F	2	2	2	15	8	6	10
	P	7	3	16*	12	29	8	
Studies, pilot projects and expert support for the implementation of Maritime Spatial Planning in Member States and across European sea basins	F	5	5	5	5	5	5	4
	P	5	0	6*	7	3	3	
Actions supporting the implementation of MSFD	F	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
	P	8	4	7*	5	7	7	

\* The difference between produced and foreseen outputs are due to the fact that in the years 2014-2015 more emphasis was laid on the implementation of actions related to marine knowledge and cross-sectoral tools (such as CISE) whereas from 2016 the emphasis shifted towards the blue economy (blue growth).

**Specific Objective 3: Promoting a balanced and inclusive territorial development of fisheries and aquaculture areas**

**Indicator 1: Employment created/maintained in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors with support from the EMFF**

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2023
Employment created: 0							4 624	4 624
	Actual results							
			105	190	935			
	Milestones foreseen							2023
Employment maintained:							26 550	26 550
	Actual results							
			952	1 929	8 486			

Comment: The figures come from the Annual Implementation Reports for 2018 submitted by the MS to the Commission in May 2019.

**Indicator 2: Number of local strategies selected by Fisheries Local Actions Groups (FLAGs)**

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
0				276			276	276
	Actual results							
			277	368	368	367		

Comment: 368 FLAGs were approved by the end of 2017, however one in Bulgaria did not start up. No more FLAGs may be approved in the current programming period, therefore the figure of 367 will never increase.

**Expenditure related outputs**

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Number of operations supported by the Fisheries Local Actions	11 06 60	3 460*	204.5**

Groups			
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\* This figure is based on the average number of operations selected per year by FLAGS active under the EMFF

\*\* Latest data from the AIR.

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Number of operations supported by the Fisheries	F	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Local Actions Groups	P	0	0	220	368*	368*	367*	

\* 368 FLAGS were approved by the end of 2017, however one in Bulgaria did not start up. No more FLAGS may be approved in the current programming period, therefore the figure of 367 will never increase.

**Specific Objective 4: Fostering the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy**

**Indicator 1:** Number of apparent infringements of CFP rules by operators found in the framework of joint deployment plans (JDPs) divided by the number of inspections conducted

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
18 %				15.00 %			10.00 %	10.00 %
	Actual results							
	5.38 %	4.11 %	3.49 %	4.00 %	2.60 %	2.30 %		

Methodology: Number of apparent infringements/number of inspections (ratio)

**Indicator 2:** Number of Member States with an effective control system

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
6				Max. 5 MS are under an action plan.			No Member States are under an action plan meaning that all Member States have an effective control system	0
	Actual results							
	6	9	9	13	13	11		

Narrative: Number of Member States under an action plan to overcome shortcomings in their fisheries control system with a target that no Member State is under an action plan, meaning that all Member States have an effective control system

Comment: 10 actions plans were closed in 2019. It should be noted that the ‘number of action plans’ may not be the ideal performance indicator and should not be viewed in isolation. Most importantly, the absence of action plans (which is the 2020 target) does not necessarily mean that the Member States’ fisheries control systems are satisfactory. This is because other instruments – such as infringements, EU pilots, etc. – also are used to address weaknesses. Besides, considering that audits of the MS systems are performed on a regular basis and that an action plan only covers specific part of the MS’ control system, the ‘zero’-target for 2020 does not appear realistic anymore. The 2020 target (no MS under an action plan) did not take into account the fact that certain actions would have taken longer than expected (notably those linked to IT development), nor the fact that more action plans could have been opened due to the increased auditing activity of DG MARE. In addition, action plans have been used and are being used to also progressively go beyond the minimum requirements set in the legislations, thus not necessarily reflecting a situation of non-compliance, at least not for all actions.

**Indicator 3:** Proportion or number of stocks that are fished at MSY levels

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017			2018	2019	2020	Target
2015 & 2016	Milestones foreseen									2020
ICES area: 59 %		59 %	59 %							100 %
	Actual results									
	Total allowable catches (TACs) are one of the main fisheries management tools in the Northern Atlantic and adjacent areas. where the Commission proposed TACs in line with or below Fmsy for 2019. for all the 76 TACs. for which Fmsy advice was available. This was not possible for 5 TACs for which the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES) gave 0 TAC advice. because doing so would have led to choke situations with serious socioeconomic impacts. and where it was decided to maintain by-catch TACs at low levels. The Council set 59 TACs in line with Fmsy.									

				<p>which corresponds to 3 additional TACs compared to 2018. Of the expected landings in the Baltic Sea. 95 % come from TACs set in line with Fmsy and 4 % from TACs in line with precautionary advice. Of the expected landings (for the Fmsy-assessed stocks managed by the EU alone) in the North Sea, Skagerrak and Kattegat. 99.7 % come from the TACs set in line with Fmsy; in the North Western and South Western Waters this figure is 94 % and 90 % respectively.</p> <p>For deep-sea stocks, fishing opportunities were set in November 2018 for 2019 and 2020. They account for less than 1 % of all landings in the EU. All deep-sea stocks are assessment-limited. The relevant Council decisions on deep-sea fishing opportunities are now more closely based on scientific advice than in previous years.</p> <p>For stocks subject to consultations with the Coastal States, only the blue whiting TAC for 2019 was in line with the long-term management strategy for this stock, and with ICES Fmsy advice. The EU-Norway negotiations led to a less ambitious result in terms of conservation, as only 9 out of 17 TACs were set in line with Fmsy – fewer than for 2018.</p>				
2015 & 2016	Milestones foreseen							2020
Mediterranean Sea: 59 %	59 %	59 %						100 %
	Actual results							
				In the Mediterranean Sea, 35 out of the 40 stocks assessed were exploited beyond sustainable levels in 2017, with, on average, fishing around 2.2 times higher than their respective Fmsy. Recent data suggest that there has been a decreasing trend in the average F/Fmsy rate since 2011. This could indicate a small improvement in exploitation.				
2015 & 2016	Milestones foreseen							2020
Black Sea: 59 %	59 %	59 %						100 %
	Actual results							
				In the Black Sea, 6 out of the 8 assessed shared stocks remain overfished, with the exception of sprat and rapa whelk.				

Narrative: Average fishing mortality compared to MSY values (where=1 for F=FMSY), means that the stock is fished at Fmsy (F=FMSY); where >1 means that the stock is classified as overfished in relation to the CFP Fmsy objective), for stocks in the Mediterranean and Black Sea. Exploitation at MSY rate for all commercially exploited stocks. Target set by Article 2 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 on the CFP.

Unit of measure: Percentage of the exploited stocks (with FMSY advice) in the North-East Atlantic and adjacent waters were fished at MSY.

**Indicator 4:** Degree of adequate responses to data calls under the data collection framework (100 % minus failures to deliver the full data set required)

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2010	Milestones foreseen							2020
92 %				96 %			100 %	100 %
	Actual results							
	91 %	81 %	79 %	78 %	94 %			

**Expenditure related outputs**

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Projects related to the establishment and validation of databases on control	11 06 60	Target 2023: 949*	85,7*
Number of vessels equipped in new control technologies (CCTV and electronic devices) or subject to measurement of engine power	11 06 60		
Projects on traceability of all fisheries products	11 06 60		
Support to operational costs incurred in the context of Specific Control and Inspection programs or coordinated control deployments or in the context of action plans	11 06 60		
Number of studies related to CFP	11 06 62 01	15	5,4
Support to the national programmes for collection of biological, technical, environmental and socioeconomic data concerning the fisheries sector –	11 06 60	54	80,3**
Grants to Regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs) and other International Bodies needed to achieve their objectives of sustainable development	11 06 62 03	34	13,0

of fisheries resources and sustainable ocean governance through, inter alia, funding of capacity building and scientific research			
Grants to Advisory Councils, allowing them to provide advice to the Commission and Member States	11 06 62 04	11	3,3
Operational fully-fledged Market Observatory	11 06 62 05	1	3,3
<b>Total</b>			<b>191,0</b>

\* The related data for the different outputs (as shown in the table above) is not made available to the Commission by the MS. Therefore, a target to be achieved by end of 2023 has been shown. The target in the operational programmes relates to the number of projects in the area of control to be implemented by end of 2023. The operational programmes do not split the target across the different outputs.

\*\* This figure is based on the total EMFF allocation to this Union Priority in the EMFF OPs. The annual EMFF contribution is calculated in proportion to the EMFF tranche in the annual budget.

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Projects related to the establishment and validation of databases*	F	5.180	4.446	4.944	6.954	7.734	8.974	10.224
Investments in new control technologies (number of vessels equipped)*								
Projects on traceability of all fisheries products*	P	0	28*	57*	67*	536	**	
Support to operational costs incurred in the context of Specific Control and Inspection programs or coordinated control deployments*								
Number of studies related to CFP	F	12	8	18	14	16	16	18
	P(direct management only)	8	7	9	9	7	17	
Support to the national programmes for collection of biological, technical, environmental and socioeconomic data concerning the fisheries sector	F	27	27	27	27	27	27	27
	P	27	27	27	27	27	27	
Grants to RFMOs needed to achieve their objectives of sustainable development of fisheries resources through, inter alia, funding of capacity building and scientific research	F	16	24	32	32	32	32	32
	P(direct management only)	16	30	34	25***	34	29	
Grants to Advisory Councils, allowing them to provide advice to the Commission and Member States	F	11	11	11	11	11	11	11
	P(direct management only)	7	7	10	10	10	10	
Operational fully-fledged Market Observatory	F	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	P(direct management only)	1	1	1	1	1	1	

\* Since the transition of this funding from direct management to shared management, the related data for the different outputs (as shown in the table above) have not been made available to the Commission by the MS. Slow uptake accounts for the low level of actual outputs. Compared to DB2018 forecast figures for respective outputs were added up and reported as a single number per year (i.e. not cumulated) because the Commission cannot report on the respective outputs due to the lack of detailed data.

\*\* The information concerning outputs for 2019 is not yet available and is only due mid-2020. As in previous years, only a single figure can be given.

\*\*\* Some projects were put together in one single grant agreement.

#### 4. Contribution to Europe 2020 Strategy and mainstreaming of policies

##### Contribution to Europe 2020 headline targets

##### Table Contribution to Europe 2020 headline targets

75 % of the population aged 20-64 should be employed
3 % of the EU's GDP should be invested in R & D
The '20/20/20' climate/energy targets should be met (including an increase to 30 % of emissions reduction if the conditions are right)
20 million less people should be at risk of poverty

##### Relevant objective/output



Relevant objective/output	Budget 2019	Budget 2020
EMFF relevant objective/output	143,7	146,3
<b>Total</b>	<b>143,7</b>	<b>146,3</b>

### Programming climate action

2014-2018					2019-2020 estimates		Total
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
134,3	125,5	137,3	139,5	142,8	143,7	146,3	969,4

(\*)The appropriations for the year 2014 have been reviewed to take account of the transfer to subsequent years of the allocations not used in 2014 (reprogramming exercise carried-out in 2015 in accordance with Article 19 of the Multiannual Financial Framework Regulation).

#### Justification

These forecasts and amounts are based on the total EMFF allocation to climate objectives in EMFF Operational Programmes (EUR 969.4 million for the whole programming period). The annual EMFF contribution is calculated in proportion to the EMFF tranche in the annual budget.

### Contribution to financing biodiversity

#### Relevant objective/output

Relevant objective/output	Budget 2019	Budget 2020
EMFF relevant objective/output	128,6	131,1
<b>Total</b>	<b>128,6</b>	<b>131,1</b>

### Programming biodiversity

2014-2018					2019-2020 estimates		Total
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
120,9	115,1	122,6	124,7	127,3	128,6	131,1	870,3

(\*)The appropriations for the year 2014 have been reviewed to take account of the transfer to subsequent years of the allocations not used in 2014 (reprogramming exercise carried-out in 2015 in accordance with Article 19 of the Multiannual Financial Framework Regulation).

#### Justification

These forecasts are based on the allocation in the Operational Programmes to Thematic Objective 6 – ‘Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency’ (Rio marker of 40 % of the total applied to budget line 11 06 60). The annual EMFF contribution is calculated in proportion to the EMFF tranche in the annual budget. In addition, 40 % of the relevant funding in direct management (scientific advice and knowledge, control and enforcement and voluntary contributions to Regional Fisheries Management Organisations) is included.

### Gender mainstreaming

While setting up their Operational Programmes (OPs), responsible Managing Authorities are required to consult bodies promoting gender equality<sup>(10)</sup>. They should consider whether the EMFF measures targeting women in fishing/aquaculture<sup>(11)</sup> are to be included in their OPs; they must also<sup>(12)</sup> ‘ensure publicity for the operational programme by informing bodies involved in promoting equality between men and women of the possibilities offered by the programme. Furthermore, Managing Authorities should<sup>(13)</sup> ‘examine actions to promote equality between men and women, equal opportunities, and non-discrimination, including accessibility for disabled persons’.

Finally, thought should be given (when setting up the monitoring and evaluation system) to what specific data needs may arise, to enable Managing Authorities to evaluate the actions taken to promote equality between men and women, equal opportunities and non-discrimination, including accessibility for disabled persons.

Access to a legal status for all assisting spouses will constitute the formal recognition of their contribution to fisheries enterprises and it will give visibility to women’s participation in the fisheries sector. But some MS have yet to give this status to fisherwomen despite the claims of fisherwomen organizations and the available EU directives (2010/41/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council).

## 5. Programme contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals

### SDG 1 End poverty in all its forms everywhere

<sup>(10)</sup> Art 5 of (EU) Reg. 1303/2013

<sup>(11)</sup> Art 29 (b) and 50 (c) of EU Reg. 508/2014

<sup>(12)</sup> Art 97 (EU) Reg. 508/2014

<sup>(13)</sup> Art 113 (EU) Reg. 508/2014

The EMFF contributes to SDG 1 (End poverty in all its forms everywhere), by: contributing to the improvements of the economic results of the EU fisheries sector, and to the improvements of the living standards of the coastal populations which depend on that sector; allowing operators to modernise their productive tools, to diversify their sources of income or to switch to alternative economic activities.

***SDG 2 End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture***

By promoting the conservation of the marine living resources and the protection of the marine ecosystem, the EMFF contributes to the sustainability of the production of the EU fisheries sector of healthy quality food, and thus to SDG 2 (End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture) and SDG 3 (Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages).

***SDG 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls***

Please, see the section on gender mainstreaming above.

***SDG 14 Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development***

The main objective of the EMFF is to support the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and the Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP), thereby contributing first and foremost to SDG 14 (Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development). To date the EMFF has funded nearly 15,000 projects on preserving the marine environment and ensuring better resource efficiency. This has been supported with an EMFF contribution of EUR 532.42 million. The EMFF has also supported over 2000 operations related to better management of Natura 2000 areas, covering an area of at least 74 000 km<sup>2</sup>, and more than 1500 operations associated with other marine protected areas, covering an area of at least 704 055 km<sup>2</sup>.

**6. Information about financial instrument(s) and trust fund(s) financed by the Programme**

Member States have the flexibility to contribute resources from programmes to financial instruments set up at national, regional level and managed by or under the responsibility of the managing authority. So far one financial instrument is fully – and successfully – operating in Estonia. Several other Member States have considered, or are considering, use of Financial Instruments.