

European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)

Finland

Finland – overview

Coast, lakes and ports

Finland has a coastline of 6 299 km (excluding islands). The Finnish archipelago is Europe's largest, with more than 81 000 islands.

Finland has 50 sea ports and most Finnish exports (90 %) are transported by sea. Ferries also transport a steady flow of passengers between Finland and other countries.

The weather has a major bearing on transport by sea as the Baltic Sea freezes every year. Between January and March, ice covers an average of 218 000 km².

Potential

Among the traditional maritime sectors, equipment and shipping are the largest in terms of employment.

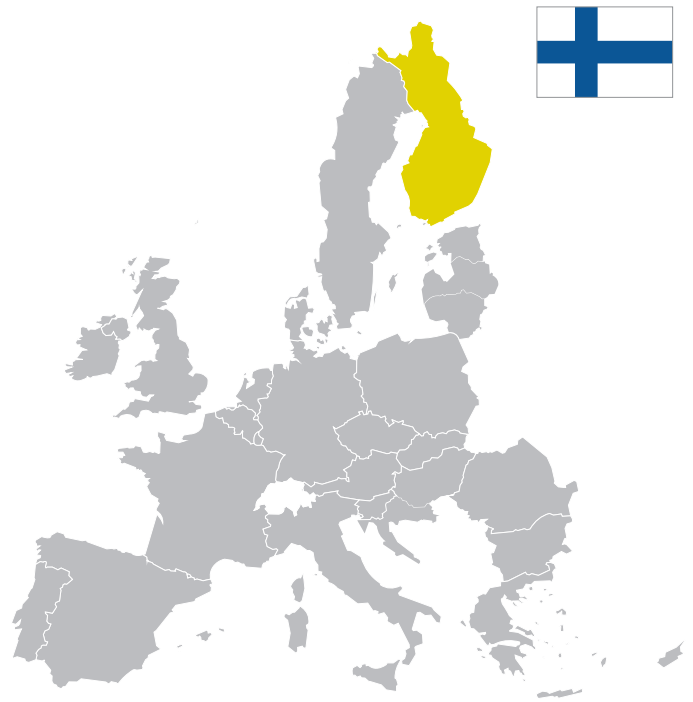
Fisheries make up a small part of this, accounting for less than 0.1 % of the national gross domestic product (GDP).

Coastal tourism is an important sector in some Finnish regions, in particular in the Åland Islands, which enjoy a degree of autonomy and home rule.

Economic performance and employment

In 2012, the Finnish fishing fleet consisted of 3 359 registered vessels, of which 1 407 were inactive.

The active fleet (1 952 vessels) had a combined gross tonnage of 15 600 in 2012, and combined power of 170 000 kW. The vast majority of the vessels were small in size.



The number of fishing businesses totalled 1 500 in 2012, with the vast majority (97 %) owning a single vessel.

The main species landed are Baltic herring, sprat, bream, smelt, perch and European whitefish.

Total landings in 2012 amounted to 138 000 tonnes, while first sale values came to €384 million.

The principal farmed species are rainbow trout and whitefish.

The total income generated by the Finnish national fleet in 2012 was €43.2 million. This can be broken down into € 38.6 million from landings and €4.6 million in non-fishing income.

The fisheries sector has 295 full-time equivalent (FTE) employees, the aquaculture sector 349 FTE employees, and processing 781 FTE employees.

Finland's Operational Programme









Budget

Total (EU+National)
€140 893 169

EU contribution
€74 393 168

The Operational Programme (OP) covers the six 'Union Priorities' defined in the EMFF, namely:

-  promoting environmentally sustainable, resource-efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge-based **fisheries**;
-  fostering environmentally sustainable, resource-efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge-based **aquaculture**;
-  implementation of the **Common Fisheries Policy (CFP)**;
-  increasing **employment and territorial cohesion**;
-  fostering **marketing and processing**;
-  implementation of the **Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP)**.



1. Fisheries

What?

New approaches, products and markets will be supported to sustainably develop fisheries as well as the diversification of fishermen's activities. It is important for the future of the entire sector that young fishers join the profession. The fishing techniques used in Finland can generally be considered as sustainable. By-catches are not discarded, for example.

The majority of the fleet is made up of small vessels of less than 12 metres in length, that use static gear. As the seal population is growing, trawling has been replaced by selective trap-fishing close to the shore.

OP aim

Sustainable fishing involves measures and investments that drive profitable operations, promote demand for fish, increase logistical efficiency, improve gear selectivity, approach maritime spatial planning from the perspective of fisheries, or improve the public image of the fisheries sector by promoting dialogue and conflict management.

Multi-annual innovation programmes for sustainable fishing and the environmental restoration of fisheries will be launched in cooperation with stakeholders. Working together, industry, administrators, scientists and environmental experts will seek methods to help fishermen adjust to operating close to a protected seal population, for example.

Key result

Greater competitiveness of the sector, development of fishing ports, and greater value and quality of catches. An approach that embraces the entire value chain is essential.

Budget

EMFF €12 300 000
National €17 700 000



2. Aquaculture



What?

Finland cultivated around 13 600 tonnes of fish for human consumption (food fish) in 2013. This represented an increase of about 1 000 tonnes in comparison to 2012. The value of food fish production (€56 million) also increased substantially (by €11.4 million). Supply comprised 12 200 tonnes of rainbow trout, about 1 200 tonnes of whitefish and about 200 tonnes of other food fish species.

In addition to food fish, fish culture produced fry totalling 54 million individual fish in 2013. These were of different ages, both for stocking and further rearing.

Altogether, 310 fish farming businesses were in operation in 2013, made up of 471 fish farms and natural pond farmers.

OP aim

EMFF support will target investments that promote sustainable growth and renewal within the sector, as well as the diversification of production and a reduction in environmental impact. A multiannual research and development programme will be carried out in cooperation with stakeholders. International cooperation will be reinforced in the Baltic Sea region and with the Nordic countries.

Key objective

Strong and sustainable production growth that will increase Finland's self-sufficiency in fish products, and strengthen the global position of Finnish expertise in aquaculture technology and of Finnish aquaculture producers.

Budget

EMFF €15 600 000
National €22 100 000





3. Common Fisheries Policy (CFP)

What?

Improvement and supply of scientific knowledge, and of data collection and management.

OP aim

Regional cooperation in the Baltic Sea region as well as cooperation with Finnish research institutes will also play a role; one example is echo sounding observations of Baltic herring using the Finnish Environment Institute's research vessel Aranda. An effort will be made to step up cooperation with fishers in data collection.

The key goals for fisheries control will be reconciling national legislation with the EU's Common Fisheries Policy requirements and control systems regulations, and creating an effective cooperation model for the relevant authorities. Actions to improve cooperation between the authorities will include the inauguration of a new Fisheries Monitoring Centre. Resources will also be allocated to developing electronic information systems and risk-based analysis.

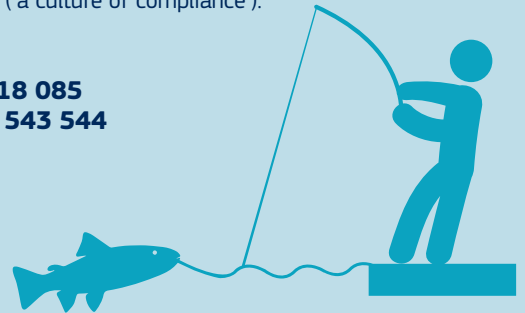
Key result

The collection, management and use of data required by the CFP, as well as credibility, consistency and fairness across the entire control mechanism along the coast (catching, landing, transport and first sale of fish). Quality of control will be improved through better training and communication. Developing cooperation models and stepping up cooperation between actors will create the preconditions for compliance ('a culture of compliance').

Budget

EMFF €30 018 085

National €5 543 544



4. Community-led local development strategies



What?

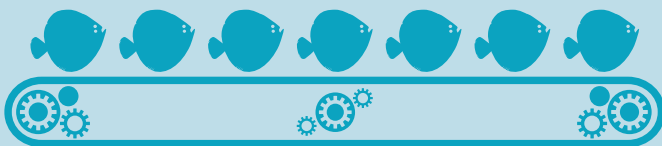
The emphasis is on a regional strategy that focuses on operations that either create new products, markets and operating methods, or significantly improve the competitiveness of companies, for example by reducing costs. Innovation, product development, active networking and exploitation of synergy benefits all help to make outcomes sustainable.

OP aim

The objective is to help Finland meet the EMFF's strategic goals from regional points of departure, to support competitiveness, renewal and adaptation within the region's industries, and to enhance cooperation between regional actors, interest groups and action groups.

Key result

Increased number of businesses (15), new jobs (50) and jobs retained (150).



Budget

EMFF €4 400 000

National €5 000 000



5. Marketing and processing



What?

Measures will increase the value of production, and promote local food and organic production as well as the certification of production. Product development throughout the value chain, with particular focus on quality, shelf life and traceability, will play an important role in boosting the demand for fish products. Market research and foresight to identify changes in the operating environment, as well as new opportunities, are also planned. Marketing operations will seek to reinforce positive associations with fish and raise consumer awareness of the operation and impacts of the fisheries value chain.

The global increasing demand for sustainably produced fish, will also open up new opportunities for the marketing and processing of Finnish fish. Various environmental trends, including local food thinking, may create significant added value for the sector in the future.

OP aim

Targeted investments will support the strategic objective of strengthening primary production's operating conditions. OP support will be used to encourage new methods of exploiting fish resources and fish-processing side streams.

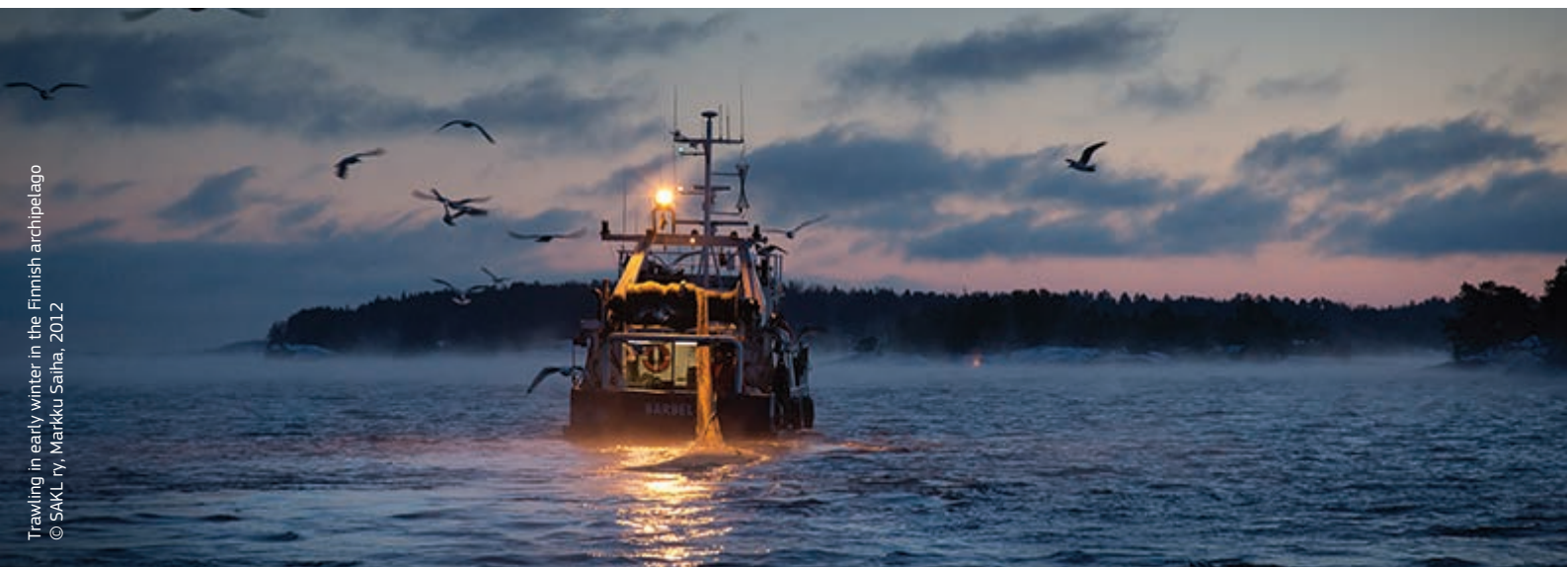
Key result

Evolution in the value and volume of first-hand sales.

Budget

EMFF €5 000 000

National €7 000 000



6. Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP)

What?
The IMP seeks to provide a more coherent approach to maritime issues, with increased coordination between different policy areas.

OP aim
The objective of IMP measures is to step up the protection of marine natural resources and to create the preconditions for sustainable exploitation of marine natural resources as part of the blue bio-economy.

Key result
A 20 % increase in use of the Common Information Sharing Environment (CISE) in the context of surveillance and monitoring of EU marine areas.

A 30 km² increase in the areas designated Natura 2000 sites under the Birds and Habitats Directives.

Budget
EMFF €4 445 560
National €6 200 000

Success stories co-financed during the European Fisheries Fund (EFF) 2007-2013 programming period

Sustainable solutions

Closed circulation production

In an innovative project, Sybimar Ltd. built a new renewable energy and food producing complex in the city of Uusikaupunki on the west coast of Finland. The food production part includes a closed circulation aquaculture and fish processing unit and a greenhouse for vegetable production. The nutrients and water are circulated between the fish farm and the greenhouse. Waste biomass from the aquaculture activity goes to bio-fuel and bio-gas production. The power plant carbon dioxide is circulated back to the greenhouse.

Restoration of spawning grounds

Spawning grounds are being restored in the river Kymi in eastern Finland for salmon and for endangered fish species such as sea trout. Many of the well-known traditional spawning grounds are currently in poor condition, and in places where there are no roads, gravel is transported by helicopters and dropped in the exact areas that it is needed. The gravel is crucial for successful spawning since it provides the best environment for the protection of fish eggs.

More information

- European Commission Fisheries
- European Maritime and Fisheries Fund
- Finnish Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
- Aquaculture multiannual national plan - Mainland Finland
- Aquaculture multiannual national plan - Aaland Island