

**INFORMATION FICHE NO 3**

**SEA BASIN ANALYSES**

**04/02/2019**

**RELEVANT PROVISIONS IN THE DRAFT LEGISLATION**

Regulation	Provisions
EMFF Proposal	Article 9(5) Recital 43

*This document is based on the text of the adopted EMFF proposal. It is a provisional text, without prejudice to on-going discussions. This series of fiches is intended to guide Member States, explaining and elaborating the text of the proposal.*

## **OBJECTIVE OF THIS FICHE**

This fiche provides orientation concerning the purpose, methodology, content, structure and timeline of the proposed sea basin analyses in the context of the programming process.

## **LEGAL BASIS**

Article 9(5) of the Commission's proposal:

*The Commission shall develop an analysis for each sea basin indicating the common strengths and weaknesses of the sea basin with regard to the achievement of the objectives of the CFP, as referred to in Article 2 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013. Where applicable, this analysis shall take into account the existing sea basin and macro-regional strategies.*

Recital 43 of the Commission's proposal:

*Under shared management, each Member States should prepare one single programme that should be 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 should 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 should 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 should take into account the environmental and socio-economic challenges of the CFP, the socio-economic 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.*

## **BACKGROUND**

The reform of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) in 2013 introduced a new form of governance moving away from top-down management approaches to fisheries to a more regionalised sea-basin approach, because EU waters and fisheries are too widespread and diverse for one size fit all-solutions. Regionalisation under the CFP allows for decisions to be brought closer to those affected and provide a better basis for bringing in local experience, knowledge and expertise, also allowing for better communication with stakeholders.

Under the principle of shared management, Member States draft their EMFF programmes in line with their own specific challenges and priorities. However, whilst regionalised approaches to fisheries management decisions have become normal practice in for example the drafting of joint recommendations for the discard plans or in the implementation of the multi-annual management plans, there is a need to ensure that the main funding instrument for the CFP is also able to address common challenges at sea basin level.

In order to better target EU public support to the achievement of the objectives of the Common Fisheries Policy at sea basin level, the Commission will prepare “*an analysis for*

*each sea basin indicating the common strengths and weaknesses of the sea basin with regard to the objectives of the CFP*". These analyses would support the EMFF programming process as an additional background complementing the national SWOT analyses. They would be underpinned by robust evidence based background information and indicate how EMFF funding can be used to tackle the identified challenges at sea basin level.

The sea basin analyses could be compared to the fisheries and maritime policy related priorities outlined in the 2014-2020 Common Strategic Framework (Annex I of the 2014-2020 Common Provisions Regulation), which provide strategic guiding principles in order to achieve an integrated development approach using the ESI Funds in line with EU priorities as well as taking into account the key territorial challenges and specific national, regional and local contexts. The Commission's proposal for the next EMFF therefore foresees for the development of these sea basin analyses to better ensure that policy commitments made in the context of the CFP are underpinned by investment through the EMFF. The sea basin analyses would not impose additional obligations upon Member States beyond those set out within the framework of the relevant sectoral Union policy; they should be seen as an opportunity to identify specific regional challenges and possible actions under the broad areas of support to tackle those challenges in financial terms.

## **CONTENT**

The sea basin analysis would establish strategic guiding principles to facilitate the programming process in line with the objectives set out in the CFP, taking into account the key challenges of the various sea basins and would include the following:

- Thematic focus (need to describe specific strengths and weaknesses),
- Geographical focus (need to address sea basin specificities without duplicating the national SWOT analyses),
- Analytical focus (robust evidence base to underpin the programming process),
- Operational focus (indication of concrete EMFF supported investments to Member States).

Article 9(5) of the Commission's proposal on the sea basin analyses refers to the objectives of the CFP, which are laid down in Article 2 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013. They include conservation, economic, social and employment objectives.

## **STRUCTURE**

The sea basin analyses would be outlined in a Commission document. It is proposed to be organised mainly along regional chapters corresponding to sea basins. However, since certain challenges (e.g. fisheries control, market policy, climate change) are to a large extent common to all sea basins, they would be addressed in horizontal thematic chapters, thus avoiding their repetition in the regional chapters. Within each regional chapter, the key strengths, weaknesses and drivers would be described in thematic sections (e.g. situation of fish stocks, socio-economic situation of the fishing sector, management of fisheries and fishing fleets) and translated into corresponding EMFF supported investments. Where relevant, the document should also take into account the existing sea basin and macro-regional strategies.

## **TIMELINE**

The document would be published shortly after the adoption of the EMFF regulation, depending on the timing of the inter-institutional negotiations, so to have a sound basis for the programming process ready in time. However, draft sea basin analyses would be discussed with Member States and stakeholders to better inform and elaborate the text, and to allow for a more focused discussion between the Member States and the Commission in the preparation of the next generation of programming documents. The sea basin analyses would also support the preparation of the action plans on small-scale coastal fishing and of the CFP related component of the action plans on outermost regions, both being attachments to the programmes.

## **INVOLVEMENT OF MEMBER STATES**

Since the sea basin analyses aim to support the programming process, Member States could feed their preparation with input from their 2014-2020 experience. For example, a selection of good projects financed under the current EMFF could illustrate how the EMFF has helped to support the implementation of the CFP, as examples of good practice for the post 2020 programming period. Such projects could be presented at the next Expert Group meetings.

## **QUESTIONS**

- What level of detail should the sea basin analyses contain on the strategic guiding principles to facilitate the programming process in line with the objectives set out in the CFP, taking into account the key challenges of the various sea basins?
- To what extent can the sea basin analyses strengthen complementarities between funding priorities addressing common challenges between Member States sharing the same sea basin, for example in implementing the multi-annual management plans or sea basin strategies such as the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region or the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region?
- How can the sea basin analyses best complement the national SWOT analyses?
- Would good projects examples illustrating how the EMFF can help to support the implementation of the CFP be useful during the development of the future programme?