

# European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)

## Croatia

### Croatia – overview

#### Coast, lakes and ports

- The total coastline of Croatia is 5 835 km long and it features 1 244 islands, islets and reefs. The population in the coastal areas in 2012 was 1 463 791 inhabitants, which accounts for 33 % of the Croatian population.
- The major commercial harbours are Rijeka, Omišalj, Ploče, Šibenik and Split.
- The main fishing harbours are Zadar, Split, Biograd, Pula, Rijeka and Šibenik.

#### Potential

- The main maritime economic activities are coastal tourism, shipbuilding and repair, fisheries and short sea shipping.
- The high quality of fishery products is attributable to favourable environmental conditions, the sea quality and the diversity of marine habitats, as well as the marked variety of commercially important species.
- Areas and communities traditionally dependent on fishing for their livelihoods, especially on islands, have significant potential in terms of tourism development.
- There are active small-scale fisheries in coastal/island communities with the potential to be involved in fishing.



#### Economic performance and employment

- Estimates of the direct share of fisheries in the gross domestic product (GDP) range between 0.2 % and 0.7 %. However, the sector's real contribution is considered to be underrated: once the value of accompanying activities is included, the contribution to national GDP is believed to exceed 1 %.
- It is estimated that approximately 14 000 people are directly employed in the sector. There is also a significant number of seasonal workers, and it is estimated that around 25 000 people are involved in the sector, directly and indirectly.

# Croatia's Operational Programme









## Budget

**Total (EU + national):**  
**€348 759 346**

**EU contribution:**  
**€252 643 138**

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

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



## 1. Fisheries

### What?

The fisheries sector is traditionally an important sector in Croatia. The country's coastline, being the second largest in the Adriatic Sea, underpins the importance of Croatia's maritime and fisheries policy. Tradition, knowledge and new technologies shall play a significant role in the sustainability and added value of the sector.

Overall, 7 733 Croatian vessels are registered in the EU fleet register. The Croatian fishing industry is export-oriented. The export of tuna currently accounts for more than half of total fresh and frozen fish exports. Trade exchange is characterised by the import of higher fish quantities with a lower market value and by the export of high-value products.

### OP aim

- EMFF funding will help modernise infrastructure for:
  - ▶ fishing ports
  - ▶ landing sites
  - ▶ auction halls and shelters.
- Maximising the value of products and encouraging diversification as well as the creation of new income-generating opportunities for the sector.
- Improving hygiene, health, safety and working conditions for fishermen.
- Improving and innovating in the area of energy efficiency, migration and climate change.

### Key result

- Increase in the competitiveness and sustainability of fisheries enterprises, including small-scale coastal fleets, and the improvement of safety and working conditions.
- Increased quality, control and traceability of catches.

### Budget

**€134 040 491**  
**EU contribution: : €86 827 381**



## 2. Aquaculture

### What?

Croatia's coastal areas and inland waters have perfect conditions for aquaculture development. Farming aquatic organisms comprises marine aquaculture and farming in fresh (inland) waters. Marine aquaculture includes farming of finfish, pelagic fish and shellfish. Finfish farming involves a closed farming cycle, where the first phases take place in a hatchery, and then in floating cages at sea.

### OP aim

EMFF support will help:

- promote sustainable aquaculture;
- improve the competitiveness of the aquaculture sector, while promoting innovation;
- achieve the expansion and diversification of products from marine and freshwater farms, through investments in the modernisation and resource efficiency of the farms;
- achieve Croatian fish farms' conversion to eco-management and ecological aquaculture.

### Key objective

Aquaculture is expected to be a leading primary sector, providing a high level of environmental protection and a significant contribution to high-quality food supply, employment and economic growth.

An increase in production of over 17 000 tonnes, including over 1 500 tonnes of ecological production, is expected by 2023.

### Budget

**€73 681 583**  
**EU contribution: €55 261 186**



## 3. Common Fisheries Policy (CFP)

### What?

The collection of quality data will be ensured and improved. At the same time, the effective control of fishing activities is crucial for achieving CFP objectives. Therefore, data collection and control have a key role in the Croatian OP.

#### OP aim

- To foster implementation of the CFP.
- To improve the efficiency of the monitoring, control and surveillance activities by the responsible bodies.

#### Key result

- Improvement and supply of scientific knowledge, and collection and management of data.
- Improved monitoring, control and enforcement.
- Strengthening institutional capacity and public administration efficiency, without increasing the administrative burden.

#### Budget

€43 180 081

EU contribution: €34 824 000

### 4. Community-led local development strategies



#### What?

Specific measures should be taken to support the sustainable and long-term development of fishing communities in Croatia and their social cohesion, and to underpin strategic planning, improving their decision-making role and ensuring a balance between conflicting interests in many coastal areas and islands.

#### OP aim

- To promote the economic and social sustainability of the Croatian fisheries and aquaculture areas, the creation of jobs, diversification within and/or outside fisheries and aquaculture sectors and the sustainable exploitation of related products through the implementation of comprehensive local development strategies.
- To promote social cohesion in coastal and island communities

#### Key result

- To foster the balanced economic development of coastal and island fisheries-dependent communities.
- To increase the potential of fishing communities by adding more value to fishing-related activities, and diversifying to other related sectors, thereby expanding income and employment opportunities.
- To enable fishing communities to think collectively and strategically, so as to shape their own economic future.
- To raise environmental, nature and biodiversity conservation and protection awareness among fishing communities, so they become engaged protectors of resources, to increase resilience and reduce vulnerability.

#### Budget

€22 298 877

EU contribution: €18 954 045

### 5. Marketing and processing



#### What?

- There is an existing tradition in the processing industry and an established domestic fresh fish and shellfish market. Croatia has set up regular sales channels to EU markets. However, currently there are not enough high value-added products, and market related infrastructure is limited.

#### OP aim

- Fostering the establishment of producer organisations (POs) in Croatia, and their production and marketing plans promoting the competitive restructuring of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors.
- Exploiting the significant potential for marketing and branding of high-quality fish products.
- Setting up new and improved production processes and management systems.
- Improving links to research institutions, and transfer of technologies, so as to foster innovation.

#### Key result

- Improving the market organisation of fishery products, by establishing the first POs.
- Achieving greater market supply with high-quality fish products, thus creating more accessible and new markets, and fostering producers' competitiveness by establishing POs.
- Improving cooling/storage capacities, in order to improve efficiency, health and safety as well as product quality.

#### Budget

€54 013 529

EU contribution: €40 617 938



### 6. Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP)



#### What?

- Clarity, transparency and landscape diversity for the Adriatic Sea as well as for established Natura 2000 areas.
- Maritime transport routes included in the European transport network, and high standards set for maritime safety.
- Lack of the knowledge needed to adopt the measures for realising the objectives defined by the Strategy for Marine Environment and Coastal Area Management.

#### OP aim

- Promoting the protection of the marine environment and the sustainable use of marine and coastal resources, with a specific focus on Natura 2000 and other marine protected areas.
- Restoring the balance between human activities and natural resources in the marine and coastal environment, as well as providing knowledge on actions for pollution reduction and the prevention and mitigation of natural and human hazards.

#### Key results

- Implementing measures under the Maritime Strategy Framework Directive in the Adriatic.
- Improving knowledge of the marine environment, with a particular focus on developing part of the Common Information Sharing Environment (CISE) for the surveillance of the EU maritime domain.
- Establishing a system for monitoring energy intake in the marine environment.

#### Budget

€1 000

EU contribution: €1 333 344

### Simplification

There are significant plans to reduce the administrative burden for beneficiaries, including a software upgrade for electronic submission of applications and their processing. Beneficiaries will also benefit from the planned guidelines for implementation, and training on procurement for investment operations.

E-governance solutions will be implemented, and will substantially reduce the paperwork required to accompany the applications made by potential beneficiaries.

### Synergies

Financing from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EARDF) and the EMFF will support Croatia to implement Community-Led Local Development (CLLD) in fisheries areas. EARDF funding will also contribute to improvements to the entrepreneurship of the sector, in the energy efficiency of fisheries and aquaculture activities, and in the environmental protection of fisheries areas.

Synergy activities have been planned with the European Border Surveillance System (EUROSUR), the information-exchange framework designed to improve the management of Europe's external borders.

Synergies have been identified between the EMFF and LIFE programme as well as Horizon 2020: they aim to foster innovative, competitive and knowledge-based fisheries and aquaculture, including the related processing.

## Success stories



Shellfish farming is on the rise. Only two and a half years after the accession of Croatia to the EU, EUR 5 010 000 (EU contribution of EUR 3.75 million and a national contribution of EUR 1.25 million) has been invested in 26 aquaculture projects. The potential beneficiaries were interested principally in shellfish farming.



Access to new markets and facilitated exports after the accession of Croatia to the EU. In the past 5 years, an average of 50 % of total sea bass production was placed on the local market, while the rest was placed on the EU market and exported. Before accession to the EU, market export was restricted by duty free quotes. The last 5 years saw a growth in gilthead bream exports.



Sustainable exploitation of fishing resources not at the expense of fishermen. A total of 115 beneficiaries received support of EUR 1 072 226 (EU contribution of EUR 804 554 and a national contribution of EUR 267 672) for temporary cessation of fishing activity in 2015.

## More information

● [European Commission Fisheries](#)

● [Aquaculture multiannual national plan](#)

● [European Maritime and Fisheries Fund](#)

● [National website](#)