



European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)

Estonia

Estonia – overview

Coast, lakes and ports

Estonia, facing the Baltic Sea and Gulf of Finland, has a coastline of 3 700 km (excluding the islands, which number more than 1 500). Its diverse terrain includes rocky beaches, old-growth forest and many lakes, the biggest being Lake Peipus. Tallinn is the main commercial port, whilst Pärnu is the most important fishing port.

Economic performance and employment

In 2013, the fishing sector employed some 763 full-time staff. Annual catches amount to around 55 252 tonnes of fish per year, with a landing value of about EUR 15.3 million. In the aquaculture sector, around 100 full-time employees produce some 870 tonnes of fish per year, with a value of roughly EUR 2 million.



Estonia's Operational Programme



Budget

Total (EU + national):
€129 622 811

EU contribution:
€100 970 418
(2.25 % of the total EMFF)

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. implementation of the **Common Fisheries Policy (CFP)**;
4. increasing **employment and territorial cohesion**;
5. fostering **marketing and processing**;
6. implementation of the **Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP)**.



1. Fisheries

What?

The Estonian fishing fleet is highly diversified, with a broad range of vessel types targeting different species predominantly in the Baltic Sea and North Atlantic. In 2014, this fleet comprised 1 515 registered vessels, with the vast majority being small-scale coastal fishing vessels with an overall length of less than 12 metres. However, pelagic trawlers with a length spanning between 24 metres and 40 metres make up the largest segment in Estonian fishing.

The fleet had a combined gross tonnage (GT) of 13 339 in 2014, and a combined power (kW) of 44 489.

The main species landed are sprat and Baltic herring. Total landings in 2014 amounted to 55 252 tonnes.

There are 521 full-time equivalent (FTE) workers in the fisheries sector.

OP aim

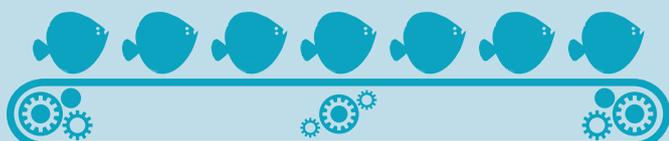
To grant support for the transition to environmentally and ecologically-sustainable fisheries, for conservation measures, and for the protection and restoration of marine biodiversity.

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: €19 325 750
National: €6 941 668
(6 % of the OP allocation)



2. Aquaculture

What?

Estonian aquaculture production is not large; it is carried out mostly in ponds and lakes. The principal farmed species (at around 90%) is rainbow trout. Common carp, sturgeon and eel are farmed in limited quantities.

There are around 25 commercial companies whose main or largest activity is fish farming, and most have a multiple production profile. They rear several species simultaneously: producing fish for consumption, offering fishing tourism in put-and-take ponds, and producing juveniles for the state restocking programme.

OP aim

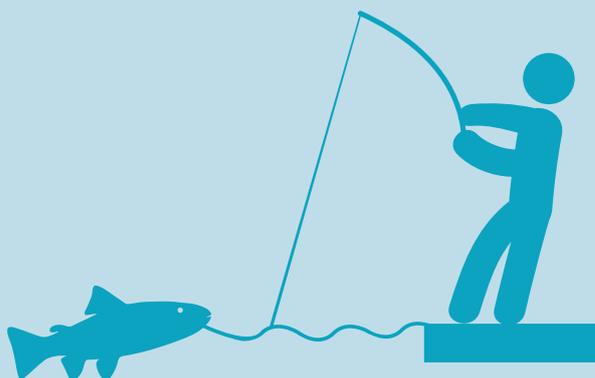
Diversification of production, and a focus on breeding new species like sturgeon, whitefish, or pike perch.

Key objective

Strong and sustainable production growth that will increase Estonia's exports and self-sufficiency in fish products.

Budget

EMFF: €13 402 413
National: €4 467 471
(13.8 % of the OP allocation)



3. Common Fisheries Policy (CFP)



What?

Data collection and fisheries control are essential for efficient administration of the fisheries sector and management of fish stocks, especially in marine protected areas.

OP aim

Support for data collection, control and enforcement.

Key result

Improvement and supply of scientific knowledge, and collection and management of data; and support for monitoring, control and enforcement.

Budget

EMFF: €11 654 842

National: €2 433 845

(10.9 % of the OP allocation)



4. Community-led local development (CLLD) strategies



What?

Under the European Fisheries Fund (EFF), 8 Fisheries Local Action Groups (FLAGs) have been set up in Estonia. These FLAGs have proved to be a successful instrument for fostering strengths and opportunities for fisheries areas.

OP aim

Support for implementation of local development strategies.

Key result

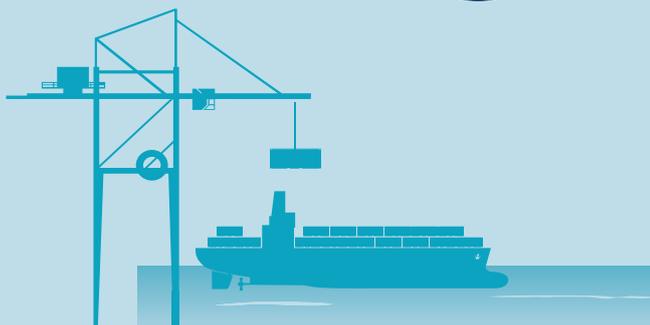
Promotion of economic growth, social inclusion and job creation; provision of support for employability and labour mobility in coastal and inland communities dependent on fishing and aquaculture; and diversification of activities within fisheries and into other sectors of the maritime economy.

Budget

EMFF: €23 600 000

National: €4 164 707

(5 % of the OP allocation)



5. Marketing and processing



What?

The Estonian processing sector is well organised, with three producers' organisations in fisheries and one in aquaculture. The planned measures will help increase the value of production, and will promote local food 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 to identify changes in the operating environment will play a key role, as well.

The processing sector employs some 1 810 full time staff.

OP aim

Support for marketing measures and processing of fishery and aquaculture products.

Key result

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

Budget

EMFF: €24 664 076

National: €7 870 001

(25.1 % of the OP allocation)



6. Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP)



What?

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

OP aim

To improve cooperation between all actors and conduct research on the state of the marine environment, with a view to creating the preconditions for sustainable exploitation of marine natural resources.

Key results

Promoting the protection of the marine environment and the sustainable use of marine and coastal resources, and protecting and improving knowledge on the state of the marine environment.

Budget

EMFF: €2 500 000

National: €833 334

(2.6 % of the OP allocation)





Success stories co-financed during the 2007-2013 EFF programming period

Supporting Orjaku Port



This project involved upgrading the Orjaku quay and putting in place the necessary infrastructure for services such as water and electricity. The final phase of this project involved the development of facilities for fishers and leisure users (fishers' rooms, storage rooms for gear, refrigeration equipment and facilities for catch storage).

Total cost: €536 980 (EFF funding: €355 536)

[More information](#)

More information

- [European Commission Fisheries](#)
- [National website](#)
- [European Maritime and Fisheries Fund](#)
- [Aquaculture multiannual national plan](#)