

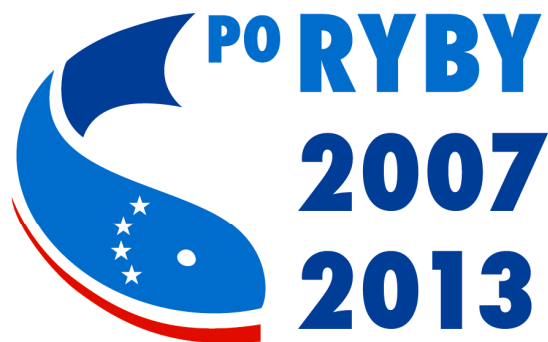


REPUBLIC OF POLAND

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Operational Programme

**“Sustainable Development of the Fisheries Sector and
Coastal Fishing Areas 2007-2013”**



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I NADBRZEŻNYCH OBSZARÓW RYBACKICH**

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. OFFICIAL TITLE	6
II. GEOGRAPHICAL ELIGIBILITY	6
III. ANALYSIS OF THE FISHERIES SECTOR IN POLAND	7
1. General description of the Fishing and Aquaculture sector in Poland and analysis of national and local circumstances	7
1.1. Marine fishing.....	7
1.2. Aquaculture and fish farming	22
1.3. Inland fishing	25
1.4. Processing of fisheries products	26
1.5. Marketing	28
1.6. Organisation of the fisheries sector in Poland	30
1.7. Organisation of fisheries administration in Poland.....	31
Key national legislation related to fisheries is as follows:	31
2. Main lessons learned from the implementation of the sectoral programme “Fisheries and fish processing 2004-2006”	33
3. Key context indicators for the description of the fisheries sector.....	36
4. SWOT analysis	38
5. Description of the environmental situation	40
5.1. The state of the environment:	40
5.2. Information on the procedure for conducting and consulting the SEA	42
5.3. Analysis and evaluation of environmental impact.	42
5.4. Conclusions and recommendations.....	45
5.5. Recommendations for implementation.....	46
5.6. The way the recommendations of the study and the suggestions of the Ministry of the Environment and the Chief Sanitary Inspectorate in the Operational Programme were followed.....	47
5.7. Monitoring of environmental aspects related to implementation of the Operational Programme.....	48
6. Equality between women and men	50
7. Organisation of control of fishing activities	50
IV. STRATEGY AT OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME LEVEL ACCORDING TO IMPACT AND RESULT INDICATORS. CALENDAR AND INTERMEDIARY OBJECTIVES	52
1. Overall objectives of the operational program: a strategic vision for the Fisheries sector in Poland	52
2. Specific objectives which the operational programme’s priorities aim to achieve	54
2.1. General Objective 1: To improve the competitiveness and the sustainability of the primary fisheries sector	56
2.2. General Objective 2: To enhance and develop the market potential of the fisheries sector ...	58
2.3. General Objective 3: To promote the sustainable development of fisheries areas and to improve the quality of life and the environment	60
2.4. General Objective 4: To put in place an efficient management and control system of the OP and improve the general administrative capacity in order to implement the CFP	61
V. SUMMARY OF THE EX-ANTE EVALUATION	66
VI. PROGRAMME’S PRIORITY AXIS	67
1. Priority Axis 1. Measures for the adaptation of the fishing fleet.....	72
Measure 1.1. Public aid for permanent cessation of fishing activities	75
Measure 1.2. Public aid for temporary cessation of fishing activities	77
Measure 1.3. Investments on board fishing vessels and selectivity	78

Measure 1.4. Small-scale coastal fishing.....	80
Measure 1.5 Socio-economic compensation for the management of the national fishing fleet	81
2. Priority Axis 2: Aquaculture, inland fishing, processing and marketing of fishery and aquaculture products.....	83
Measure 2.1. Investments in aquaculture	87
Measure 2.2. Aqua-environmental measures	89
Measure 2.3. Animal health measures.....	91
Measure 2.4. Inland Fishing.....	92
Measure 2.5. Investments in processing and marketing.....	93
Priority Axis 3: Measures of common interest.....	95
Measure 3.1. Collective actions	98
Measure 3.2. Protection and development of water fauna and flora.....	99
Measure 3.3. Fishing ports, landing sites and harbours.....	100
Measure 3.4. Development of new markets and promotion campaigns	101
Measure 3.5. Pilot projects	102
Measure 3.6. Modification for reassignment of fishing vessels	104
Priority axis 4: Sustainable development of fisheries areas	105
Measure 4.1. Development of Fisheries Areas	110
Measure 4.2 Support for inter-regional and transnational cooperation.....	114
Priority axis 5. Technical assistance	115
Measure 5.1: Technical assistance.....	115
VII. FINANCIAL PROVISIONS. INDICATIVE FINANCING PLANS FOPR THE OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME	117
VIII. PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION SYSTEM.....	118
1. Management and implementation rules and procedures	118
1.1. Managing Authority functions.....	118
1.3. Certifying Authority.....	121
1.4. Audit Authority.....	121
2. The Programme implementation system.....	123
3. The body responsible for receiving payments made by the Commission and the bodies responsible for making payments to the beneficiaries.....	125
4. A description of procedures for the mobilisation and circulation of financial flows in order to ensure their transparency	126
5. Description of the monitoring and evaluation system as well as the composition of the Monitoring Committee	129
6. Coordination between the operational programmes implemented under NSRF and operational programmes financed by EAFRD and EFF.	130
7. Data exchange between the Commission and Poland carried out electronically for the purpose of meeting the requirements in order to conduct management, monitoring and evaluation.	131
8. Selecting partners referred to in Article 8 of Regulation 1198/2006 and the results of their cooperation. The list of partners who were consulted and a summary of the results of the consultation.....	132
9. Elements to ensure information on the Operational Programme and its promotion pursuant to Article 28 of this Regulation.....	133
9.1. Measures addressed to the general public.....	134
9.2. Measures addressed to the potential beneficiaries	135
9.3. Financing measures in the scope of information and promotion	135

9.4. Body responsible for the implementation of information and publicity measures, as well as their monitoring	135
IX. ANNEXES TO THE OPERATIONNAL PROGRAMME FOR FISHERIES FOR POLAND	137

Table of abbreviations used in the Operational Programme

EFF - European Fisheries Fund

OP - Operational Programme “Sustainable Development of the Fisheries Sector and Coastal Fishing Areas 2007-2013”

SDF - Strategy for the Development of Fisheries 2007-2013

SOP – Sectoral Operational Programme “Fisheries and Fish Processing 2004-2006”

MARD – Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

MF - The Ministry of Finance

ARMA - Agency for Restructuring and Modernization of Agriculture

NSRF – National Strategic Reference Framework 2007-2013

MA - Managing Authority

IA – Intermediate Authority

CA – Certifying Authority

AA – Auditing Authority

CA – Coordinating Authority (NSRF), competent with communication and promotion

SFI - Sea Fisheries Institute

IFI – Inland Fisheries Institute

CSO – Central Statistical Office

VLG – Voivodship Local Government

I. OFFICIAL TITLE

Operational Programme: “Sustainable Development of the Fisheries Sector and Coastal Fishing Areas 2007-2013”

II. GEOGRAPHICAL ELIGIBILITY

The entire area of the Republic of Poland is covered by “convergence” objective, in accordance with the provisions of the Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 of 11 July 2006 laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999.

For this reason and in order to maximise the absorption capacity, Poland chose to apply 75% co-financing rate across the priority axes.

III. ANALYSIS OF THE FISHERIES SECTOR IN POLAND

1. General description of the Fishing and Aquaculture sector in Poland and analysis of national and local circumstances

The surface of the Republic of Poland is 312.7 thousand km², and its population amounts to 38 174 million (CSO Statistical Yearbook of 2006, data for 2005).

In administrative terms the Republic of Poland is divided into 16 voivodeships (NUTS II). Three voivodeships (Pomorskie, Zachodniopomorskie and - partially - Warmińsko – Mazurskie (the part of the Vistula Lagoon) cover the coastal zone of the Baltic Sea. It includes 18 powiats (NUTS IV) divided in 36 gminas (NUTS V). The Polish coastline is 528 km long.

There are 74 ports, fishing shelters and landing sites. Polish territorial waters cover 8,628 km². The level of salinity of the Baltic Sea is low and decreases as distance from the Danish straits grows.

Most of Polish rivers belong to the Baltic Sea catchments. In majority (89.9%), they belong to the Vistula and Odra river basins. The remaining ones are basins of the rivers directly belonging to the Baltic Sea catchments and flowing through the following lake districts: Pomorskie and Mazurskie (9.8%).

Poland's water system presents only few dam reservoirs. The total capacity of the 140 larger reservoirs is ca. 2.8 km³, accounting for only 5% of the annual water outflow from the country. Most of the dam reservoirs are located in the southern part of Poland. Poland has a comparatively large number of natural lakes. Natural lakes greater than 1 ha amount to 7085 and their total area is about 281.000 ha, which represents approximately 1% of the country area.

The Republic of Poland ranks only 20th in Europe in regards of its water resources per capita. Therefore its retention is an important strategic task for the Republic of Poland. This perspective presents an opportunity for the development of inland fishing.

The Polish fisheries sector contributes only 0.07 percent of the Polish Gross Domestic Product, however it has great impact on social and economic life of three coastal voivodeships. The share of fish products in exports represents around 10% of the whole food export of Poland.

The Polish fisheries sector employed in 2003 19.923 people, of which 10.220 (51%) were men and 9.703 (49%) were women (source: Eurostat).

1.1. Marine fishing

Poland has adopted in April 2008 a national Plan for the Baltic fleet restructuring, which aims at ensuring a sustainable exploitation of the fisheries resources of the Baltic Sea by the Polish Baltic fleet.

1.1.1. Condition of fish stocks in the Baltic Sea and forecast covering a period of time till 2013

The scientific study prepared by ICES has established the state of the basic fish stocks in several segments, which are presented below.

A. The East Baltic cod stock

The size of the stock reached its peak in the late seventies and in the early eighties. The stock has systematically diminished since and has remained at a low level since the late eighties. Between 2002 and 2006 the biomass of spawning stock fell to 70 – 80.000 tonnes and constituted only 1/8 of the biomass observed in the early 80s. The abundant generation of 2003 increased the biomass to about 100 .000 tonnes in 2007 and the biomass should remain at this level in 2008 – 2009, unless the present fishing intensity is exceeded. The fishing mortality over the recent 7 years usually exceeded or was close to 1.

In conclusion, the cod stock has a “reduced recovery ability” and is “harvested unsustainably”.

B. Spring-spawning herring stock

Polish fisheries exploit this stock in the east Baltic Sea region (sub-areas 22-24).

The assessment of the herring stock size is made difficult by the migrations of the fish and the resulting interaction of the Baltic Sea stock with the Northern Sea: when the spring-spawning herrings of the western Baltic Sea is over 1 year old, they migrate to the feeding grounds of Kattegat and Skagerrak; when they reach 2 years, they return to the spawning grounds in the Northern Sea.

The biomass of the spring-spawning herring stock dropped from a level of 300.000 tonnes in 1991 – 1992 to 110.000 to 130.000 tonnes between 1998 and 2000. It showed some recovery in recent years and was estimated at 185.000 tonnes in 2006. Fishing mortality oscillated between 0.4 and 0.8 with higher values in the mid-nineties, while in the last two years it was about 0.5.

If the fishing mortality and the average restocking of population remains in 2007 – 2008 at the same level as in 2006, the herring catches would be 86.000 tonnes in 2008 and the stock biomass would drop to 135.000 tonnes by 2009.

For 2008, ICES recommends to reduce the fishing intensity by 20% - this would be an equivalent of 71.000 tonnes of catches. About 35.000 tonnes of this quota could be harvested in the sub-areas 22-24.

C. Central Baltic herring stocks

The stock harvest of herring has been systematically decreasing over the last 30 years. In 2004 and 2005 only 92-93.000 tonnes of herring were harvested as compared with the multi-annual average of 230.000 tonnes. In 2006 catches increased to the level of 110.000 tonnes, of which 17.000 tonnes were caught by the Polish fleet. The stock is considered as “sustainably exploited”.

In the last 30 years, the biomass of spawning stock has been dropping from 1.8-1.6 million tonnes in mid seventies to about 390.000 tonnes in 2001. This reduction of the biomass was mainly caused by the decreasing individual mass of herrings which dropped by 50-60% in the eighties and the nineties. In 1998 this trend stopped and the individual herring mass increased by around 12%¹. In the recent few years the biomass has been increasing and it reached 980.000 tonnes in 2007.

Restocking of this stock has been relatively stable since the late eighties, although at a level 40% lower than between 1974 – 1987. The stock fishing mortality was rising and came to about 0.4 in 2000, but decreased recently to reach 0.12 – 0.13. With the present level of fishing mortality, the spawning stock biomass will slightly exceed 1 million tonnes in 2008 – 2009, and the 2008 catches will amount to almost 130.000 tonnes.

ICES recommends catches not to exceed 194.000 tonnes, this corresponds to a threshold fishing mortality of 0.19. Therefore, the present exploitation intensity may be raised by more than 60%.

D. Sprat stock in the whole Baltic Sea

In 2006 sprat catches amounted to 352.000 tonnes, a reduction of 50.000 tonnes from 2005 and of 180.000 tonnes from the record catches of 1997. A decrease in catches between 1998 and 2003 was caused by a decreased TAC and by falling stock biomass. In 2006 the Polish fishing vessels caught 54.000 tonnes, a 25% reduction compared with 2005, due mainly to the scrapping of part of the sprat fishing fleet.

In the nineties, there was a number of very abundant sprat generations. This led to a record increase of the spawning stock biomass which amounted to about 1.8 million tonnes in the mid-nineties. Since then, the stock biomass fluctuated and stayed at rather high values. In 2007 the spawning stock biomass amounted to 1.2 million tonnes. In the nineties, the fishing mortality increased to 0.3 – 0.5 from previous 0.1. Since 1999 it has not generally exceeded the threshold value of 0.4 and decreased in 2006 to 0.3.

The stock has " full recovery ability" but it is "harvested unsustainably". If the present fishing mortality is maintained, the catches will amount to 330 million tonnes in 2008, and the spawning stock biomass will remain at the level of 1.2 million tonnes in 2009.

ICES recommends not to exceed fishing mortality of 0.40 in 2008, an equivalent of 432.000 tonnes of catches. Therefore, the present sprat exploitation intensity may be raised by about 30%. Herring is fished as a by-catch with a part of sprat catches. Attention should be paid not to exceed the recommended herring quota when implementing the sprat quota.

E. Salmon stock in sub-areas 22-31

¹ This assessment refers to the stock composed of a number of populations which differ in certain biological parameters and mix in the fishing grounds. Additionally, western Baltic Sea herring migrates here. Because of insufficient data for assessment of particular populations which form the stock, ICES considers the herring stock in sub-areas 25-29+32 as one assessment unit.

The share of naturally spawn salmon has increased as compared with stocked salmon. In 2006, salmon landings were estimated at 242.000 individuals as compared with 341.000 individuals in 2005.

The stock of naturally spawn salmon in large rivers is good, but it is poor in many smaller rivers². In the recent years high mortality of smolts after their migration to the sea has been observed.

ICES recommends to reduce catches and fishing effort in 2008 for all types of fisheries, but does not mention a specific TAC.

Conclusion

The eastern Baltic **cod stock** condition is poor and a quick recovery of the stock can hardly be expected with intensive exploitation, despite an abundant generation in 2003 and probably in 2004. The present Baltic environment condition is supporting high sprat stocks, but does not favour cod stock.

Sprat stock is rather intensively exploited, and both catches and biomass of the restocking herd are based on 2 generations. If two or three non-abundant generations occur, the stock may collapse. This did not happen in the last 20 years, a non-abundant generation being generally followed by a very abundant one. In the context of low cod stock this contributed to good sprat stock and catches.

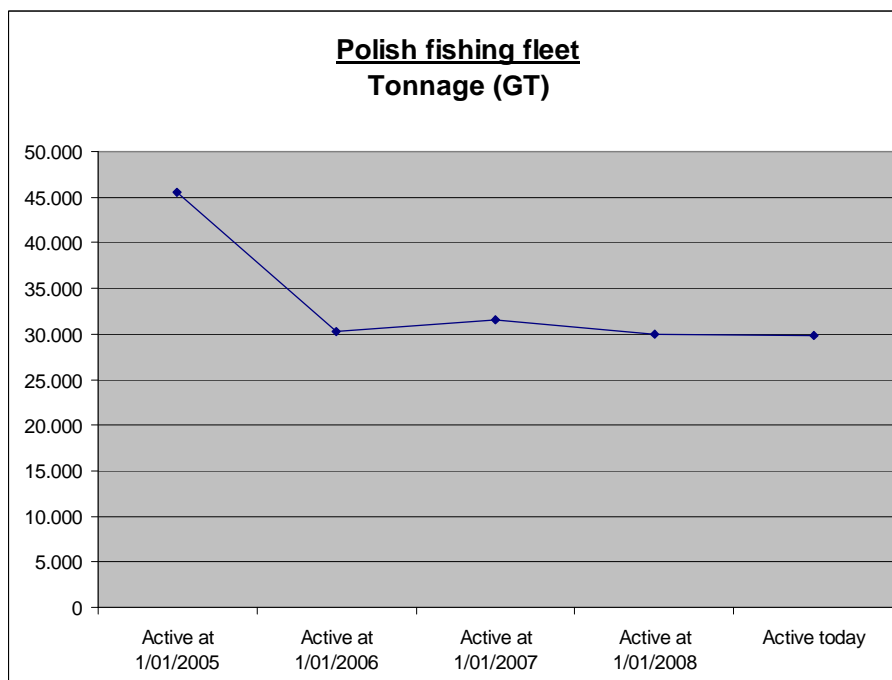
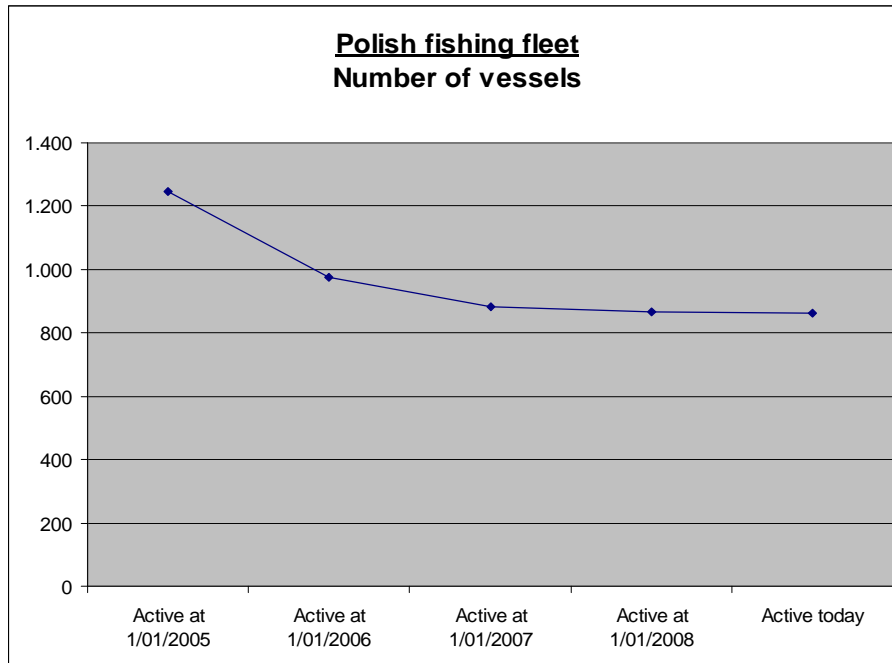
After a drop to a very low level in the late nineties, the **herring stock** is recovering and now is close to the average value.

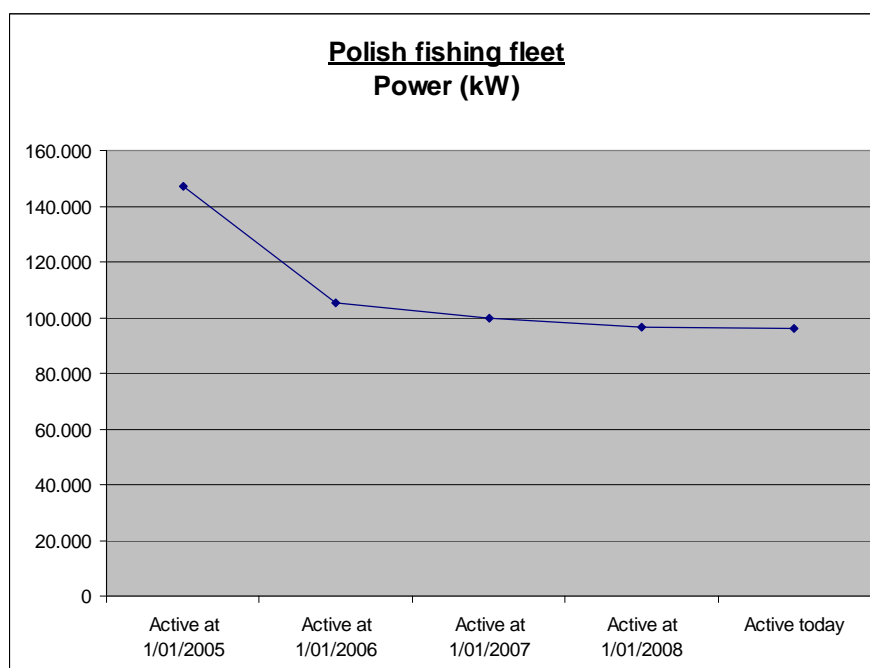
² An ambitious plan of the former Baltic Commission (SAP) supposed the production of natural salmon in each "salmon" river to be at the level of at least 50% of potential river production, but it will not be implemented.

1.1.2. Situation of the fleet and catches

The Polish fleet consists of two main segments: the Baltic fleet (which constitutes the great majority of the fleet) and the long distance fleet. It was reduced in recent years following the implementation of the FIFG for the 2004-2006 period.

In June 2008, it had a total of 861 vessels, with a total tonnage of 29.833,29 GT and a total power of 96.239,7 KW.





Source for the three graphs: European fishing vessels register

At the end of 2007, the repartition by segments was as follows.

Table 1: Repartition of the Polish fleet by segment

Segment	2007		
	Number	kW	GT
Net, other passive <12	567	24 150	2 779
Hook and line 12-<24	13	1 279	285
Net 12-<24	76	9 843	2 516
Bottom trawlers 12-<24	92	18 794	4 065
Bottom trawlers 24-<40	31	9 620	3 450
Pelagic trawlers 24-<40	48	20 855	7 653
Deep-sea trawlers	4	18 415	21 276
Non-active	39	2 077	486
Total	870	105 232	42 510

Source: SFI

A The Baltic fishing fleet

a) The fleet

Since Poland's accession to the EU, the Polish Baltic fishing fleet has been considerably reduced with regard to both the number and tonnage of fishing vessels. At the end of 2007, the Baltic fishing fleet counted 866 vessels with a total tonnage of 21.234 GT and a total power of 86.617 KW. The average age of the fleet was 26,7 years.

This reduction was primarily due to the implementation of the fishing vessel scrapping programme. Between 2005 and 2007, 404 fishing vessels with a total tonnage of 15.800 GT and power of 53.400 kW engaged in fishing in the Baltic Sea were withdrawn, making use of state aid.

The largest relative scale of reduction concerned bottom trawlers 20-24 metres in length (VL2440 DTS)³. This segment decreased by 58%, with 43 vessels withdrawn for a total tonnage of 4.400 GT. The bottom trawlers 12-24 metres in length (VL 1224 DTS) was reduced by 35%, with 49 vessels withdrawn for a total tonnage of 2.100 GT.

Table 2: State of the Baltic fishing fleet in 2004 and 2007

Segment	May 2004				December 2007				2007/2004			
	No	GT	kW	age	No	GT	kW	age	No	GT	kW	age
VL0012 PG	771	3 608	31 196	21,0	561	2 765	23 893	22,5	-27%	-23%	-23%	7%
VL1224 DTS	141	6 203	25 802	37,0	92	4 123	19 090	37,2	-35%	-34%	-26%	1%
VL1224 DFN	119	4 337	15 492	38,2	73	2 457	9 573	39,8	-39%	-43%	-38%	4%
VL1224 HOK	19	529	1 972	42,2	15	326	1 442	45,6	-21%	-38%	-27%	8%
VL2440 PTS	80	11 723	33 047	26,2	47	7 680	20 653	26,8	-41%	-34%	-38%	2%
VL2440 DTS ¹	74	7 754	20 229	33,0	31	3 346	9 452	35,0	-58%	-57%	-53%	6%
OTHER ²	70	2 865	9 271	28,1	47	537	2 515	23,8	-33%	-81%	-73%	-15%
Total	1274	37 020	137 008	26,1	866	21 234	86 617	26,7	-32%	-43%	-37%	2%

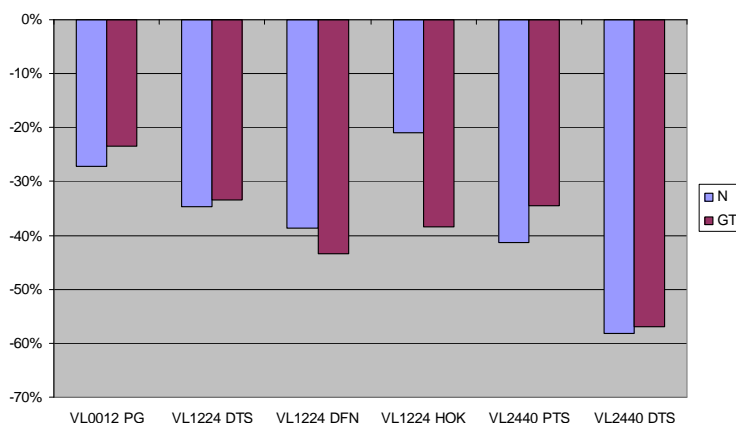
¹in 2004, including 24-40 vessels fishing with the use of nets (20 units)

²including non-active vessels

- VL0012 PG fishing boats up to 12 metres fishing with standing line
- VL0012 DTS fishing boats up to 12 metres fishing with active gear
- VL1224 DTS bottom trawlers from 12 to 24 metres in length
- VL1224 DFN vessels from 12 to 24 metres in length fishing with standing nets
- VL1224 HOK vessels from 12 to 24 metres in length fishing with hooks
- VL2440 PTS pelagic trawlers more than 24 metres in length
- VL2440 DTS bottom trawlers more than 24 metres in length

SOURCE: Sea Fisheries Institute

Graph 1: Change in the number and tonnage of vessels in particular segments between 2004 and 2007



b) Catches by the Baltic fleet:

³ Changes in the number of vessels in particular segments are also the result of vessel movement between the segments. A vessel was assigned to a particular segment based on the number of fishing days with specific gear in a given year. According to methodology CR 1639/2001.

The main fish species caught by Polish fishers in the Baltic Sea are: cod, salmon, herring, sprat, flounder and sea trout. In 2007, catches of those species constituted more than 90% of the total Polish catches in the Baltic Sea. The most economically valuable fish are cod and salmon.

Table 3. Baltic catches by primary fish species (tons)

Species	2006	2007	Ratio 2007/2006
Sprat	55 946,1	60 145,7	108
Herring	20 653,8	22 087,4	107
Cod	15 091,3	22 971,6	133
Flounder	9 429,7	10 694,5	113
Roach	985,0	1 095,9	111
Perch	702,4	855,5	122
Bream	670,3	681,5	102
Pike perch	191,3	286,6	150
Skarpie	98,8	91,1	92
Salmonidae ^a	620,1	578,8	93
Other	494,0	300,8	61
Total	104 882,7	119 789,4	115

^a salmon and sea trout

Source: Own calculations based on SFI and MARD data or Commission data.

c) Catches by type of vessels in the Baltic fleet

Table 4: Catch of selected fish species by vessel segments, 2007 (tonnes)

	COD	HER	FLE	SPR	OTH	Total
VL0012 PG	2 723,5	2 355,6	4 031,0		3 229,1	12 339,1
VL1224 DTS	2 499,2	1 282,2	2 788,6	464,1	251,1	7 285,3
VL1224 DFN	1 909,1		706,2		313,8	2 929,1
VL1224 HOK	309,1		40,3		7,8	357,3
VL2440 PTS	1 924,4	18 125,9	1 625,0	56 428,4	45,7	78 149,5
VL2440 DTS	1 592,8	323,6	1 494,2	2 536,3	29,2	5 976,0
Not distributed	11 000,0					
Total	22 958,1	22 087,4	10 685,3	59 428,7	3 876,7	107 036,2

Source: Sea Fisheries Institute + DG MARE

- The bottom trawlers 24-40 metres segments (VL2440 DTS) is engaged in fishing multiple fish species, the pelagic fish dominating (herring and sprat – 47% in 2007), but also fishing a significant number of ground fish: cod (27%) and flounder (25%). Most of these vessels' fishing effort, as expressed in days, is however orientated at cod fishing (over 70% in 2004, reduced to around 60% in 2007).
- The bottom trawlers 12-24 metres segment (VL1224 DTS): in 2004 the dominating species was cod (40%) and flounder (28%). In 2007 the share of cod fishing decreased slightly and was equal to 35%, whereas that of flatfish increased (38%).

- o Another two vessel segments target much more cod, i.e. vessels 12-24 metres in length fishing with static gears (VL1224 DFN), where cod catches account for 65% of the fish caught, and long liners vessels 12-24 metres in length (VL1224 HOK), for which cod catches represents around 90% of the fish caught (2007).

Given the above, the fishing fleet reduction should be targeted at these three vessel segments which have the highest share of cod in fish catches.

Apart from scrapping vessels that are focussed on fishing for cod, one of the most important measures aimed at adapting the Polish fishing fleet to the present conditions is modernising vessels aimed at fishing for pelagic species such as herring and sprat. The basic aim of modernisation should be to increase the quality of fish raw material by switching from the traditional system of chilling in ice boxes to chilling in refrigerated sea water (RSW).

Given the above, the modernisation will mainly concern the pelagic Baltic fleet which is obsolete and needs to be up-graded.

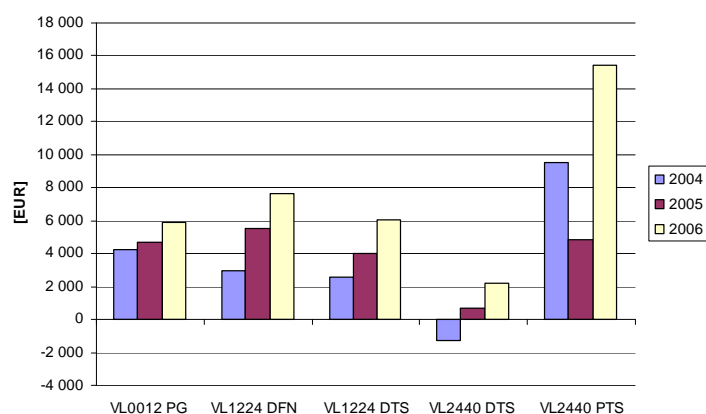
The **value of landing** of Baltic catches in 2006 was PLN 164 million (EUR 42 million), 5% higher than the value of catches of 2005. The Gross Value Added (GVA) of Baltic fisheries was PLN 74 million (EUR 19 million) in 2006, 38% higher than in 2005. This improved productivity was especially noticeable in the pelagic trawler segment (VL2440 PTS), where the value added was more than doubled in 2006. This is the result of the higher catch limits received by these vessels in 2006 and the increase of prices of pelagic fish, especially sprat intended for fish meal. Other segments, in particular the segments of greater vessels, improved their economic results as well. However, the added value per person employed in most of the segments remained of a very low level (EUR 6.000-8.000). Pelagic trawlers again were the exception, with a GVA per person three times higher. The Gross Cash Flow also improved, increasing the sector's ability to face its financial obligations.

Table 5: Gross Value Added and Gross Cash Flow of the Baltic fleet (in EUR), 2005-2006

Segment	Indicator		2005	2006
VL0012 PG	GVA		6 462	7 626
	GCF		4 505	5 403
VL1224 DFN	GVA		2 551	3 377
	GCF		1 205	1 940
VL1224 DTS	GVA		1 818	2 183
	GCF		576	812
VL2440 DTS	GVA		205	583
	GCF		-510	-14
VL2440 PTS	GVA		2 414	5 418
	GCF		-939	2 415
TOTAL	GVA		13 450	19 186
	GCF		4 837	10 556

Source: Sea Fisheries Institute

Graph 2: Value added per person employed in Baltic fisheries, 2004-2006



Source: Sea Fisheries Institute

B. The long-distance fleet

At present, the Polish long-distance fleet consists of four vessels. The capacity and the power of these vessels amount to 21.276 GT and 18.415 kW.

The long-distance fleet has developed the technology of catching krill, which is very popular on the market. In addition, Poland fully masters the processing technology and possesses patents for the production of krill meat, which allows to reach a high quality of production and high value added. In 2004, the catches of the long-distance fleet (19.722 tons) were mainly concentrated in the Atlantic, of which 45% concerned krill caught in the Antarctic. However, the share of krill fishery decreased to approximately 31% of the 25.591 tons caught in 2007.

White fish and pelagic fish are caught in the NAFO, NEAFC and Svalbard areas. The increase of the catches between 2004 and 2006 were mostly a result of exchanges of fishing possibilities concluded by enterprises with partners from other EU Member States. Due to the continuing reduction of available fishing quotas in these areas, the Polish long-distance fleet had to face the restructuring of its fisheries activities in the Northern Atlantic and to envisage the transfer of its main activity in Western Africa and Southern Pacific, where historically the Polish fishing fleet used to operate. In order to address those needs and to achieve better economic effectiveness, a fleet restructuring will be necessary.

Table 6. Catches by species of the long-distance fleet (tons).

Species	2004	2005	2006	2007	Ratio 2004/2007	% of 2007 catches
Krill	8 967	4 368	5 412	7 862	88%	31%
Redfish	2 950	2 410	4 486	1 981	67%	8%
Cod	1 451	1 081	901	822	57%	3%
Stocker	4 062	798	40	?	-	-
Shrimp	1 302	588	469	247	19%	1%

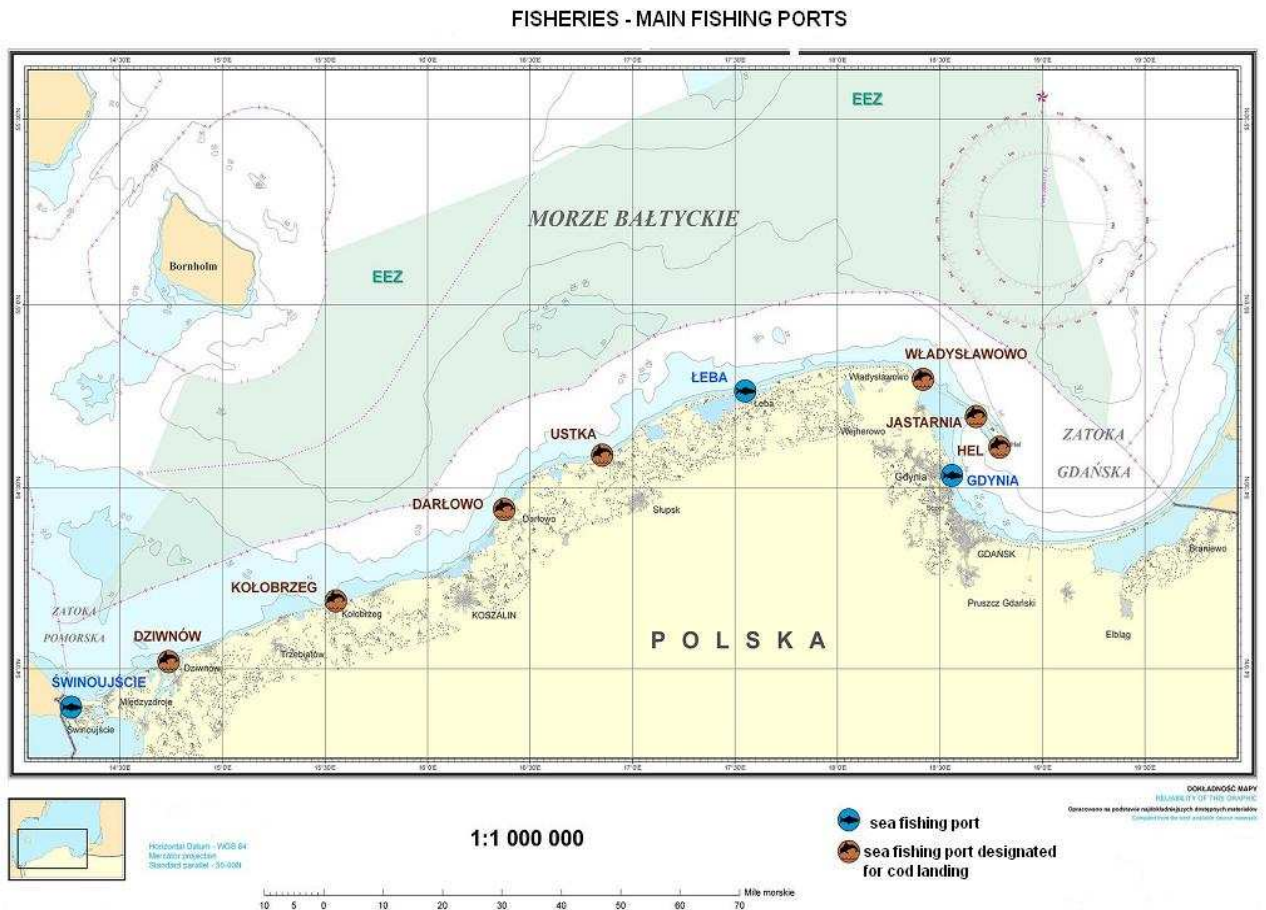
Blue whiting	345	-	3 891	7 573	2 195%	30%
Herring	150	1 081	1 525	3 154	2 103%	12%
Other	495	1 680	3 752	3 952	798%	15%
TOTAL	19 722	12 002	20 476	25 591	130%	

Source: Sea Fisheries Institute (SFI) and for 2007, own calculations based on SFI and MARD data

1.1.3. Sea ports, shelters and landing sites

There are 74 designated fishing ports, shelters and landing sites in Poland. Nearly half of this figure consists of landing sites located on the beaches. They are usually poorly equipped and need substantial improvements and modernisation.

Localisation of the main ports on the Polish coastline at the Baltic Sea.



Among the Polish ports 7 have been designated for cod landing: Władysławowo, Jastarnia, Hel, Ustka, Darłowo, Kołobrzeg, Dziwnów (see map). They are used by vessels with more than 750 kg of live weight cod on board.

Ten fishing ports are of particular significance for the fishing vessels. These are:

- 1) West coast: Świnoujście, Dziwnów;
- 2) Mid coast: Kołobrzeg, Darłowo, Ustka, Łeba;
- 3) East coast: Władysławowo, Jastarnia, Hel, Gdynia.

The five most important ports in terms of landings, number of fishing boats served and level of equipment are: Władysławowo, Kołobrzeg, Darłowo, Ustka, and Hel. The companies owning the long-distance fleet are located in Gdynia and Warsaw. The long-distance fleet is served at foreign ports.

89 % of the total landings are carried out in the Mid Coast and East Coast. 74% of the total landings are carried out in five main ports mentioned above.

Most Polish ports are shallow and their depth at wharves ranges from 1.5 m to 5 m, which is particularly the case of ports located in the Szczecin and Vistula lagoons. The deepest ports are: Kołobrzeg (6.5-7.3m), Ustka (4.5-5.5m), and Darłowo (3.5-5.5m). The length of the quays is sufficient to ensure mooring of the fleet. However, in many of the main ports, there is a serious need to improve the quality of the infrastructure and the equipment (cranes, cooling/freezing and storage facilities, etc).

Fishing ports are being used increasingly for tourism and recreation purposes. They provide different types of seasonal services such as passenger transport, water sports, tourist trips, recreational fishing, etc. Small ports and beach quays are part of the cultural heritage of the Baltic coast and form a tourist attraction.

In the annexed table, see the landings by species and by harbour.

1.1.4. High education and research institutions

In Poland, there are four main scientific and educational institutions involved in fisheries. These are: Akademia Morska and Akademia Rolnicza in Szczecin, Uniwersytet Warmińsko- Mazurski in Olsztyn and Uniwersytet Wrocławski. These institutions provide an important training and scientific basis for the fishery sector.

There are also two major research institutions: the Sea Fisheries Institute located in Gdynia and Inland Fisheries Institute located in Olsztyn.

1.1.5. Employment in marine fishing

According to the data gathered from the study "Employment in the fisheries sector: current situation (FISH/2004/4)" commissioned by the EC, the total employment in marine fishing for the year 2005 was 3.500 fishers. The trend observed in

employment in marine fishing shows a sharp decrease compared to the year 1995 (9.400 people employed) and 2003 (4.500 people employed). This drop is partially explained by the important reduction of the long-distance Polish fleet.

In conclusion, Poland should seek to:

- Adopt and implement a Fishing Effort Adjustment Plan in order restructure the Baltic fleet, including the implementation of accompanying socio-economic measures.
- Modernise the Polish fleet to increase its competitiveness and improve working, safety and hygiene conditions.
- Modernise the infrastructure of the ports used by fishermen for landing catches, as well as the supporting infrastructure with relevant equipment and installations.
- Modernise fishing gears for greater selectivity and introduce more environmentally friendly fishing methods.

1.1.6 Fuel crisis and its impact on the economic conditions of the Polish fisheries sector

The Polish Fisheries Sector is facing an ever growing economic and social crisis

The international oil price has more than quintupled from \$20 per barrel in 2002 to over \$130 per barrel by mid-May 2008. The general trend shows no signs of stopping in the medium terms.

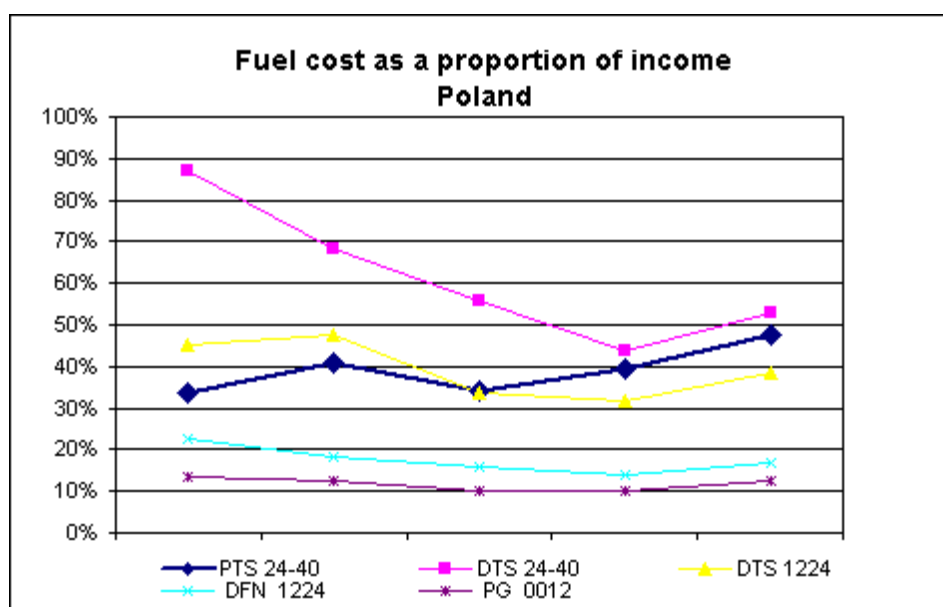
It appears to be a structural problem since it is not likely that those high fuel prices will go down significantly, and on a lasting basis, in the future.

It is estimated that in 2004 EU fleets spent on fuel, i.e. roughly 12-15% of the value of landings, with prices ranging between 0.25-0.38 €/litre. Now the fuel price is substantially higher. At current price levels, fuel costs would be above 30% of the value of EU landings.

Poland doesn't escape from this fuel price crisis. For a large part of the Polish fleet, the fuel cost weights on the incomes and represents, in average, more than 35 %. This situation is not new, but the recent price flaming, affect deeply the fishing economy.

Table : Evolution of the fuel cost per fleet segment in Poland

Fleet segment	<i>fuel costs 2004</i>	<i>fuel costs 2007</i>	<i>estimation fuel costs 2008</i>	<i>fuel costs/income 2004</i>	<i>fuel costs/income 2007</i>	<i>estimation fuel costs/income 2008</i>
PTS 24-40	5,52	5,04	6,08	33,82%	39,43%	47,57%
DTS 24-40	2,54	3,22	3,89	86,99%	43,75%	52,78%
DTS 1224	2,19	2,22	2,68	44,97%	31,96%	38,56%
DFN 1224	0,9	1,02	1,24	22,50%	14,01%	16,91%
PG 0012	1,26	1,18	1,43	13,25%	10,19%	12,29%



Source: EC DG MARE

An estimation of fuel costs as a proportion of income shows that the segments most affected are the towed gears (e.g. trawlers) which tend to have engines with large engine power. This is not surprising as there is ample empirical evidence that for these fleets there is a high degree of negative correlation between profitability and the prevailing fuel prices. Fuel costs in some cases represent up to 50% of the landing value. These businesses cannot therefore be viable economically under the present conditions. Greater energy efficiency can alleviate the problem partly but will in most cases not be sufficient. The impact on vessels using passive gears (e.g. traps, gillnets, long-lines) is significantly less given the nature of their fishing operations.

The rise in fuel price has put a very heavy pressure on the harvesting sector, exacerbated by the fact that the fishing fleet have low catch opportunities compared to previously when larger catch quotas were available. It is likely that the current global climate of high oil prices and the credit crunch phenomena will continue to squeeze the margins and the liquidity of fishing operators. Some adaptations are taking place, including voluntary scrapping of vessels and a move towards fishing methods which are less demanding on fuel.

In the context of the economic situation described above, it will be also necessary to introduce additional aid measures i.e. investments on board of fishing vessels allowing reduction of fuel consumption, as well as modernisation works on vessels.

1.2. Aquaculture and fish farming

Aquaculture and fish farming in Poland cover mainly fresh-water fish species (mostly carp and trout). Aquaculture of marine fish has so far not been the subject of large-scale commercial activity. There are two main types of activities: the production of freshwater stenothermic fish (carp) and production of freshwater cryophilic fish (mainly rainbow trout).

In Poland, out of an estimated pond surface of 70,000 ha, only about 50,000 ha (70%) is exploited. According to the data of the general agricultural census of 2002, over 10,000 farms declared aquaculture as one of their agricultural activities, although this is not a core activity for most of them. The farms are located in various regions all around the country. In most of the cases, fish is farmed in surface water, the quality and amount of which significantly limits the kind and volume of fish production.

Around 600 farms carry out aquaculture for commercial purposes, of which 400 specialise in carp production. The other farms carry out trout aquaculture. Striving to diversify their activities, over 50% of all farms are involved in aquaculture of more than one fish species (e.g. tench, big head carp and silver carp, grass carp, sturgeon, river trout, brook trout, lake trout and sea trout, Atlantic salmon).

Between 32,800 and 35,000 tonnes of farmed fresh water fish are supplied every year to the domestic market. The volume of the annual production depends on several elements such as the temperature of the water, the quantity and monthly distribution of precipitation, the ponds exposure to the sun, the cost of feed purchase, the sale price of fish, fish diseases and the amount of damage caused by animals feeding on fish. Despite the constant improvement in the sanitary and veterinary conditions in farms, farmers still battle against various epizootics in their farm practice, including new and not well-known diseases. The situation should improve due to the implementation of programmes aimed at the control of fish diseases, developed by veterinary services for the whole areas where fish is farmed. However, the effectiveness of the activities adopted under the programmes depends on the results of co-operation between fish farmers and veterinary services.

Data on employment in farms are difficult to gather due to the fact that numerous farms are family businesses and the production is of a seasonal nature. Taking into account the structural nature of unemployment in rural areas, jobs in the farms are very important for local communities and should be supported.

The production of the aquaculture sector has been fairly stable since 2002, although a shift from carp production to trout is evident.

Table 7. Freshwater fish production (excluding stocking material, in '000 tons)

Year	Aquaculture				Commercial lake fishing	Angling (E)	Freshwater fish total
	total	carp	Trout	other			
2002	33,9	20,1	11,8	2,00	3,42	18,2	55,5
2003	35,0	19,5	13,5	1,93	3,44	18,3	56,8
2004	34,8	18,3	14,6	1,81	3,12	16,6	54,5
2005	36,1	18,3	15,7	2,04	2,99	15,9	54,9
2006	34,6	15,6	17,1	1,96	2,81	15,2	52,7
2007 *	35,0	15,5	17,5	2,00	2,66	14,1	51,8
2008 **	35,5	15,6	17,9	2,01	2,50	13,2	51,4

*E: estimate based on IFI data * provisional data, ** forecast*

Source: Dane Instytutu Rybactwa Śródlądowego.

A. Carp:

Poland is the largest EU carp producer in quantity, with 15.575 tons produced in 2006. Virtually the whole production is for the national market. Carp is farmed in earth fishponds, using the natural production capacity of pond waters. The carp production in Poland is mainly extensive, which is favourable to the natural environment. Earth carp ponds are an important and valuable feature of the Polish traditional rural landscape and play an important role for the protection of biodiversity. They are multifunctional as they contribute to improving the quality of surface waters, serve as surface water storage reservoirs and provide a natural habitat for legally protected fauna and flora. In some regions of the country, Natura 2000 areas have been established due to the fact that within their boundaries, large complexes of earth carp ponds were localised, home to many of rare and valuable plant and animal species.

B. Trout:

The second most important type of farming activity is the production of fresh water cryophilic fish, mainly the rainbow trout. The great majority of trout farms are located in the north and south of Poland, in areas rich in clean and cool river and stream waters. The farming of these salmonidae takes place in concrete ponds and requires intensive production methods, such as the use of modern granulated feed and other technical measures for improving the living conditions of the fish.

The annual rainbow trout production is rising continuously. It is estimated that in 2006 it amounted to about 17.000 tons and there are reasons to think that there is a potential for further development of production and market. The stability of this development depends to a large extent on the opportunity to introduce new technological solutions and products.

C. Other species

More and more fish farms are diversifying their activity by expanding their production and introducing new species of fish and crawfish that are more in line with market

demand (e.g.: amur, sturgeon, atlantic salmon, noble crayfish, wels catfish, North African catfish, sea trout, pike) and by offering additional services (tourism, fishing grounds, fish processing, catering).

In conclusion, Poland should seek to:

- Ensure sustainable and further development of the freshwater aquaculture, in particular through the modernisation of existing units.
- Increase the production and promote the diversification towards other species, taking into account the trends of the market.
- Improve the profitability of the companies operating in the aquaculture sector through intensification of the existing production and introduction of modern technologies.

1.3. Inland fishing

The inland water area in Poland (natural and artificial, but excluding ponds) amounts to around 600.000 ha, including around 300.000 ha of lakes, 139.000 ha of rivers and streams, 55.000 ha of water reservoirs (over 20 ha of area), 40.000 ha of overflow land and old river beds. Most of these surfaces are publicly owned.

In 2005 around 3.500 tons of fish were caught in the surface water for commercial purposes, this figure dropped in 2006 to 2.870 tons of fish. Further decreases of this figure are expected in 2007 and 2008.

In inland waters, many valuable species (vimba, salmon, sea trout, vendace, whitefish, eel) are produced. The increased demand for restocking material contributes to the diversification of the range of species and the increase of fish production in farms.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Polish legislation, fishing in surface waters for commercial and recreational purposes may be carried out only by authorised persons and entities under a strict legal framework. With the increasing eutrophication of inland waters and in the light of recent scientific research, the nature of inland fishing activities is changing. The production of food becomes less important than the management of fishing resources for recreational activities.

The importance of recreational fishing in inland surface water is constantly increasing. It is estimated that in 2005 the catches from recreational fishing amounted to nearly 10.000 tons of fish, while in 2006 it was nearly 15.000 tons of fish. The number of anglers in Poland is estimated at 1.500.000 persons. The activities developed around recreational fishing have contributed to increase the income and create or maintain jobs in rural areas through the diversification of socio-economic activities, in particular in tourism..

The inland fishing sector employs around 1,650 people. Anglers associations have a large technical potential and are a major employer in the fisheries sector.

In conclusion, Poland should seek to:

- Develop inland fishing areas in a sustainable way
- Diversify the socio-economic fabric in those areas
- Improve the small fishing infrastructure

1.4. Processing of fisheries products

At the end of June 2008, 293 plants were in operation, of which about 80% were authorised to sell fish products on the European market. 53 were authorised to sell only on local markets. The number of processing companies increased between 2003 and 2007 by around 27% and the jobs created increased accordingly by 39%.

The turnover by size of company shows that the big companies employing more than 250 people represent half of the global turnover. The advantages of the Polish fish processing industry include relatively cheap workforce and skilled technological staff. Small companies focus their production on smoked and salted products, whilst larger companies produce more advanced and sophisticated products.

A. Production

Table 8: Number of fish processing plants authorised to sell on the European market (June 2008)

Size	Number of plants
>250 employees: 15	15
50-249 employees: 40	40
10-49 employees: 80	80
<10 employees: 105	105
TOTAL: 240	240

Source: Estimated by SFI.

The estimated final production of on-shore fish processing is illustrated in the table below. The data shows a regular increase since 2002 in both the volume and the value of the production.

Table 9: Estimated final production of on-shore fish processing

Production	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007 E	2008 E
Volume (thousands of tonnes)	273,2	274,0	309,1	348,2	398,2	430	450
Value (millions of PLN)	2.014	2.300	2.850	3.300	4.000	4.500	5.000

E - estimate

Source: Estimated by SFI.

Despite the fact that 24% of the FIG investments were targeted at the development and modernisation of the processing sector, there are still large needs to modernise further this section of the fisheries sector in Poland.

B. Employment:

According to Eurostat, the total employment in the processing sector was 15.114 people in 2005. There is a trend to increase the number of jobs in the processing sector, as illustrated by the table below.

Table 10: Number of people employed in enterprises having more than 9 workers

Year	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Total workforce	9.624	10.063	11.256	12.597	13.414

Source: SFI

In conclusion, Poland should seek to:

- Increase and modernise the production capacity through the introduction of new technologies and innovative production methods.
- Improve the quality and the range of products in order to adapt to the trends of the market and the availability of the raw material (cod) as well as increase the level of exports.
- Maintain the level of employment in this sector which is exposed to strong competition and needs a substantial restructuring.

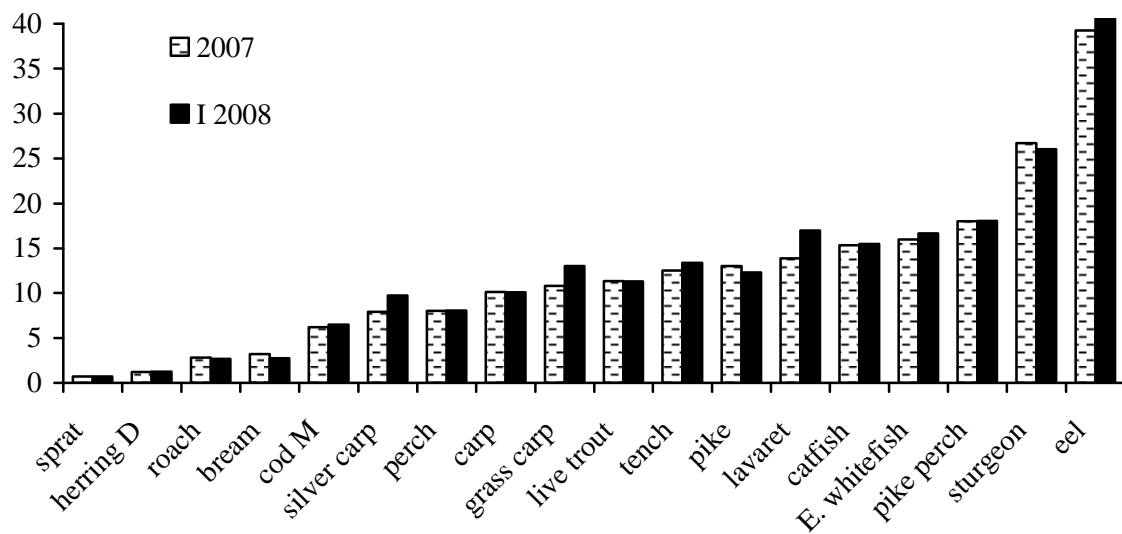
1.5. Marketing

The consumption of fish in Poland is low. In 2003, it amounted to an average of 8,6 per inhabitant, whilst the EU average was 21,4 according to Eurostat. However, it is growing regularly and reached 11,8 KG in 2006. The majority of fish consumed is sea fish (85%), the rest consisting of fresh-water fish (11%) and a small quantity of seafood.

A. Prices:

The following graph shows a relative stability of the prices during the last 4 years.

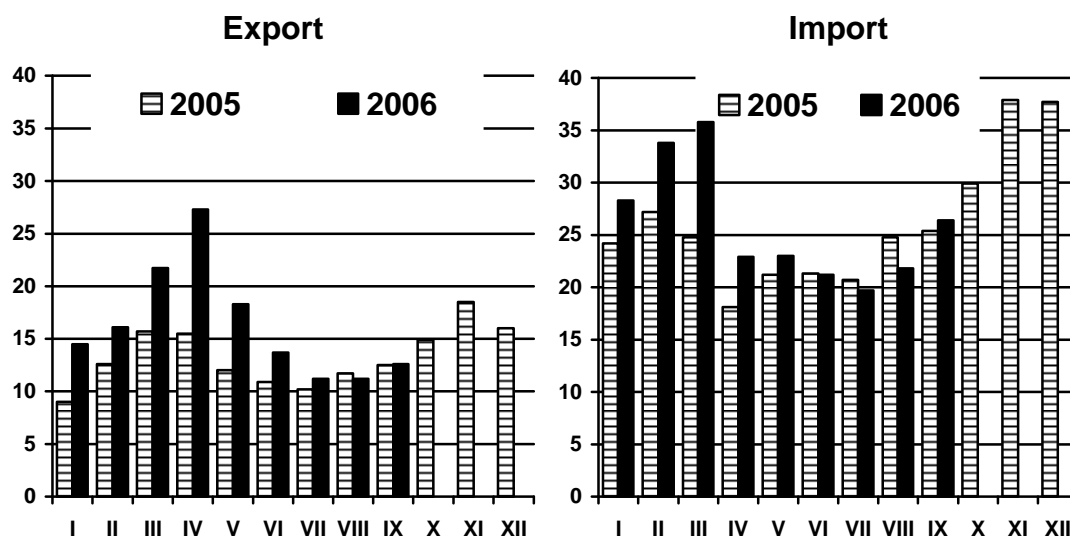
Graph 3. Fish first sale prices (PLN/kg)



Source: based on Fish Industry Magazine data.

B. Trade balance:

Graph 4: Foreign trade turnover: fish and fish products



Source: Drawn up by The National Research Institute of Agricultural and Food Economics on the basis of data from Foreign Trade Data Centre, Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Export and import of fish and fisheries products grew in 2006. It is estimated that import of fish amounted to 348,7 thousand tons in 2006, whilst the volume of export was 204,9 thousand tonnes. The value of sales from the export of fish and fish products amounted to around EUR 627,6 million. However, the cost of the imported fish and fish products amounted to EUR 708,3 million, leaving a negative trade balance of EUR 81 million (as compared to EUR 61 million in 2005).

Poland imports predominantly raw fish material for processing, and exports mainly processed products: canned fish, smoked fish, fish fillets and fish meat represented 92 % of the total value of all fish products sold abroad. The main importers of fish and fish products from Poland are EU countries.

The main raw materials used in processing are: herring, mackerel, salmon, white fish (cod). However, fishing activities in Poland cannot meet the demand of the fish processing sector, which is depending on imported raw fish material. This material is mainly imported from EFTA countries, followed by EU countries and developing countries.

In conclusion, Poland should seek to

- Increase the present level of consumption of fisheries products which is only around 60% of the EU average, in particular through marketing strategies and promotion campaigns.
- Monitor more closely the trends of the market.
- Develop the transparency of the market and improve the organisation of distribution network, including the necessary infrastructure.

1.6. Organisation of the fisheries sector in Poland

Fish producer organisations included in the register of recognised organisations kept by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development are of particular importance. These are important for the organisation of the market, as to allow a greater concentration of supply and an improved quality of the products, strengthening the position of producers on the market and contributing to the stabilisation of the market. Six recognised fish producer organisations have been entered in the register so far:

- Północnoatlantycka Organizacja Producentów Sp. z o.o. in Warsaw (North Atlantic Producers Organization PAOP) – recognised in 2003, association of ship-owners involved in deep sea fisheries,
- Krajowa Izba Producentów Ryb in Ustka (Polish Chamber of Fish Producers KIPR) – recognised in 2004, association of the Baltic Sea fishermen,
- Zrzeszenie Rybaków Morskich - Organizacja Producentów in Gdynia (Sea Fishermen Association – Producer Organisation ZRM-OP) – recognised in 2005, association of the Baltic Sea fishermen,
- Organizacja Producentów Rybnych Władysławowo Sp. z o. o. in Władysławowo (Fish Producer Organisation Władysławowo OPRW) – recognised in 2005, association of the Baltic Sea fishermen,
- Kołobrzaska Grupa Producentów Ryb Spółka z o. o. in Kołobrzeg (Fish Producer Group of Kołobrzeg KGPR) – recognised in 2005, association of the Baltic Sea fishermen,
- Organizacja Pracodawców – Producentów Ryb Śródlądowych in Toruń (Organisation of Employers - Producers of Freshwater Fish OP-PRŚ) – recognised in 2005, association of aquaculture producers.

A recognised producer organisation is obliged to elaborate an operational programme for each year, which is then subject to the Minister's of Agriculture and Rural Development approval. Such operational programme will specify the strategy of marketing, the fishing or production plan (depending whether it is an association of fishery or aquaculture products producers), special preventive measures to adjust the supply of species presenting problems as regards marketing during the fishing year, as well as fines given to the members of the organisation who violate decisions adopted in order to enforce such plans.

A recognised fish producer organisation is entitled to receive financial aid for elaborating an operational programme for a given year which is then approved by the Minister and can benefit from funding for measures taken on the market of fishery products.

Within the fisheries sector, fishers and vessel operators are also represented by social and trade organisations. These in particular include trade associations and unions.

There are also organisations of fish processors in Poland, the largest of which is the Polskie Stowarzyszenie Przetwórców Ryb PSPR (Polish Association of Fish Processors) whose mission is to represent the interests and concerns of the sector. The Association also aims at promoting fish consumption and at undertaking projects on fish processing technology, sanitary requirements and quality standards.

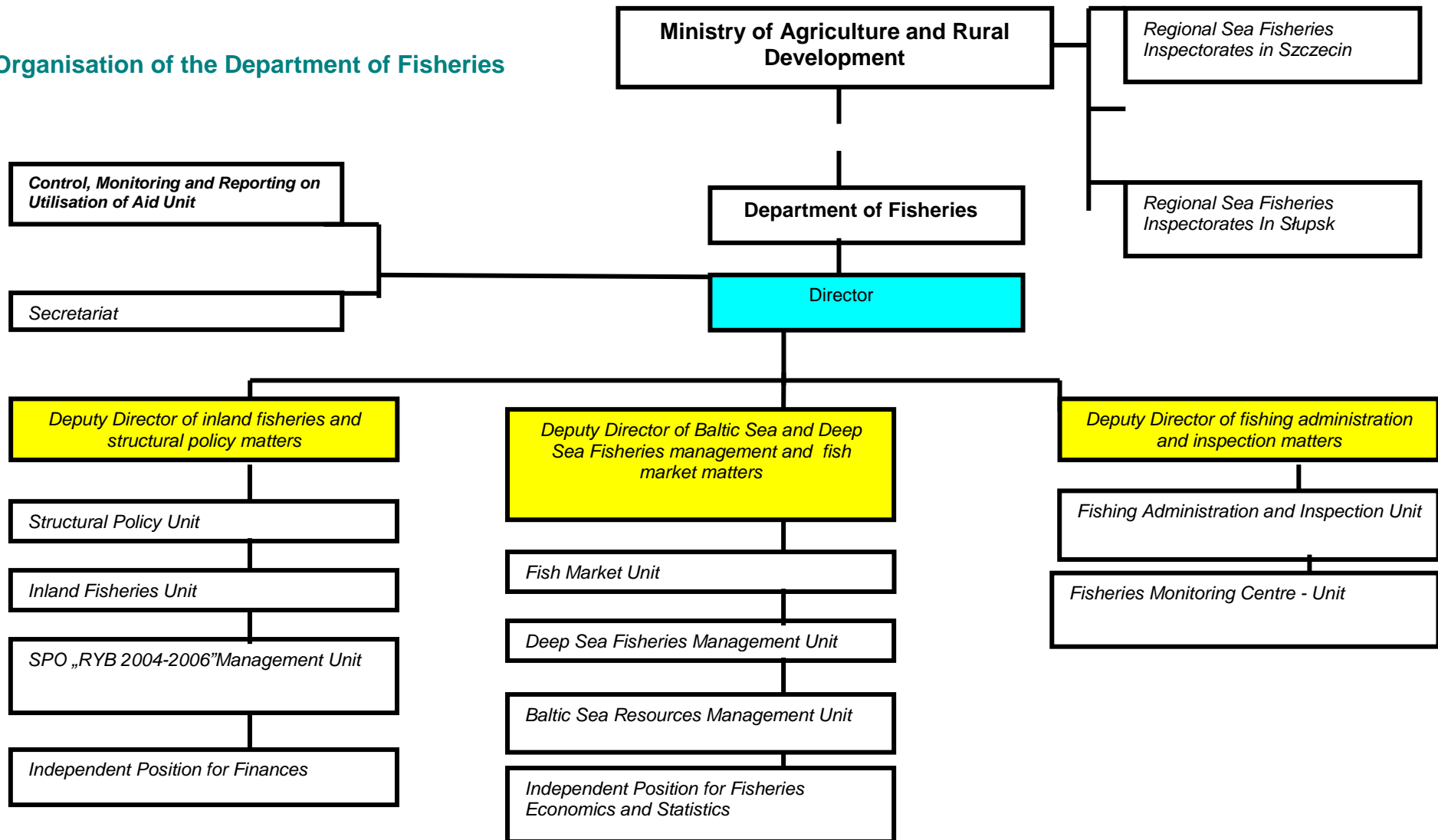
1.7. Organisation of fisheries administration in Poland

The number of staff employed in the fisheries administration in Poland amounts to 156 persons, out of which 106 persons represent the fisheries administration in the regions.

Key national legislation related to fisheries is as follows:

- Act of 22 January 2004 on the organisation of the fishery market and financial aid in fisheries (Dz.U.04.34.291, as amended);
- Ordinance of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of 18 September 2004 on the specimen sales note and specimen fish products take-over declaration (Dz.U.04.130.1392);
- Ordinance of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of 3 August 2004 on the procedure for keeping records of preserved and stored fish products (Dz.U.04.183.1889)
- Ordinance of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of 7 January 2005 on specimen application for granting financial aid and the types of documentary evidence of the expenses incurred for operational programme preparation (Dz.U.05.13.101).
- Ordinance of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of 4 October 2005 on specimen application for granting financial aid in fisheries filed by fish producer organisations and on documents enclosed with the application (Dz.U.05.205.1702).

Organisation of the Department of Fisheries



2. Main lessons learned from the implementation of the sectoral programme “Fisheries and fish processing 2004-2006”

Poland has benefited from financial aid for the fisheries sector under the Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance (FIFG) only since the date of its accession i.e. 1 May 2004. The co-financing of projects was set at the highest possible level permitted by the Council Regulation (EC) No 2792/99 of 17 December 1999 *laying down the detailed rules and arrangements regarding Community structural assistance in the fisheries sector* (OJ L 337 of 30.12.1999, p. 10). However practice showed, that the absorption rate of the EU funds was low. The reason should be sought mainly in the inadequate design of domestic legal provisions, which provided for complex and time consuming procedures for support applications, thus discouraging potential beneficiaries from submitting applications for co-financing under specific measures of the Sectoral Operational Programme „Fisheries and Fish Processing 2004-2006“ limiting the availability of this aid. Moreover, the technical and availability criteria for granting help were not precise enough, which gave grounds for interpretational doubts and got in the way of getting support by the beneficiaries.

Finally, it should be stressed, that low and inadequate share of co-financing in some of the measures was another factor discouraging applicants from implementation of projects under the Programme. Despite many difficulties, which both the beneficiaries and the administration had to face, 2007 saw a significant improvement of SOP's implementation. The progress in implementation was related mainly to the activities carried out by the administration, such as simplification of procedures and promotion. Also beneficiaries learned how to use the EU aid.

The situation by priority axis was as follows:

Priority 1. Adjustment of fishing effort to resources

The adjustment of fishing effort to the resources of the Baltic Sea was a priority measure under the Operational Programme over the period 2004-2006. Measures implemented under this priority achieved fully their planned objectives and contributed to a 40% reduction of the Baltic fleet. The procedures and criteria for granting support under this priority were defined reasonably clearly, which resulted in successful implementation of projects. Funds allocated to this objective totalled ca. EUR 96 million and all the funds were used.

Priority 2. Fleet renewal and modernisation

Under this priority, there were two measures singled out, of which Measure 2.1 „Construction of new vessels“ was not implemented at all, as the time which was left for its implementation was too short i.e. less than six months, counting from the date of Poland's accession to the EU, as the measure expired after 31 December 2004. Because of the above, the evaluation of this measure is not possible.

The other measure “Modernisation of the existing fishing vessels” raised a limited interest among beneficiaries. The main reason was that potential beneficiaries focused on measure 1.1 *Scrapping of fishing vessels* and the fact, that some of the

cutters had been modernised in the nineties. The design of measure 2.2, which provided that financial aid for modernisation of a vessel was granted only for projects related to improvement of work safety, hygiene and quality of fish products, and at the same time excluding help for purchase, replacement or repair of ships' engines or fishing gear, did not correspond to beneficiaries' expectations. Moreover the conditions of financing which allowed for refinancing of only 40% of investment (and a resulting necessity to take out loans for investments and pay interest) discouraged potential beneficiaries. As a result, most of implemented projects were of small value and consisted mainly of replacement of fishing vessels' equipment. The conditions of this measure were not adapted to the real needs of the fisheries sector.

Priority 3. Protection and development of aquatic resources, aquaculture and fish farming, fishing port facilities, fish processing and marketing, inland fishery

Implementation of five measures under priority 3 raised a great interest among potential beneficiaries, *Processing and fish market* being the most popular. Only measure *Protection and development of aquatic resources* encountered difficulties in the early stage of implementation due to the lack of a possibility to pre-finance investments and complex application procedures. However subsequent introduction of a pre-financing system and simplifications facilitating access to funds resulted in greater interest of potential beneficiaries in implementation of this type of investment.

Also measure 3.5 *Inland fishing* suffered from low interest of beneficiaries due to the narrow scope of aid. This was reflected in small allocation of funds for implementation of investments under this measure, and as a consequence the influence over implementation of priorities and objectives of SOP was marginal.

Priority 4. Other measures

Under this priority six measures were foreseen, of which measure 4.1 raised the lowest interest. The reason was the fact, that initially the principles of granting aid were not adapted to the EU provisions and the definition of eligible beneficiaries, i.e. operators of fishing vessels under 12 metres or fishers' families, was too narrow. After adaptation of the implementation rules to the European Commission's recommendations and a promotion campaign, the interest of beneficiaries increased, however the number of implemented projects was insignificant. Experience shows, that if not for the problems in the initial stage of implementation, the interest of potential beneficiaries would be much bigger.

Also beneficiaries implementing projects under measure 4.3 encountered problems. The scope of categories of eligible costs was too narrow and – according to the beneficiaries – the rate of reimbursement of costs was too low (40%).

Implementation of remaining measures did not encounter any significant difficulties which could influence absorption of EU funds and at the same time implementation of SOP.

However the experience drawn from their implementation will be a basis for implementation of similar solutions in the 2007-2013 perspective.

Priority 5: Technical assistance

Due to the absence of adequate administrative procedures and the changes of responsibilities occurred in the Polish administration, the FIGF funds allocated to the technical assistance for the implementation of the OP were not used. The staffing level was not increased within the authorities in charge of the implementation of the FIGF programme and in particular in the managing authority.

The legal and administrative national framework for the implementation of some Measures proved to be too heavy and complicated. As a consequence, the potential beneficiaries could not access easily the available funds.

Some problems occurred also concerning the payments towards the final beneficiaries due to the original design of the procedures put in place.

Other lessons learned:

From the above, it is evident that there is a need to reinforce significantly the administrative capacity of the managing authority of the EFF programme with additional and competent staff.

Furthermore, adequate administrative procedures will be put into place immediately after the approval of the programme in order to use fully the technical assistance available under axis 5, including using external expertise.

In order to improve the absorption of funds and the early start of the implementation of the OP, the information and communication measures for the EFF will be designed, implemented and financed already under FIGF programme. It is also necessary to optimise the use of experience gained by the staff of the FIGF OP Managing Authority in the design of EFF operations and their implementation.

Concerning the implementation of some key measures of the EFF programme, the MA is developing new administrative tools and revised procedures in order to simplify the legal, administrative and financial framework, and to enhance the overall efficiency of the control and management system.

3. Key context indicators for the description of the fisheries sector

Gross domestic product (2006)

- GDP: 261.650 billion Euro (1.046,6 billion PLN; 1 Euro = 4,0 zloty)
- Share of the fisheries in the GDP: 0,07%

Source: CSO

Employment figures by sub-sectors, male and female (2006)

- Marine fishing 3.409
- Aquaculture: 2000⁴
- Processing 16.438
- Inland fisheries: 1.650

Source: CSO

Polish fishing fleet (June 2008)

- 861 vessels
- Total tonnage: 29.833,29 GT
- Total power: 96.239,7 KW.

Source: MARD

Catches (2007)

- Sea: 133.380,4 tons
- Inland: 2.870 tons

Source: SFI

Aquaculture (2006)

- Total water area used: 70.000
- N° of fish farms: 600 (commercial)
- Production of aquaculture: 34.000 tons

Source: IFI, MARD

Processing

- Total n° of processing plants: 295 plants (March 2 008)

Source: SFI

⁴ Estimate for 2005. Source: "Employment in the fisheries sector: current situation". European Commission

Marketing

- Total quantity of fish consumed: 451.600 KG (2006)
- Average individual consumption in kg per capita: 11,83 kg (2006)

Imports

- Total quantity: **595 000 T (2007)**

Exports

- Total quantity: **320 000 T (2007)**

Consumption

- Quantity by year: **11 kg/per person / (2007)**

Source: SFI

4. SWOT analysis

Strengths:

- experienced and skilled fishers;
- relative low cost of labour;
- long tradition of Polish fishing sector, heritage basis;
- strong sectoral research basis;
- important water potential to develop aquaculture and inland fisheries;
- existence of market potential for fish and fish products;
- numerous ports and fishing shelters;
- diversity of natural resources and biodiversity;
- fishing fleet adapted to diversified fishing activity;

Weaknesses:

- obsolete and inefficient fishing fleet
- obsolete infrastructure or lack of it in ports and shelters;
- difficulty in mobilising the necessary financial resources for investment;
- lack of organised promotion system of fish and fish products;
- low attractiveness of the profession of fisherman;
- low diversification of economic activities in fishing areas;
- non-availability of fish for processing all over the year;
- obsolete equipment of some processing plants not meeting EU standards;
- poor distribution network for fisheries products;
- poor organisation of the sector and its representatives;
- low level of diversification of species bred in aquaculture

Opportunities:

- fishing fleet in need for restructuring and modernisation;
- low level of consumption of fish and fish products consumption;
- possibility of development of fishing related to the growing demand for leisure and recreation;
- market potential for new species and innovative fish products;
- modernisation of fishing ports, shelters and landing sites as a potential for tourism development;
- potential for the development of fresh water aquaculture production and diversification towards new species;
- distribution channels and logistic system improvement.

Threats:

- state of the main stocks targeted by the Polish fleet;
- deficient control of fisheries;
- high level of poaching;
- pollution of the natural environment;

- growing import of cheap and bad quality fisheries products from third countries
- increased competition on the EU market, especially in aquaculture;
- disease in aquaculture
- difficulties to find their own contribution for co-funding and pre-funding within the framework of the structural funds programmes
- lack of cooperation between local partners

5. Description of the environmental situation

5.1. The state of the environment:

A. Inland surface waters

The area of Polish inland waters (natural and artificial) is ca. 550.000 ha. The state of water resources is expressed as average annual outflow, which for Poland equals to 62 billion m³ (50 year average), but ranges from 48 m³ billion (2003) to 80 billion m³ (1999). In principle, the outflow of water from the territory of Poland takes place through two major drainage basins to the Baltic Sea: the Vistula and Odra rivers. The quality of river waters, in view of the requirements of Water Framework Directive is still unsatisfactory, however tending to improve. Only 7% of inspected waters have been classified as Class A water. 40% of waters are Class C, while 34% are Class B. Approximately 20% of waters are of low quality; however this figure is on the decline. The quality of lake waters is varied. Almost 50% of Polish lakes have been classified as Class B water. Only 3.3% of the inspected lake waters are Class A. However, 16.4% lake waters do not fit even in the lowest class. The majority of lake waters can be considered as threatened by rapid eutrophication due to anthropogenic factors.

B. Marine waters

The Baltic is a very shallow sea, with an average depth of 52 m and a surface area of 377.400 km². Polish marine areas amount to 32.400 km². The Baltic Sea is an inland sea connected to the North Sea by narrow and shallow straits, which hinder the inflow of salty oceanic waters to the Baltic Sea and the outflow of the Baltic waters to the North Sea. Due to low salinity, it is exceptionally poor biologically. Four species are of primary economic importance: cod, herring, sprat and salmon. The lack of inflow from the North Sea and decreasing salinity cause the decline in the volume of fish resources, which is further threatened by excessive exploitation.

The development of maritime transport resulted in approximately 60 new animal species appearing in the Baltic Sea (particularly fish and bivalve molluscs). They pose a threat to the biological balance and influence endogenous species.

C. Protected areas

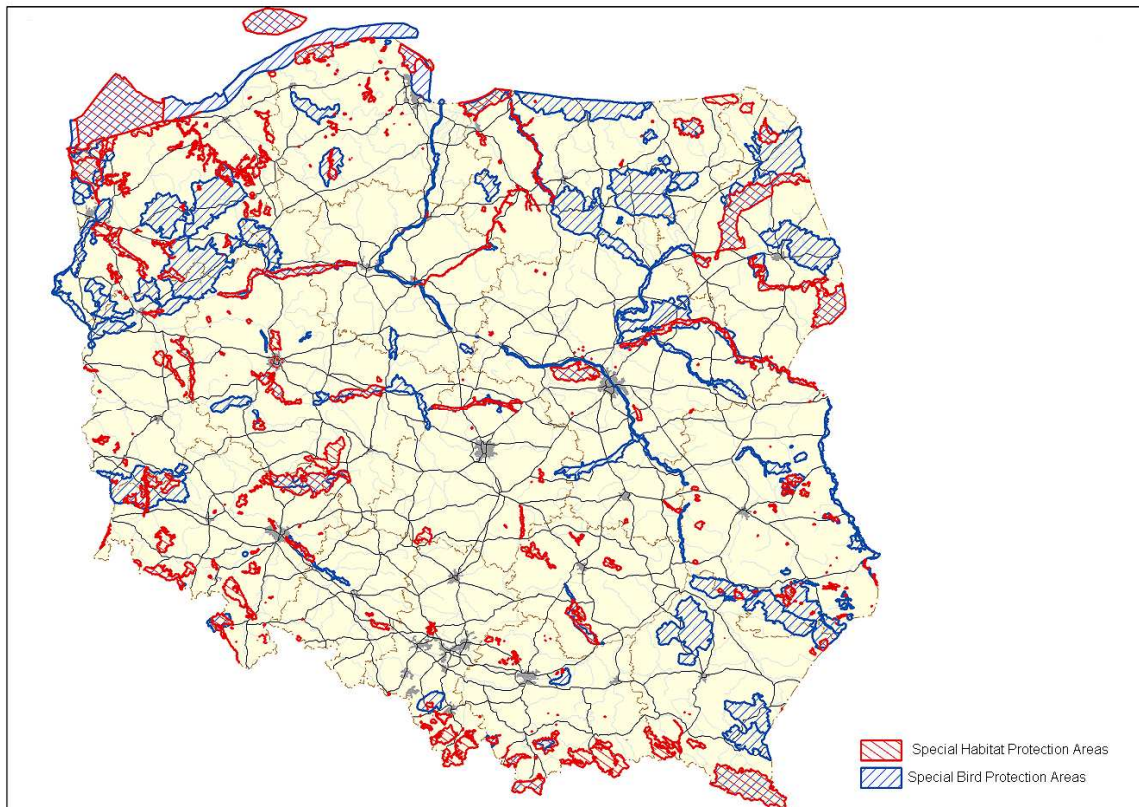
Protection of aquatic fauna and flora is an important element of environment protection. Establishment of European ecological network Natura 2000 will serve this objective. This initiative will help to preserve biodiversity of birds, plants and animals and to eliminate threats resulting from intensive fish farming.

So far there have been 107 special bird protection areas designated in Po (72 in 2004, 35 awaiting approval), including 2 marine areas, covering ca. 11.8% of the country (3 686 thousand ha), and 286 special habitat protection areas (including 2 marine areas), covering ca. 5.1% of the country (1586 thousand ha). There have

been 393 Natura 2000⁵ areas established in total, of which 9 special bird protection areas and special habitat protection areas have the same boundaries.

Within Natura 2000 network there have also been 3 marine areas for special bird protection (coastal Baltic waters, Lawica Slupska and Zatoka Pomorska) and 2 habitat protection areas designated.

The distribution of Natura 2000 areas in Poland is presented on the map below (as for July 2007)



Apart from Natura 2000 network, other vital instruments for the protection of nature in Poland are National parks and Landscape parks.

- National parks are areas protected due to their qualities, mainly natural, as well as special natural, scientific, social, cultural and educational values. In Poland, there are 23 national parks, with different types of protection.
- Landscape parks cover areas protected due to their natural, historical and cultural values, as well as landscape qualities, in order to preserve and popularise these values under sustainable development conditions. Running a business activity is possible in such areas, but only in a specified scope and under specified conditions. There are around 120 landscape parks in Poland, covering a total area of approximately 2.5 million ha.

⁵ Until May this year Poland has provided EC with information on designation of 286 proposals for habitat areas

Other protected areas include over 1300 nature reserves, 9 UNESCO-designated biosphere reserves and 13 Ramsar wetland sites.

5.2. Information on the procedure for conducting and consulting the SEA

Obligation to conduct a study on the influence of Program and Strategy on environment results from the Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 (OJ L 197, 21.7.2001) on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (the so-called SEA Directive - *Strategic Environmental Assessment*).

In the national legislation such obligation has been imposed by the Act of 27 April 2001 Environmental Protection Law (Dz. U. 2006 No 129 item 902 as amended) - Article 40 imposing the obligation to carry out *proceedings assessing the impact of the results of plans' and programmes' implementation on the environment*.

The objective of the environmental impact assessment of the Strategy and Programme was to evaluate and analyse the condition of the environment within areas affected by the programme and to analyse possible changes in the current condition of the environment in case the Strategy and the Programme were not implemented. The aim was also to analyse and assess the compliance of provisions formulated in the Strategy and Programme with the requirements and objectives of other strategic documents, including conventions and international treaties to which Poland is a party.

The draft of environmental impact assessment including the non-technical summary was submitted for public consultation between 30 July and 21 August 2007. The draft accompanied by information on public consultation and procedures on submitting comments was published on the website of the Ministry of Maritime Economy. Moreover, the information about consultation was distributed in the fishermen community and the printed version of the draft was made available to the interested parties at the Ministry's seat. The document was also submitted for consultation by national authorities competent for environmental issues.

Chief Sanitary Inspector did not comment on the draft, while the Minister of Environment submitted an opinion containing a number of comments.

5.3. Analysis and evaluation of environmental impact.

The assessment states that the implementation of the *Strategy for the Development of Fisheries 2007-13* in Poland will generally have a favourable impact on the environment. In order to achieve the positive balance of *environmental benefits and costs*, the Implementing Authority and future beneficiaries will have to ensure that the policy of *sustainable development of the sector* presented in the analysed documents, as well as environment-friendly criteria for selection of projects, will be applied consistently and without any exceptions.

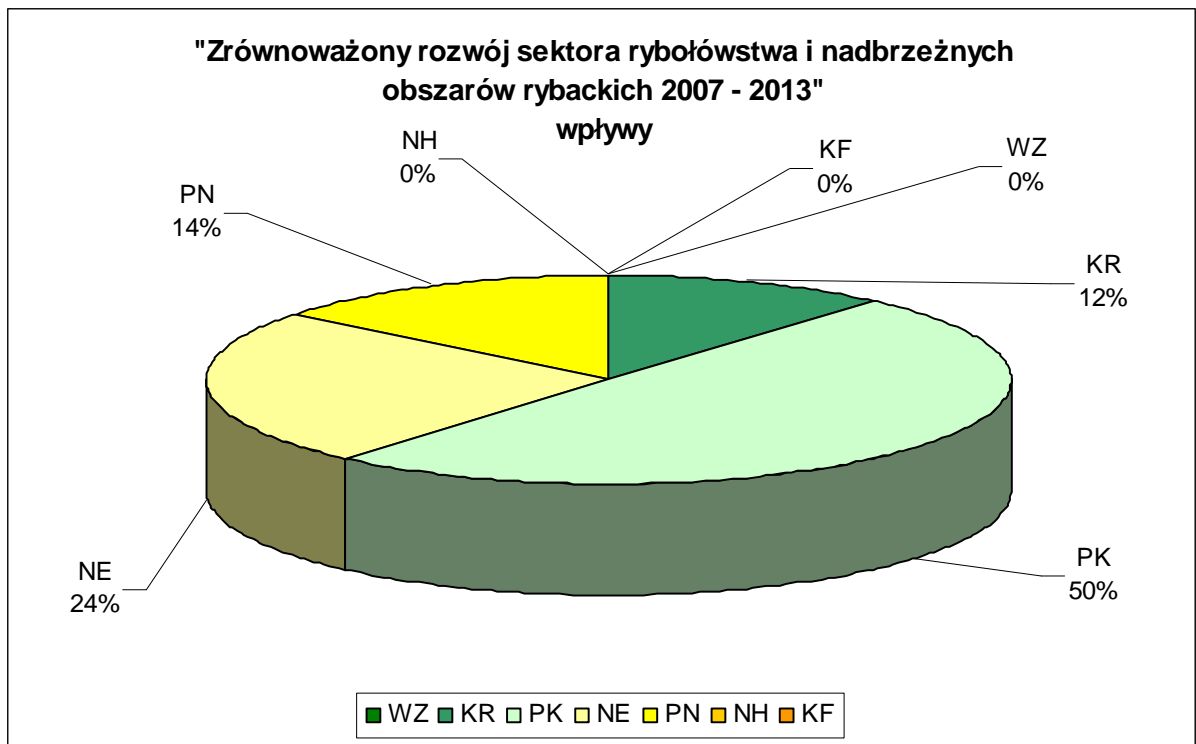
Investments, in particular construction investments - treated in the Polish law as undertakings which are likely to have significant impact on the environment - constitute only part of measures planned to be implemented under the Operational Programme. Others include undertakings of technical, systemic and institutional or socio-economic nature. In majority of cases it is possible to seek and choose locations which guarantee the smallest environmental damage. The analysis which has been carried out proves that the environmental impact of the majority of projects likely to be implemented under the *Programme* will not cause any significant environmental effects.

Taking into account the scale and type of possible projects one may conclude, that they should not have any measurable transborder impact, which according to the international law would require consultation with exposed countries.

Fisheries have significantly contributed and may still contribute to an excessive exploitation of the environment, especially due to the over fishing of industrial species in the past. Catches (that are not species selective) have a highly destructive impact on rare, endangered and protected species.

Inland fisheries may cause the risk of excessive exploitation of fish and fresh water crustaceans resources, and in the case of natural and artificial waters used for intensive fish farming, many additional impacts on the environment may occur such as air pollution, water pollution including pollution by eutrophic substances, waste, transformation of the land surface, noise, disturbance of water conditions, change of microclimate, breakage of natural links, land fragmentation and change of local species structure.

Graph 5. General environmental impact of the Operational Programme “Sustainable Development of the Fisheries Sector and Coastal Fishing Areas 2007-2013”



WZ- strengthening;
 KR – favourable,
 PK – potentially favourable,
 NE – neutral,
 PN – potentially negative,
 NH – negative/hindering.
 KF – conflict,

5.4. Conclusions and recommendations

The assessment states that the implementation of the objectives and priorities of the *Programme* to the extent and under conditions outlined in these documents should allow to reduce the broadly understood environmental effects. Particular significance is attached to the intention declared in both documents to apply the principle of *sustainable management of resources* in both marine and inland waters, on a day to day basis. This is a feature of the strategy for development of fisheries in Poland for the following years which is definitely positive and worth supporting.

Some unfavourable environmental impact will however be observed at the local and - to some extent - global level. Most of it seems acceptable as inevitable *environmental cost* of human economic activity. Before the final approval of the project to be implemented, it will be however necessary in some cases to define adequate and comprehensive measures limiting the environmental impact and - where necessary - measures compensating possible damage. This applies, in particular, to projects which will be proposed for implementation in the areas covered by Natura 2000. Running and setting up new businesses in these areas is not forbidden, however, it has to meet certain criteria, and it must not endanger any species or habitats that are under protection. Due to the fact that fisheries use living natural resources and actively influence them, one should consider the potential impact in this area as particularly significant.

At the same time it has been pointed out that although various environmental consequences of the implementation of the *Strategy* and the *Programme* seem inevitable, their geographical range would be relatively small. This applies in particular to changes in water quality, types and intensity of use of ponds and inland water for aquaculture and commercial catches and transformation of grounds in its immediate vicinity. The impact for marine environment should be generally positive as a result of lifting the pressure.

In summary, the following changes to the environment may be expected:

Negative impact:

- new sources of pollution, mainly sewage and organic waste;
- increased eutrophication of waters intensively used for aquaculture;
- changes to water balance/flooding in case of construction and extension of fish ponds;
- changes to spatial development structure (in each case of building large-space facilities);
- space fragmentation and creation spatial barriers, including barriers to animal migration (in case of hydro technical facilities and large-space fish ponds);
- changes to the species structure, disruption of trophic chain;

Positive impact:

- reduction of the fishing effort extended on the cod stock.

- reduction of the amount of waste discharged directly to the sea;
- improved effectiveness of energy and resource use;
- better selectivity of fishing, reduced losses;
- improved water retention;
- restoration and improvement of dilapidated facilities;
- diversification of food sources, reducing the pressure on production intensification in other sectors of agriculture and food industry

Not implementing the Programme would prevent Poland from meeting its obligations resulting from accession in respect of environment protection and fisheries. This would cause far-reaching economic and social degradation of areas dependent on sea fisheries, which would also trigger negative environmental effects. At the same time, the inevitable development of the inland fisheries sector – which, when managed adequately, could become a factor balancing the environmental effects and ensuring food safety of the country - would be hindered.

5.5. Recommendations for implementation.

The implementation of each of the objectives of the *Operational Programme* may impact the environment. While the majority of the proposed measures will trigger positive environmental effects, some of them may also bring about negative effects. It will be thus necessary to analyse the possibilities and methods of limiting the negative influence as well as the ways to compensate on a case-by-case basis.

The primary way to minimise the negative environmental impact is to choose the least conflicting locations for the investments as the scale of changes to the environment they trigger depends on local conditions to a very large extent. It is essential to consider the provisions of documents devised in the framework of the system for planning and programming the development on all levels: voivodeship, poviát and gmina.

In case of an investment consisting in reconstruction of existing facilities, particular attention should be paid to minimising its negative effects identified during their current operation. As to extending, modernising or reconstruction of facilities for aquaculture, it will also be necessary to analyse the present habitat conditions, particularly their significance to the operation of the Natura 2000 network. Protection plans will constitute an important instrument to protect habitats and species for which the system of Natura 2000 areas has been established. Measures taken within sea ports require analysis of the protection requirements of the Natura 2000 network, particularly as to their cohesion. Projects implemented within inshore sea waters and at the junction of port basins may constitute the most serious threat for the areas.

"Projects co-financed by the operational programme will fully respect the provisions of the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive, the Habitats and Birds Directives. Appropriate screening criteria will be applied at the selection stage of the projects to ensure that they are compliant with the above mentioned Directives. Co-financing of projects having negative impact on potential Natura 2000 sites (i.e. sites, that in the Commission's view need to be designated on 1/05/2004, but were not designated by Poland) will not be permitted."

Bearing in mind the extensive scope and in majority of cases also the irreversible nature of environmental changes taking place during the implementation of the investments under analysis, it is recommended that environment-friendly technical solutions are employed. It is equally important to technically secure the equipment and the construction site. In case complete avoidance of a given effect is impossible, environmental compensation should be provided for.

The authors of the study believe that consistency at the stage of project selection and implementation may lead to thorough reconstruction of the sector in a short time; the sector may become one of the most "environmentally friendly" branches of the Polish economy satisfying even the most sophisticated consumer needs.

The objectives of the Strategy and of the Operational Programme are also coherent with the provisions of the Common Fisheries Policy of the European Union, national programme documents and related legislation.

Environmental impact was generally divided into direct and indirect impact as well as positive and negative one.

The negative effects of the measures implemented under the Operational Programme pertain to such investments as construction and extending port infrastructure, fish and fish waste processing plants.

While the authors of the study explicitly stated that the threat of negative environmental impact may cover a relatively small area of the country, resignation from the Programme would first of all prevent Poland from meeting its accession obligation in respect of environmental protection and fisheries. This would cause a far-reaching economic and social degradation of areas linked with sea fishery, which would also trigger negative environmental effects. At the same time, the inevitable development of the inland fishery sector would slow down, which otherwise would become a sustainable factor balancing the environmental effects and ensuring food safety of the country.

5.6. The way the recommendations of the study and the suggestions of the Ministry of the Environment and the Chief Sanitary Inspectorate in the Operational Programme were followed.

- There were no comments from the representatives of the public as a result of social consultations.
- In order to define areas dependent on fishery and to carry out a general analysis on the correlation between the areas dependent on fishery and the NATURA 2000 network, maps of main clusters of aquaculture facilities, fishing industry and other branches of fisheries sector were enclosed. An effort has been taken to mark, with assistance of research institutions and local governments, the areas dependant on fishery with the use of established criteria. This will allow, at a subsequent step, for determining environmental conditions in those areas and, later, for adjusting region development strategy,

so to ensure that that environmental protection requirements are met and that areas belonging to the NATURA 2000 network are protected in the best possible way.

- As regards the suggestions enclosed in the study that are related to the investments potentially endangering the environment in the areas of the NATURA 2000, it should be stressed that according to the Act of 16 April 2004 on Environmental Protection (Dz. U. 2004, no. 92, item 880) planned project and changes to the approved plans as well as projected undertakings that are not directly related to protection of the Natura 2000 area or areas, or that are not arising from such protection and at the same time can significantly affect those areas, require certain procedures in order to assess the impact on the environment. In view of the above, activities harmful to the environment are not possible. If such activity is initiated without prior obligatory assessment of the impact of the investment on the environment, the local government will be obliged to terminate the works immediately;
- According to a suggestion of the Ministry of Environment, the data enclosed in the Operational Programme and concerning the NATURA 2000 areas in the territory of Poland were updated.
- The issue of protection of natural environment was extended over other protection instruments, primarily over national parks and nature reserves;
- The authors referred to Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy, or the so-called Water Framework Directive. The Operational Programme complies with all the regulations established by the Community that relate to environment protection.
- In order to prevent negative environmental impact indicated in the study, the Managing Authority will prepare model applications for financing in cooperation with other bodies involved in the implementation of the Operational Programme at the stage of planning and implementation of projects financed by the European Fisheries Fund. This is aimed to oblige the beneficiaries to choose investments and methods of their implementation in such a way as to reduce potential conflicts to unavoidable minimum as soon as in their initial stage. This mostly pertains to location of the investments, and avoiding Natura 2000 areas in particular.
- The criteria for Pilot Projects related to innovative measures aimed at protecting natural resources linked with water bodies have been elaborated in greater detail in the Operational Programme. Experience in aquaculture and expert opinions prove that pursuing extensive methods in a proper manner is conducive to protection of nature and prevalence of protected and unique plant and animal species.

5.7. Monitoring of environmental aspects related to implementation of the Operational Programme.

Environmental monitoring of the implementation of the Operational Programme will be conducted by the Managing Authority and Intermediate Bodies on an ongoing basis during the Programme's and projects' implementation within the framework of individual measures. Its purpose will be to identify adverse effects at an early stage

and to be able to undertake appropriate remedial actions⁶, especially as far as negative effects on environment listed in the section 5.3 are concerned. In order to strengthen the supervision over sea fisheries, the Control Action Plan and the Baltic Fleet Restructuring Plan were devised, mirrored in the Operational Programme. Those plans established the directions of fishery policy in Poland in view to protect the resources and to pursue sustainable fisheries.

Moreover, pursuant to domestic legislation, investors preparing investments which might have adverse effects on the environment (e.g. construction investments or investments in Natura 2000 areas) are obliged to carry out environmental impact assessment.

Scientific monitoring will be the basic instrument in this respect, consisting in ongoing analysis of data collected by experts on environmental protection and the fishery sector, particularly inland fishery. The level of resources, both in inland waters and in sea waters, will be analysed on an ongoing basis by authorised scientific institutions. This will facilitate the control and evaluation of changes to the size of fish population caught. This will be achieved through adequate indicators.

Financial support in the field of inland fishery shall not be granted if the implementation of the investment disturbs the balance between the level of fish resources in a given fishery area and the number, type and capacity of vessels used to catch fish. To that end, the managing authority will appoint scientific bodies authorised to assess the impact of the investment on fish resources available in inland waters. The result of the assessment will be based on the analysis of compliance and appropriateness of the investment from the point of view of a 10-year plan of sustained use of inland fish resources (the fishery requirement) that lists detailed rules and requirements for pursuing fisheries, including the use and protection of fish resources, in inland fishery areas. The assumptions of the plan of sustained use of inland fish resources are considered binding when they are approved by a scientific body authorised by the minister in charge of fishery.

Statistical data on environmental protection and fishery included in statistical yearbooks will also be used to periodically monitor the condition of the environment related to the fishery sector.

⁶ See: Article 10 of the SEA Directive

6. Equality between women and men

Through the EEF the member states shall ensure the equality between men and women and the principle of equal opportunities.

The Community Strategy for the equality of chances between men and women has five objectives:

- economic equality;
- equal participation at the decision process;
- social equality;
- civil equality;
- change of the traditional roles and overcoming gender stereotypes.

The main tools for the achievement of these objectives are:

- the application of plans for the gender equality;
- the mainstreaming of equal opportunities in all Community interventions.

Both the Polish Constitution (Article 33) and other national legislation confirm the equality of chances between the citizens. In the fisheries sector there were 19.923 employees in 2003 of which around 49% are women (Source: Eurostat). Fishing seems to be very much a traditional male activity. Women are mostly present in the processing industry and in marketing. More women are engaged in research and education units.

The Operational Programme for fisheries and Aquaculture will seek to promote equal opportunities between men and women.

In particular the local partnership implemented under priority axis 4 will seek to achieve a gender balance amongst its members. A fair representation of young people will also be targeted.

7. Organisation of control of fishing activities

The Department of Fisheries, while managing the living resources of the sea, supervises the control of observance of provisions related to marine fishing, cooperates with the EU control services and participates in drafting legislation related to control activities in fisheries.

In the area of its control duties, this Department is responsible in particular for:

- protection of marine living resources;
- enforcement of provisions related to sea fisheries and market organisation;
- issuing fishing licences and special fishing permits;
- supervising the Regional Sea Fisheries Inspectorates;
- supervising the functioning of the Fisheries Monitoring Centre
- managing the fishing fleet register.

The Polish Fisheries Monitoring Centre (FMC) is a part of the Department of Fisheries and is located in Gdynia. The main tasks of the FMC are:

- managing the satellite fishing vessel monitoring system (VMS);

- collection of information on catches and first sales for the sea fisheries information system (SFIS);
- preparing reports for the European Institutions and international fisheries organisations.

The Regional Sea Fisheries Inspectorates are responsible for enforcing the relevant legislation related to fisheries. They report to the Minister competent for fisheries. Regional Sea Fisheries Inspectorates are located in Gdynia, Słupsk and Szczecin.

The control activities are carried out with 5 inspection vessels and 8 patrol boats. The Regional Sea Fisheries Inspectorates employ currently 108 inspectors, including 46 field fisheries inspectors, who have their seats in 14 ports along the coast. There is a clear need to modernise and to increase the control means, as well as to improve the professional skills and knowledge of staff through training.

IV. STRATEGY AT OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME LEVEL ACCORDING TO IMPACT AND RESULT INDICATORS. CALENDAR AND INTERMEDIARY OBJECTIVES

The strategy proposed for the operational program of Poland has been developed on the basis of four key elements:

- The objectives of the National Strategic Plan adopted by Poland in 2007 and subsequently adapted in October 2008.
- The objectives laid down in Article 4 of the EFF regulation
- The content of the Fleet Restructuring Plan for the Baltic and the relevant draft Fishing Effort Adjustment Plan
- The SWOT analysis undertaken by the Managing Authority

The ex-ante evaluation presented in Chapter 5 assessed the coherence between the objectives established at the level of OP with the NSP and the EFF regulation.

1. Overall objectives of the operational program: a strategic vision for the Fisheries sector in Poland

As laid down in the National Strategic Plan the **strategic vision** of the sector is based on **the principle of sustainable development of the Polish fisheries sector**. Therefore, the overall objective of the OP is to achieve a competitive, modern and dynamic fisheries sector through a sustainable exploitation of resources.

The following **impact indicators** can measure the achievement of this strategic vision:

- Increase of the competitiveness of the sector (increased added value or increased productivity)
- Jobs created or maintained in the primary sector (fishing fleet, aquaculture and inland fisheries) as well as in the processing industry and in the fisheries areas
- Adjustment of the cod fishing capacity as a contribution to the sustainability of the sector.

Impact indicator	Baseline	Target for 2013
Increase in the turnover of the fisheries sector	1,83 bln euro ⁷	+ 20%
Jobs created or maintained	21, 909 ⁸	+ 15%
Reduction of the cod fleet capacity	GT: 10.316 KW: 39.536	- 30%

⁷ Share of fisheries in the GDP in 2006 was 0,07%

⁸ 2006 estimate

Defining baselines and quantification of indicators will be a subject of a study to be commissioned by the Managing Authority within one year following the approval of the programme.

The Operational program is the main tool for achieving this vision along with other means which will be used by the Polish authorities, which are not part of the EFF.

The achievement of the strategic vision in the fisheries sector will also be pursued through operations under other instruments. The sections presenting in each Priority Axis the “demarcation line” with other Community instruments presents an overview of these other instruments.

2. Specific objectives which the operational programme's priorities aim to achieve

In order to achieve the strategic vision, the operational programme has four general objectives connected to twelve specific objectives.

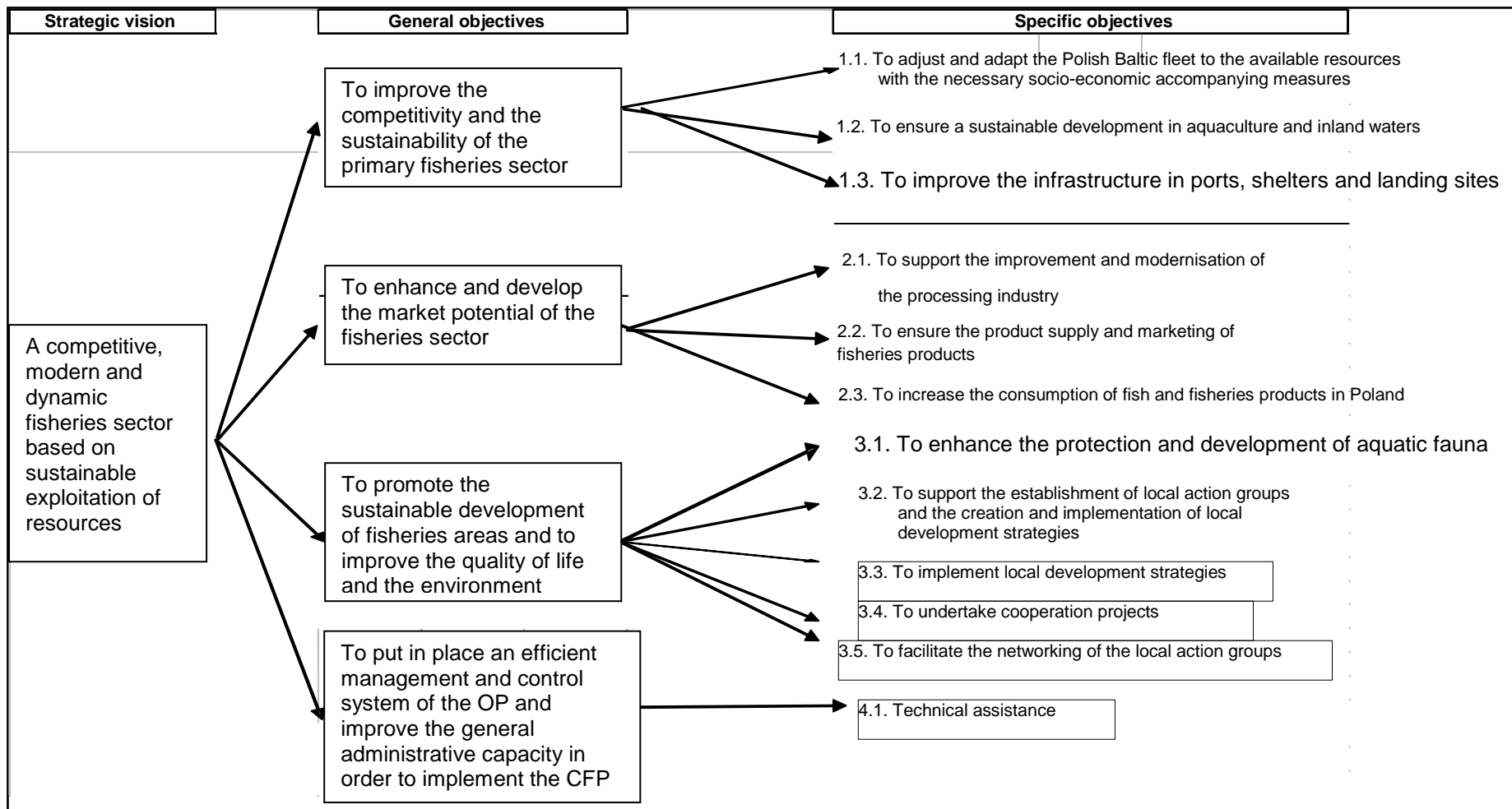
Objective 1: To improve the competitiveness and the sustainability of the primary fisheries sector

Objective 2: To enhance and develop the market potential of the fisheries sector

Objective 3: To promote the sustainable development of fisheries areas and to improve the quality of life and the environment

Objective 4: To put in place an efficient management and control system of the OP and improve the general administrative capacity in order to implement the CFP

Below are shown the connections between general and specific objectives that support them.



2.1. General Objective 1: To improve the competitiveness and the sustainability of the primary fisheries sector

The „primary fisheries sector” is understood here as the production of fish as a primary product, including in some cases a first stage of processing after the catching of fish. Processing is included under the support for marketing presented under general objective 2, the reason being that it is mainly aiming at improving the products in order to match the expectations of the market.

Three specific objectives are supporting the achievement of General objective 1:

2.1.1. To adjust and adapt the Polish Baltic fleet to the available resources with the necessary socio-economic accompanying measures

The following results are expected:

- Adjustment of the size and modernisation of the fishing fleet
- Improvement of hygiene, safety and working conditions
- Improvement of professional skills in the fisheries sector and diversification of activities
- Better quality products from marine fleet

Measures contributing to the achievement of the objectives:

Measure 1.1. Public aid for permanent cessation of fishing activities

Measure 1.2. Public aid for temporary cessation of fishing activities

Measure 1.3. Investments on board fishing vessels and selectivity

Measure 1.4. Small scale coastal fishing

Measure 1.5. Socio-economic compensation for the management of the fishing fleet

Measure 3.1. Collective actions

Measure 3.2. Measures intended to protect and develop aquatic fauna and flora

Measure 3.3. Fishing ports, landing sites and shelters

Measure 3.5. Pilot projects

Measure 3.6. Modification for reassignment of fishing vessels

2.1.2. To ensure a sustainable development in aquaculture and inland waters

The following results are expected:

- Improvement of quality of the fisheries and aquaculture products
- Market supplied with species having good market perspectives
- Adjustment of the sector to the expectations of the market: types of species, prices, quality control and traceability, etc...
- Development of new activities (organic farming, etc.)
- Modernisation of the sector, with new technologies
- Rehabilitation of fishing ponds

Measures contributing to the achievement of the objectives:

Measure 2.1. Measures for productive investments in aquaculture

Measure 2.2. Aqua-environmental measures
Measure 2.3. Public health measures
Measure 2.4. Animal health measures
Measure 2.5. Inland fishing
Measure 2.6. Investments in processing and marketing
Measure 3.1. Collective actions
Measure 3.2. Measures intended to protect and develop aquatic fauna and flora
Measure 3.4. Development of new markets and promotional campaigns
Measure 3.5. Pilot projects

2.1.3. To improve the infrastructure in ports, shelters and landing sites

The aim of this specific objective is the modernisation of the ports, shelters and landing sites to ensure proper delivery on the market of better quality products, and the improvement of the hygiene, working conditions and safety of the workers involved in the fisheries sector.

The following results are expected:

- Increase the productivity of the Polish fleet and the fishing companies
- Improve the marketing of the fisheries products
- Improve hygiene, safety and working conditions
- Improve the level of control and the landing conditions

Measures contributing to the achievement of the objectives:

Measure 3.1. Collective actions
Measure 3.3. Fishing ports, landing sites and shelters

2.2. General Objective 2: To enhance and develop the market potential of the fisheries sector

The development of the market for Fisheries products will be supported by interventions focused on the processing of the products and on their marketing. To increase the market share of the products of the Polish Fisheries sector, the quality of the products should be improved (distribution of primary products, processing), and promotion campaigns should be launched.

The following specific objectives are supporting the implementation of general objective 2:

2.2.1. To support the improvement and modernisation of the processing industry

The support for the processing industry should lead to the following results:

- The development of new products
- Increase of the share of processed products on the market
- Improvement of the quality of the products – fresh, frozen and processed
- Modernisation and improvement of the facilities involved in the fish and aquaculture processing
- Restructuring and creation of producers' organisations which will better represent the interests of the stakeholders

Measures contributing to the achievement of the objectives:

Measure 2.6. Investments in processing and marketing

Measure 3.1. Collective actions

2.2.2. To ensure the product supply and marketing of fisheries products

The Polish products should be better adapted to the demand of the consumers and the traceability of their origin should be improved.

The following results are expected:

- Better transparency of the market and of the structure of the prices
- Ensure better prices for both the fishers and the consumers
- Ensuring the traceability of the products and improving their quality.

Measures contributing to the achievement of this objective:

Measure 2.6. Investments in processing and marketing

Measure 3.1. Collective actions

Measure 3.4. Development of new markets and promotional campaigns

Measure 5.1. Technical assistance

2.2.3. To increase the consumption of fisheries products in Poland

In order to increase the level of consumption of fisheries products and improve their image, promotion campaigns should be launched. The production of new products better adapted to the needs of the market will also contribute to this objective.

The following results are expected:

- Increase average consumption of fish and fisheries products
- Increase of the share of valuable and market oriented species
- Introduction of new species and improvement of the image of other products

Measures contributing to the achievement of the objectives:

Measure 3.1. Collective actions

Measure 3.4. Development of new markets and promotional campaigns

2.3. General Objective 3: To promote the sustainable development of fisheries areas and to improve the quality of life and the environment

The fisheries areas in Poland face particular socio-economic problems related amongst others to the implementation of the CFP. There is a need to enhance the environment and to promote the diversification of the activities and to improve the living conditions and quality of life of the local population.

Specific objectives supporting the implementation of General objective 3:

2.3.1. To enhance the protection and development of aquatic fauna and flora

There is a need to protect and to enhance the rich environmental heritage of Poland, the existing biodiversity of the Polish aquatic environment and the numerous Natura 2000 areas.

The following results are expected:

- Improvement of the aquatic environment
- Construction of static or movable facilities for migratory species
- Rehabilitation of inland waters
- Better management of certain species (eel, ...)

Measures contributing to the achievement of the objectives:

Measure 3.2. Measures intended to protect and develop aquatic fauna and flora

2.3.2. To support the establishment of local action groups and the creation and implementation of local development strategies

The following results are expected:

- Fisheries groups are established in fisheries areas, using as much as possible and where relevant the existing LEADER structure and approach
- Integrated local development strategies are developed by the fisheries groups
- Private-public partnerships are established to develop and implement local strategies

Measures contributing to the achievement of the objectives:

Measure 4.1. Development of Fisheries Areas

2.3.3. To implement the local development strategies

By the implementation of the local development strategies the following results are expected:

- Improvement of quality of life
- Socio-economic development of the fisheries areas and more added-value created locally

- Diversification of economic activities in the fisheries areas
- Local resources are better used and protected
- Local areas are more attractive, in particular for tourists
- A new method of governance is applied for sustainable local socio-economic development (bottom-up approach)

Measure contributing to the achievement of the objectives:

Measure 4.1. Development of fisheries areas

2.3.4. To undertake cooperation projects

Some fisheries groups might need to join forces with other groups in order to undertake cooperation projects.

This support must lead to the following result:

- Cooperation at national and transnational level is established via joint projects

Measure contributing to the achievement of the objectives:

Measure 4.2. Support for undertaking cooperation actions

Measure 5.1. Technical assistance

2.3.5. To facilitate the networking of the fisheries groups

Networking is an important component of local development that will be provided as a service to the local groups, leading to the following results:

- Promotion and exchange of innovative actions between the groups
- Exchange of ideas and good practices between the groups

Measure contributing to the achievement of the objectives:

Measure 5.1. Technical assistance

2.4. General Objective 4: To put in place an efficient management and control system of the OP and improve the general administrative capacity in order to implement the CFP

Technical support will be needed in order to implement the operational program. It will aim at strengthening the administrative capacity of the public bodies involved in this process and in the implementation of the CFP.

The following results are expected:

- Enhanced administrative capacity and motivation of the human resources
- Better governance of the Operational Programme

- Full and proper documentation for the implementation of the program
- Better trained human resources
- Better visibility of the programme and improved absorption of the funds
- Proper evaluation of the implementation of the programme and its Measures
- Support for the establishment of the fisheries groups and their networking

Measure contributing to the achievement of the objectives:

Measure 5.1. Technical assistance

3. Calendar and intermediary objectives

The following tables present the objectives established in each of the Priority Axis, including a breakdown between the targets for 2010 and for 2013. The baseline presented is 2007 if possible, or the most recent set of data available.

Axis 1

Result indicators	Baseline	Objective 2010	Objective 2013
Reduction of capacity of the cod fleet by a permanent cessation of activities	December 2007 GT: 10.316 KW: 39.536 (cod fishing fleet only)	GT: - 25% KW: - 25%	GT: - 30% KW: - 30% ⁹
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GT • kW 			
Degree of modernisation of the fishing fleet	Around 700 boats in need of modernisation	22% boats modernised (150)	34% of boats modernised (250)
Power of engines replaced and decrease of power related / account kW	Power installed: 96.239,7 KW (June 2008)	10 % of power of engine renewed	15 % of power of engine renewed
No. of fishermen trained	15% of 3.500 fishers are trained (2005)	Up to 40% of total fishers	Up to 70% of total fishers
No. of jobs created or maintained	3.409 (2006)	3.000	2.900

Source: Sea Fisheries Institute (SFI), for 2007

Aiming to reach more quickly the main objectives concerning restructuring of the fleet and to ensure the long-term economic viability of the fisheries sector, Poland foresees to implement a large number of measures and derogations established by the Council regulation (EC) 744/2008 and in particular to elaborate a FAS for its cod fleet. As a consequence, after the adoption of the Polish FAS, the revision of the present OP will be requested in accordance of article 18 of EFF regulation.

Axis 2

Result indicators	Baseline	Objective 2010	Objective 2013
Tonnage produced in aquaculture	34.600 t (2006)	+ 24 %	+ 50 %
Tonnage produced in processing	398.200 t (2006)	+ 30 %	+ 60 %
Tonnage of fish landed (inland commercial fisheries)	2.810 t (2006)	+ 50 %	100 %

⁹ These quantified indicators may be revised during the mid-term review

% of projects with environmental friendly production (aquaculture)	15 (2006)	100	150
Increase of turnover	(Millions EUR, 2006) Aquaculture: 72,7 Processing: 1.212,1 Inland fishing: 28	Aquaculture:+ 20 % Processing: + 25 % Inland fishing: +5%	Aquaculture:+ 35 % Processing: + 50 % Inland fishing: 15%
Added value by worker	(2005) Processing: 12 K€	Processing: + 30 %	Processing: + 50 %
Jobs created or maintained	18.500 ¹⁰ (2005)	20.400	20.760

Source: SFI, MARD

¹⁰ Estimate

Axis 3

Result indicators	Baseline	Objective 2010	Objective 2013
Nº of modernised ports	0	3	12
Nº of modernised shelters and landing sites	0	5	10
Nº of constructed shelters and landing sites	0	0	1-2
Nº of Producers' organisations created	6	7	8
Increase of the average fish consumption	11,83 kg/capita per year (2006)	14 kg/capita per year	16 kg/capita per year
Increase of the added value of the fish processed and marketed	190 million €	+ 60 %	+90 %

Source: Sea Fisheries Institute (SFI) and for 2007, Maritime Offices in Gdynia, Słupsk and Szczecin.

Axis 4

Result indicators	Baseline	Objective 2010	Objective 2013
No. of Fisheries Groups established	0	12	30
Territory covered by Fisheries Groups	0	18.000	45.000
Population of the territory covered by the groups	0	600.000	1.500.000
Jobs created or maintained in fisheries areas	0	600	2.500

Source: Own calculations based on MARD and CSO data.

V. SUMMARY OF THE EX-ANTE EVALUATION.

In compliance with the Council Regulation (EC) No 1198/2006 of 27 July 2006 on the European Fisheries Fund concerning the ex-ante evaluation, the ex-ante evaluation was performed by an independent company Agrotec Polska Sp. z o.o.

The main conclusions of this evaluation are the following:

- The operational programme is coherent with the NSP and the CFP.
- The programme, with minor amendments, presents a proper strategy of Polish fishery sector development.
- The strategy is explicit and its objectives are clear. It will help to increase the volume of fish and processing, to protect the natural environment, to increase the number of jobs and the economic effectiveness of the sector. Its implementation will have long-term positive effects on the fishery sector.
- The implementation system is clearly described.
- The programme will benefit regions and beneficiaries, although the effects are difficult to quantify at this stage.
- The allocation of funds is appropriate for the implementation of the different priority axes.
- The indicators (with suggested amendments) are relevant for monitoring and evaluating the programme.

Both documents are in compliance with the Lisbon and Goteborg strategies.

The ex-ante evaluation indicates also that the fisheries programme is fully in compliance with the general provisions stipulated in Art.19 of the regulation on EFR.

The control and management system to be put in place is adequately designed and the functions clearly described.

Basic recommendations resulting from the ex-ante evaluation include:

- change the name of the Operational Programme title;
- define better the priorities within priority axis 2 for inland fisheries and fish processing;
- decrease the financial envelope for permanent and temporary cessation of fishing activities, fishing ports and processing;
- increase the financial envelope for aquaculture and inland fisheries;
- verify the coherence with the data provided for the NSP;
- provide adequate indicators for the achievement of the objectives of the programme;
- where relevant, provide target values for 2010 (result indicators).

Most of these recommendations were taken into recommendation for the final draft of this programme.

VI. PROGRAMME'S PRIORITY AXIS.

1. Coherence and justification of the priority axes chosen.

1.1. Towards relevant parts of the National Strategic Plan

The implementation of the Strategy for the Development of Fisheries 2007-2013 outlined in section IV is possible by actions undertaken under the European Fisheries Fund.

1.1.1. Priority Axis 1. Measures for the adaptation of the fishing fleet.

The restructuring of the Polish fishing fleet will be performed with the use of the measures contained in this priority axis, according to the Restructuring Plan (in April 2008) agreed upon by the Polish authorities and the European Commission. It will be translated into a Fishing Effort Adjustment Plan (FEAP) established as required by Article 21 of the Council Regulation (EC) No1198/2006. Within this FEAP, Poland is currently planning a Fleet Adaptation Scheme (FAS) under the meaning of art.12 of Regulation (EC) n°744/2008 aiming at restructuring the cod fishing fleet segment and possibly other Polish fleet segments.

1.1.2. Priority Axis 2. Aquaculture, inland fishing, processing and marketing of fisheries products.

The inland fishery sector, including aquaculture, requires investments complementing those initiated between 2004-2006. These concerned mainly already existing farms in order to improve their competitiveness on the market and to adjust their abilities to satisfy the requirements and expectation of the consumers.

The inland fishery sector requires investments in infrastructure, including improvement of working conditions and hygiene, as well as product quality.

There is also a need for investment with regard to the processing and marketing of the fishery products in Poland. Taking into account the reduced availability of raw materials from the Baltic sea, the existing production facilities need to be modified, so that they process other fish species than those that have been processed so far. Further investments need to be made to modernise the processing sector (new technologies, equipment, innovative production methods), including hygiene and safety at work, compliance with environmental requirements, maintenance of the level of employments and staff training.

It is also necessary to take actions to improve the marketing of fish products. The internal consumption of fisheries products in Poland should be encouraged through actions aiming at maintaining the continuity of the cold chain, increasing the quality and safety of fishing products, including by a better traceability. This will enhance market competitiveness with regard to the imports and increase the product attractiveness on the foreign markets.

1.1.3. Priority Axis 3. Common interest measures.

In order to increase the competitiveness of Polish fishery, the modernisation of already existing fishing ports and the construction of landing sites and shelters must be envisaged.

A better organisation of the sector is needed, e.g. by the establishment of new producer associations. Innovative actions, pilot projects and exchange of experiences should be supported. It is also necessary to launch a broad information and promotional campaign on fish consumption and fishery sector, in order to increase the average consumption per inhabitant.

1.1.4. Priority Axis 4. Sustainable development of fishery-dependent areas.

Taking into consideration the decreasing importance of Baltic fishery, and the opportunities for the development of inland fisheries production, it is important that actions are undertaken at the local level by the local communities in order to limit the threats and enhance the new opportunities available. Local communities can best identify their local needs and integrate them within local strategies that will be supported by the EFF. They should aim at improving the quality of life and the attractiveness of the fishery-dependent areas.

1.1.5. Priority Axis 5 Technical assistance.

Technical assistance must be used for an effective implementation of the Operational Programme, including actions for its preparation, monitoring, evaluation and audit. The Technical assistance will also support activities to increase the capacity of the staff and to ensure the effective operation of the entities monitoring the compliance with the guidelines of the Common Fisheries Policy. Support will be available for the establishment of a national network of fisheries groups benefiting from Axis' including expenditure related to the setting-up of the groups.

1.2. Towards the guiding principles of the operational programme (Article 19 of Regulation (EC) No 1198/2006)

The Operational Program has been elaborated in accordance with one of the main guiding principles of the Community – the principle of partnership - and in close cooperation with all stakeholders and the relevant authorities at regional and local level, as well as research centres.

As provided for by Article 19, the following principles are taken into account in the choice of the Priority Axis:

(a) consistency with the principles of the common fisheries policy and the national strategic plan in order to achieve, in particular, a stable and enduring balance between fishing capacity and fishing opportunities;

- This is embedded in the first objective of the strategy proposed for the Operational Programme. All the Measures of the Priority Axis 1 and some of the Measures under Priority Axis 3 will be implemented in order to be consistent with this guiding principle.

(b) enhancement of a harmonious, balanced and sustainable development of economic activities, jobs and human resources, as well as protection and the improvement of the environment;

- This is precisely covered by the strategic vision which this Operational Programme aims to achieve; all Priority axis will contribute to this principle.

(c) an appropriate allocation of the available financial resources between the priority axes and, particularly, where relevant, an appropriate level of financing for operations under Chapter I of Title IV (Priority axis 1: measures for the adaptation of the Community fishing fleet);

- The allocation of financial resources has been decided upon with this guiding principle in mind, but also with the wish to allocate the financial resources according to the requirements of each objective of the strategy. The indicative allocation of financial resources per Priority axis is as follows:
 - Axis 1: 23% from total EFF aid is allocated mainly for the restructuring of the Polish Baltic fishing fleet, according to the national plan for Baltic fleet restructuring which will be implemented as a Fisheries Effort Adjustment Plan (Article 24, 1, v of the EFF Regulation).
 - Axis 2: 20% from total EFF aid is allocated to this axis for the support of measures aiming at the sustainable development of aquaculture, inland fishing, processing and marketing of the fisheries products in order to increase the competitiveness of the sector and to create or maintain jobs.
 - Axis 3 represent 20% from total EFF aid. These measures will help to realise the common policy objectives in the fisheries sector. This axis includes in particular measures regarding port, fishing shelters and landing sites construction or modernisation and also measures aiming at promoting fisheries products and better organisation of the market.
 - Axis 4: 32% are allocated to this Axis, since the fisheries areas in Poland presents an important potential for the implementation of integrated local development strategies.
 - Axis 5: 5% will be necessary to achieve the objectives of enhancing the administration capacity including the CFP aspects related to the EFF implementation.

(d) promotion of the operations contributing to the Lisbon strategy; Operations aiming at promoting a sustainable level of employment in the fisheries sector in particular through enhancing the quality of jobs, providing access to the profession for young people and stimulating innovation throughout the sector shall be encouraged;

- The creation or the maintaining of jobs is a major impact expected from the implementation of the strategy.
- The quality of jobs will be enhanced through the several actions undertaken to improve work and safety conditions in the fisheries sector, including in the processing industry
- The modernisation of the sector could make it more attractive for young people.

- The improvement of the quality of life and the attractiveness of fisheries areas should encourage young people to stay in the fishery sector or in their area, where they will be able to find a job.
- Innovation is a main concern for the programme, in particular in the processing sector and in the development of new fishing technologies. It is also a key element in finding new answers to local needs via the local groups supported under Axis 4.

(e) promotion of the operations contributing to the Gothenburg strategy and particularly those enhancing the environmental dimension in the fisheries sector; Operations aiming at reducing the impact of activities in the fisheries sector on the environment and promoting environmentally friendly production methods shall be encouraged;

- The actions undertaken will seek to reduce the environmental impact of activities in the fisheries sector and promote more environmental-friendly methods in the sector (fishing, aquaculture, processing, local development). The protection of biodiversity (fauna and flora) in the Polish aquatic environment will also contribute to the achievement of the Gothenburg strategy.

(f) improvement of the situation of the human resources in the fisheries sector through operations aiming at upgrading and diversifying professional skills, developing lifelong learning and improving working conditions and safety;

- Several training measures are foreseen in different axes of this Operational Programme. They aim at helping the workforce in the sector to adjust to the new conditions created by the restructuring and the modernisation of the sector and at increasing the competitiveness of the sector.

(g) encouragement of operations with high added value through the development of innovative capacities that provide for high quality standards and meet consumer needs for fisheries and aquaculture products; Operations promoting transparency of environmentally friendly production methods to consumers shall be encouraged;

- Many measures of this OP are in line with this guiding principle.

(h) contribution to a better supply to, and to a sustainable development of, the community market of fisheries and aquaculture products;

- The adjustment of the production to the expectations of the market is foreseen in several Measures, in particular under Axis 3.

(i) promotion, during the various stages of the implementation of the operational programme, of gender balance in the fisheries sector through operations aiming, in particular, at reducing gender based segregation in the labour market;

- Women are mostly present in the processing industry, since fishing is usually an activity undertaken by men. Traditionally, in the Polish coastal areas, fishing activities are undertaken by all members of the family, in particular in the small scale fishery. The improvement of hygiene, working conditions and safety in all segments of the industry should make it more attractive for women than before.

The actions foreseen for the modernisation of the processing industry will directly benefit women as they form the majority of the workforce. A particular attention will be given to the gender balance of the local partnerships supported under Priority Axis 4.

(j) promotion of an integrated sustainable development of the fisheries areas by fostering their inherent potential and improving quality of life;

- This is precisely the objective established for the setting-up of local groups under Priority Axis 4 and the implementation of local development strategies.

(k) where relevant, improvement of the institutional and administrative capacities aiming at a good governance of the common fisheries policy and an efficient implementation of the operational programme.

- This is the objective foreseen by the operations under technical assistance (Priority Axis 5).

1.3. Outcomes of the ex ante evaluation referred to in Article 48 of Regulation (EC) No 1198/2006.

This has been summarised in section V.

1. Priority Axis 1. Measures for the adaptation of the fishing fleet

1. 1. Main objectives under Priority Axis 1

Article 21 of EFF Regulation defines the scope of support under the EFF for the implementation of the national plan for the Baltic fleet restructuring and the adaptation of the rest of the Polish fleet.

The Fishing Effort Adjustment Plan (FEAP), which provides for a reduction of 30% of cod fishing capacity, constitutes the main instrument to implement reduction in the fishing effort and it is the objective of the Polish authorities to transform the content of the restructuring plan for the Baltic fleet into a Fishing Effort Adjustment Plan at the latest three months after the approval of the Operational Programme. The Minister in charge of Fisheries will approve the Fishing Effort Adjustment Plan.

Concerning the duration of the Fishing Effort Adjustment Plan, it is proposed to cover all the programming period. Nevertheless, the main bulk of the fleet reduction will occur during the three first years of implementation of the programme. Therefore, there will be a need to adapt the objectives for 2015 of the Fishing Effort Adjustment Plan following the Mid-Term evaluation, in the light of the evolution of the state of the stocks, the availability of fishery resources, the level of the restructuring of the fleet and the availability of funding.

Within this axis, the first priority in the allocation of funds will be given to the implementation of the Fishing Effort Adjustment Plan for the Baltic fleet. In this context, Poland is planning a Fleet adaptation scheme in accordance with the Council regulation (EC) n°744/2008.

Content of the Fishing Effort Adjustment Plan

The Fishing Effort Adjustment Plan to be adopted by the Polish authorities will contain:

- A description of the context (state of the stocks, of the fleet, etc.).
- The expected results in terms of fishing effort levels, the contribution to the improvement of the stocks and the profitability of the fleet.
- The measures that are envisaged to be put in place, distinguishing those that will be supported by the EFF from those that will be financed through other sources.
- The national decommission schemes, the modernisation of the fleet and the socio-economic measures will be among the key measures of the Fishing Effort Adjustment Plan.
- Specific measures for the small-scale fisheries will be included in the Fishing Effort Adjustment Plan.
- The control measures put in place to monitor the implementation of the Fishing Effort Adjustment Plan.
- Relevant indicators to measure the implementation of the Fishing Effort Adjustment Plan.
- The reporting arrangements on the implementation of the Fishing Effort Adjustment Plan. In this connection, the annual report to be submitted to the EC

according to Article 67 of the EFF Regulation should contain a specific chapter on this issue.

It is foreseen that the Fishing Effort Adjustment Plan will be prepared by the Sea Fisheries Institute in Gdynia under the responsibility of the Management Authority.

For the long-distance fleet, the measures foreseen will mainly concern the financing of equipment and the modernisation of this segment.

1. 2. Baseline and quantified targets

Result indicators	Baseline	Objective 2010	Objective 2013
Reduction of capacity of the cod fleet by a permanent cessation of activities	December 2007 GT: 10.316 KW: 39.536 (cod fishing fleet only)	GT: - 25% KW: - 25%	GT: - 30% KW: - 30% ¹¹
• GT			
• kW			
Degree of modernisation of the fishing fleet	Around 700 boats in need of modernisation	22% boats modernised (150)	34% of boats modernised (250)
Power of engines replaced and decrease of power related / account kW	Power installed: 96.239,7 KW (June 2008)	10 % of power of engine renewed	15 % of power of engine renewed
No. of fishermen trained	15% of 3.500 fishers are trained (2005)	Up to 40% of total fishers	Up to 70% of total fishers
No. of jobs created or maintained	3.409 (2006)	3.000	2.900

Source: SFI

1. 3. Justification of the average rate of co-financing and beneficiaries

Poland is covered entirely under Convergence Objective and has a weak absorption capacity. Therefore the maximum percentage of Community Aid and the maximum intensity provided for by the Regulation is applied.

The owners of fishing vessels and the fishers affected by the Fishing Effort Adjustment Plan will be the main beneficiaries of this Priority axis.

1. 4. Description of the main Measures proposed under Priority Axis 1 resulting from the strategy proposed

The programme will retain the five measures proposed by the EFF:

- Measure 1.1. Public aid for permanent cessation of fishing activities
- Measure 1.2. Public aid for temporary cessation of fishing activities
- Measure 1.3. On board investment and selectivity
- Measure 1.4. Small scale fisheries

¹¹ These quantified indicators may be revised during the mid-term review

Measure 1.5. Socio-economic compensation

1. 5. Demarcation with similar activities under other Community funding and measures taken to ensure complementarity

Training courses for people employed in the fisheries sector seeking for jobs in other sectors and who want to acquire new qualifications or wish to complete their comprehensive education will be financed through ESF.

The Managing Authority will comply with the provisions of the "Demarcation lines for the EAFRD, EFF and Cohesion Funds programmes", the document approved by the NSRF Coordination Committee.

Measure 1.1. Public aid for permanent cessation of fishing activities

1. Description of the Measure

The Baltic fishing fleet has been reduced considerably since the accession of Poland to the European Union, in terms of KW, GT and number of fishing vessels, in particular in the framework of the FIGF operational programme. In this context, between 2005 and 2007, 404 fishing vessels with a total of tonnage of 15.800 GT and a total power of 53.400 KW were withdrawn with public aid.

In order to implement the Fishing Effort Adjustment Plan, decommissioning schemes will be launched to further reduce the size of the Polish fleet. These decommissioning schemes will also concern the fishing vessels affected by the drift nets ban in the Baltic sea. In this connection, about 8 fishing vessels will be decommissioned, with a total of 200 GT.

The permanent cessation of activity will take three different forms:

- 1) Scrapping of the fishing vessel
- 2) Reassignment of the fishing vessel for profitable activities outside fishing
- 3) Reassignment of the fishing vessel for non-profitable activities outside fishing

2. Beneficiaries of the Measure

These will be fishing vessels owners for boats registered in the fishing fleet register.

3. Financial allocation

The financial support is 100% public financing, of which 75% is coming from the EFF.

4. Quantitative objectives – Indicators

See table above

5. Specific information on this Measure

- The level of public support will be established by the Managing Authority, taking into account the best cost-effectiveness ratio based on objective criteria such as the value of the fishing vessel and its licence, its age and its tonnage expressed in GT, and the appreciation of the PLN. As a basis, the scale of assistance annexed to FIGF Regulation n°2792/1999 will be used with a maximum increase of 10% of the ceilings in order to take account of the above-mentioned factors. Furthermore, to encourage the decommissioning of older vessels, an adequate digressive financing mechanism will be set-up by the Managing Authority.

- The amount of the premium for the reassignment of the fishing vessel for profitable activities outside fishing will represent up to 70% of the level of the premium for scrapping the fishing vessel.
- The amount of the premium for the reassignment of the fishing vessel for non-profitable activities outside fishing will represent 90% of the level of the premium for scrapping the fishing vessel.

Measure 1.2. Public aid for temporary cessation of fishing activities

1. Description of the Measure

Premium related to temporary cessation of fishing activities may be granted under the conditions provided for under Article 24 of Regulation No 1198/2006 and in particular in the framework of the implementation of the Fishing Effort Adjustment Plan as well as under art.6 of Regulation (EC) n°744/2008.

Recurrent seasonal suspension of fishing activity shall not be taken into account for the granting of allowances or compensation.

2. Beneficiaries of the Measure

These will be fishing vessels owners, operators (physical or legal person) of fishing vessels for boats registered in the fishing fleet register, as well as fishers.

3. Financial allocation

The financial support is 100% public financing.

4. Quantitative objectives – Indicators

Not applicable.

5. Specific information on this Measure

Criteria used for establishing the level of premium

The Monitoring Committee will establish the level of public support taking into account the best cost-effectiveness ratio based on objective criteria such as:

- The fixed cost incurred by the vessels owners when the vessel is tied-up in the port (port charges, insurance costs, maintenance and depreciation costs);
- Whenever appropriate, the financial costs related to loans from financial institutions covering the period of the temporary cessation;
- Part of the loss of revenue incurred by the fishers on board and the vessels owners, including the social security paid;
- Part of the basic salary currently received by the fishers.

Concerning fishers, the criteria to be followed by the Monitoring Committee to establish the premium for fishers, will be a percentage of the basic net income currently received by the fishers.

Measure 1.3. Investments on board fishing vessels and selectivity

1. Description of the Measure

The average age of Polish fishing fleet is over 27 years old and this fleet requires a significant effort of modernisation, which will concern not only the change of engines in order to reduce fuel consumption and lower the impact on the environment, but also:

- Investments to improve the quality of fish products, working conditions, safety and hygiene standards;
- Equipment for the processing, freezing, cooling and storing facilities;
- Investment aiming at more selective techniques and fishing gears;
- Investments for the protection of catches and gears from wild predators.

These investment shall not increase the capacity of the vessels to catch fish.

Within the EFF Regulation, the possibility to replace once the engine of a fishing vessel is possible under the following conditions:

- in the case of vessels directed to *small-scale coastal fishing* the new engine has the same or less power than the old one;
- for vessels up to 24 metres in overall length other than those referred to above, the new engine has at least 20% less power than the old one;
- for trawlers of more than 24 metres in overall length, the new engine has at least 20% less power than the old one, the vessel is subject to a rescue and restructuring plan as referred to in Article 21(f) of Council Regulation No 1198/2006 and changes to a less fuel-intensive fishing method.

The reduction of engine power by 20%, referred to above, may be achieved by a group of vessels for each category of vessels referred to in these points, according to the conditions specified in Article 25 (4) of Regulation No 1198/2006 on the EFF. Requirements for the said group of vessels are specified in Article 6 (3) of Regulation No 498/2007 laying down detailed rules.

Poland intends to use this mechanism to finance the change of engines for its Baltic fleet.

2. Beneficiaries of the Measure

These will be fishing vessels owners for boats registered in the fishing fleet register.

3. Financial allocation

The financial public support could range from 20% to 60% of the total cost of the investment.

For the implementation of Regulation n°744/2008, art.7 of this Regulation applies.

4. Quantitative objectives – Indicators

See table above

5. Specific information on this Measure

Criteria used for establishing the maximum amount to be granted to fishing vessel under this article

In line with Regulation (EC) 498/2007, art. 6, it is established for “Investments on board fishing vessels and selectivity” a maximum amount for each fishing vessel during the programming period. This maximum value for all eligible investments for one vessel, between 2007 and 2013 is established for each fishing vessel taking into account the vessel age and tonnage in GT. This will be limited to 50% of the level of the premium established for permanent cessation of fishing activities for the fishing vessel.

Measure 1.4. Small-scale coastal fishing.

1. Description of the Measure

Small-scale coastal fishing plays an important role in the fishery sector in Poland in view of its characteristics and its traditional and family-based nature. This segment is crucial for the economy of the local communities along the coastline in particular in connection with the development of the tourism and recreational activities in these areas.

The modernisation and the reconversion of this segment is crucial, as well as the improvement of professional skills and safety training of fishers.

2. Beneficiaries of the Measure

These will be fishers and fishing vessels owners for boats registered in the fishing fleet register, association of fishers and of fishing vessels owners.

3. Financial allocation

The intensity of public financial support will range between 40% and 100%.

4. Quantitative objectives – Indicators

Number of vessels concerned.

5. Specific information on this Measure

- Financial aid shall be granted in the form of reimbursement of up to 40% of eligible project costs; this amount can reach 60% in the case of coastal fishing.
- In the case of the replacement of the engine, financial aid shall be granted in the form of reimbursement of up to 20% of eligible project costs; this amount can reach 40% in the case of coastal fishing.
- The payment of financial resources shall take place on a one-off basis (one-phase projects) or on completion of each phase (multi-phase projects).

Measure 1.5 Socio-economic compensation for the management of the national fishing fleet

1. Description of the Measure

The restructuring of the Polish fleet planned in the 2007-2013 programming period will involve a further reduction of the fishing capacity in order to best adjust it to the available level of resources and will have negative impact on employment and on the socio-economic situation of the fisheries areas. Therefore, socio-economic accompanying measures are necessary to counterbalance the adverse effects of the Fishing Effort Adjustment Plan and to help diversify the activities in the affected areas.

The main type of support will concern:

- Diversification of activities with a view to promoting multiple jobs for fishers affected by the fleet restructuring;
- Upgrading professional skills in particular for young fishers;
- Schemes for retraining persons who leave fishing activities;
- Compensation for early departure from the fishing sector, including early retirement, in continuation of the FIG mechanism and scheme;
- Non-renewable compensation to fishers who have worked for at least 12 months as fishers, provided the fishing vessel on which the beneficiaries have worked has been the object of permanent cessation of fishing activities;
- Individual premiums to fishers younger than 40 years who can demonstrate that they have worked at least five years as fishers or have equivalent professional training and who acquire for the first time part or total ownership of a fishing vessel of less than 24 metres in overall length which is equipped to go fishing at sea and is between 5 to 30 years old.

2. Beneficiaries of the Measure

Beneficiaries of this measure are fishers. For early retirement, the fishermen must still have 10 or less than 10 years of active life until definitive retirement.

3. Financial allocation

The financial support is 100% public financing

4. Quantitative objectives – Indicators

Number of beneficiaries.

5. Specific information on this Measure

The mechanism and criteria for allocating compensation and premium will be based on the amounts set for the 2004-2006 period.

However, the level of public support will be established by the Managing Authority, taking into account factors such as the appreciation of the Polish zloty by 35% between 2005 and 2008 and a 10% inflation rate between 2004 and 2008, which have resulted in the real value of compensations and premium dropping by 1/3. In the same period, the average remuneration has increased by 30% (source: Central Statistic Office). The early retirement pension will be indexed by the inflation rate at the beginning of each year.

For the fishers who acquire for the first time part or total ownership of a fishing vessel less than 24 metres, the premium will not exceed 15% of the cost of acquisition of ownership nor exceed the amount of 50 000 EUR.

The Monitoring Committee will fix the level of the premiums regarding the other socio-economic compensations under Article 27 (1).

2. Priority Axis 2: Aquaculture, inland fishing, processing and marketing of fishery and aquaculture products

2.1. Main objectives under Priority Axis 2:

In compliance with the EFF Regulation and with the strategy presented in Section 4 above, the main objectives of Priority Axis 2 will be to help Poland to:

- Develop and modernise the aquaculture sector and adjust it to market prospects and expectations in a sustainable way;
- Maintain a sustainable level of activity in inland fisheries;
- Improve the processing and marketing of products of the Fisheries sector.

2.2. Baseline and quantified targets

Result indicators	Baseline	Objective 2010	Objective 2013
Tonnage produced in aquaculture	34.600 t (2006)	+ 24 %	+ 50 %
Tonnage produced in processing	398.200 t (2006)	+ 30 %	+ 60 %
Tonnage of fish landed (inland commercial fisheries)	2.810 t (2006)	+ 50 %	100 %
% of projects with environmental friendly production (aquaculture)	15 (2006)	100	150
Increase of turnover	(Millions EUR, 2006) Aquaculture: 72,7 Processing: 1.212,1 Inland fishing: 28	Aquaculture:+ 20 % Processing: + 25 % Inland fishing: +5%	Aquaculture:+ 35 % Processing: + 50 % Inland fishing: 15%
Added value by worker	(EUR, 2005) Processing: 12.000	Processing: + 30 %	Processing: + 50 %
Jobs created or maintained Source: SFI, MARD	18.500 ¹² (2005)	20.400	20.760

2. 3. Justification of the average rate of co-financing and beneficiaries

The average EFF rate of co-financing for this priority axis is 75% EFF – 25% national public contribution

- The intensity of aid to the companies will be between 60% and 100% of public funding, according to the nature of the Measure and the type of beneficiary. Further

¹² Estimate

indications on rates applied to specific Measures will be provided for in the summary on each Measure.

- The entire territory of Poland is eligible for Measures under Priority Axis 2.
- The Fisheries sector will be the beneficiary of this Priority. Beneficiaries are:
 - private operators or companies, public or semi-public bodies active in the aquaculture sector, inland fisheries and processing;
 - groups of enterprises, associations or organisations of producers;
 - workers active in inland fisheries, aquaculture and processing units as individuals;
 - associations of such workers.

2. 4. Description of the main Measures under Priority Axis 2 resulting from the strategy of the sector

The following measures will be supported under Priority Axis 2:

Measure 2.1 Investments in aquaculture

Measure 2.2 Aqua-environmental measures

Measure 2.3 Animal health measures

Measure 2.4 Inland Fishing

Measure 2.5 Fish and aquaculture processing and marketing

Aquaculture:

The operations that will be carried out to implement this measure will concern in particular:

- the development and modernisation of the aquaculture production facilities;
- the production of high quality and high value fish that has good market prospect through the diversification towards new species (sturgeon, eel, ...) and the introduction of new technologies;
- the development of an aquaculture which strikes the right balance between the traditional aquaculture and intensive or semi-intensive aquaculture production;
- pond rehabilitation will be encouraged, but interventions will be limited to cases with an acceptable “cost/benefit” relation and favourable for water retention and quality of the environment.

In order to support the sustainable development of aquaculture in Poland, a long-term master plan will be drafted by 2011.

The mechanism to be set-up according to Article 28, paragraph 5 of the EFF Regulation will be designated by the Managing Authority by the end of 2008.

Aqua-environmental measures:

The objective of the measure is to compensate the producers for the use of traditional aquaculture production methods helping to protect and improve the environment and to conserve nature. The aim is also the promotion of environmentally-friendly production practices in the Polish aquaculture sector. This measure intends to provide premiums to

aquaculture farmers who commit themselves to the forms of aquaculture provided for in Article 30 of the EFF Regulation.

Animal health measures:

Animal health measures may be implemented for the eradication of diseases in aquaculture.

Inland fishing:

Modernisation and development of inland fishing is a priority in Poland given the large surfaces of water, the number of jobs involved, the diversity of resources and the tradition in inland fishing, as well as the positive impact of sustainable development of inland fishing on the aquatic environment.

For this purpose, small infrastructure works will be undertaken in order to improve the quality of the fish products and enhance the environment.

Processing and marketing:

The following objectives will be pursued for the modernisation of the processing sector:

- Increase of capacity of the processing industry by extending existing facilities or building new units;
- Improvement of competitiveness for fish products processed and marketed through investments in new technologies, new equipment and innovative production methods;
- This measure will also seek to improve working conditions and to adapt processing and marketing units to environmental restrictions.

The marketing of fish products should be encouraged in order to supply the internal market with high quality food products and ensure food safety. The development of the internal market in Poland will put the Polish fishery sector in a better position to compete with imports and will make it easier for producers to sell their production

2.5. Demarcation with similar activities under other Community funding and measures taken to ensure complementarity

Aquaculture:

Any investment in aquaculture production facilities will be supported by EFF only.

Aqua-environmental measures:

The EFF will support any action related to implementing environmental measures in commercial aquaculture, regardless of the type of beneficiary. The surrounding agricultural land will be supported by the EARDF.

EARDF will not support any aqua environmental- measures
The Managing Authority will develop more precise demarcation guidelines for measures related to Natura 2000.

Inland fishing:

The investments in inland fishing will be only supported by the EFF only.

Processing and marketing:

The investments in processing and marketing of fishery products will be supported by the EFF.

The EFF will support enterprises with less than 750 workers or with a turnover lower than 200 MEUR per year. Larger enterprises should seek support from the ERDF.

Vocational training:

The investments in vocational training and education on fishing activity will be supported by the EFF.

The EFF will support education and training for fishermen and workers of the fisheries sector, provided it is restricted to their field of activity. The ESF will support them for training aiming at their reconversion in another activity.

The Managing Authority will comply with the provisions of the "Demarcation lines for the EAFRD, EFF and Cohesion Funds programmes", the document approved by the NSRF Coordination Committee.

Measure 2.1. Investments in aquaculture

1. Measure description

This measure covers an important strategic objective of the Operational Programme. Substantial resources will be allocated to this set of actions.

The operations that will be carried out to implement this measure will concern in particular:

- The development and modernisation of the aquaculture production facilities;
- The production of high quality and high value fish that has good market prospect through the diversification towards new species (sturgeon, eel, ...) and the introduction of new technologies;
- The development of an aquaculture which strikes the right balance between the traditional aquaculture and intensive or semi-intensive aquaculture production;
- Pond rehabilitation will be encouraged, but interventions will be limited to cases with an acceptable "cost/benefit" relation and is favourable for water retention and quality of the environment.

In order to support the sustainable development of aquaculture in Poland, a long-term master plan will be drafted by 2011.

The mechanism to be set-up according to Article 28, paragraph 5 of the EFF Regulation will be designated by the Managing Authority by the end of 2008.

Actions funded under this measure will concern the construction of new farms and hatcheries, including the necessary material and equipment; the extension or modernisation of existing farms and the improvement of working and safety conditions. Investments related to the improvement of quality will be targeted, as well as equipment for prevention of wild predators.

2. Beneficiaries of the measure

Private or public operators or companies;
Organisations or associations of producers.

3. Financial contribution of the measure:

Public contribution will be limited to 60 % of total eligible investments

4. Quantitative objectives – Indicators

See table above.

5. Specific information

A priority on micro and small enterprises will be enforced in the selection process. 75% of available funding will be earmarked for micro and small enterprises. This percentage may be revised by the Monitoring Committee on the basis of the experience in implementing this measure.

Measure 2.2. Aqua-environmental measures

1. Measure description

The objective of the measure is to compensate the producers for the use of aquaculture production methods aiming at protecting and improving the environment and at conserving biodiversity. The aim is also the promotion of environmentally-friendly production practices into the Polish aquaculture sector. This measure intends to provide premiums to aquaculture farmers who commit themselves to the forms of aquaculture provided for in Article 30 of the EFF Regulation.

The aims of this measure are as follows:

- To support the use of traditional environmental-friendly practices and techniques in aquaculture;
- To assist producers to obtain the environmental certification that will help them to market their products;
- To initiate a production of organic fisheries products in the country;
- To support the implementation of the Natura 2000 according to article 30. 2.

The measure provides for:

- Compensations representing a maximum amount per hectare in aquaculture farms in which aqua-environmental obligations are applied going beyond the regulatory framework;
- Support for applying eco-management and audit schemes;
- Compensation for maximum 2 years for farms that turn into organic production of aquaculture;
- Compensation for maximum 2 years subsequent to the date of decision regarding protected areas according to NATURA 2000, only for aquaculture units that developed their activity prior to the decision.

The managing authority has commissioned a study in order to develop adequate criteria for the implementation of this measure in Poland (designation of areas, management methods, content of the measures, level of the incentives, etc.).

2. Beneficiaries of the measure

Private and public companies and private operators active in the aquaculture sector, who commit themselves to the forms of aquaculture targeted in the Article 30 of the Council Regulation 1198/2006.

3. Financial contribution of the measure

Premiums will be paid 100% from public aid

4. Quantitative objectives – Indicators

See table above

5. Specific information

Calculation of premium for investment cost, application of standard schemes, loss of income and premium will be done according to criteria to be defined in the Monitoring Committee. These criteria will be based on the following elements:

- Traditional methods of fish production in ponds shall be promoted;
- Participation in EMAS will be supported if relevant. The premium will be calculated individually;
- Poland will define standards for organic aquaculture based on recognised standards, including international ones;
- Support under Natura 2000 will only be eligible inside the designated areas and in their direct surrounding as identified in the management plans for these areas.

Measure 2.3. Animal health measures

1. Measure description

In case of fish diseases, support shall be provided for control, eradication of diseases and compensation to the aquaculture farmers in accordance with the relevant provisions of Directive 2006/88/EC.

2. Beneficiaries of the measure

Private and public companies operating in the aquaculture sector.

3. Financial contribution of the measure

In case of animal diseases premiums will be paid 100 % by public contribution.

4. Quantitative objectives – Indicators

Not applicable

5. Specific information

The managing authority shall establish, in consultation with the Veterinary Inspection, the amount of financial resources to be spent on financing measures against exotic diseases and the realisation of programmes for non-exotic diseases control.

This measure will only be implemented following a decision of the managing authority taken if required by the sanitary situation.

Measure 2.4. Inland Fishing

1. Measure description

The aim of this measure is to maintain and modernise the fleet in the inland areas (lakes and rivers) and the necessary infrastructure. The modernisation should be done by ensuring the sustainability of resources in the inland fishing areas.

1. Eligible activities:

- Investments in fishing fleet operating in the lakes and rivers of Poland in order to improve safety on board, working conditions, hygiene and quality of products;
- Modernisation of fishing facilities in the inland areas including investments in landing sites and shelters. Modernisation will cover investments related to the working conditions, storage facilities and warehouses, hygiene and product quality;
- Reassignment of vessels operating in inland fishing to other activities outside fishing;
- Temporary cessation support for owners and fishers operating in inland waters in accordance with the criteria of Art. 33. 4.

2. Beneficiaries of the measure

- Private and public inland fishing operators;
- Private companies;
- Organisations or associations of producers;
- Fishers.

3. Financial contribution of the measure

Intensity aid varies between 20 % and 100%.

4. Quantitative objectives – Indicators

Not applicable

5. Specific information on this measure

All the boats which will receive financial support under Article 33 of Regulation (EC) 1198/2006 should be registered in a inland water vessels register. They will continue to operate exclusively in inland waters.

Measure 2.5. Investments in processing and marketing

1. Measure description

The following objectives will be pursued for the modernisation of the **processing sector**:

- Increase of capacity of the processing industry by extending existing facilities or building new units using the products of aquaculture, catches from the Polish fleet (in particular pelagic fish) and imported raw material;
- Improvement of quality and competitiveness for fish products processed and marketed through investments in new technologies, new equipment and innovative production methods, including quality management, food safety and certification of processes;
- This measure will support investments aimed at reducing the negative environmental impact of production. It will also seek to improve working conditions, work safety and hygiene and to adapt processing and marketing units to environmental restrictions, including waste treatment facilities.
- Maintain and/or increase the level of employment, taking into account the need to promote equal opportunities of women and men in the labour market;
- Enhance the skills of the workforce through appropriate training.

The **marketing of fish products** should be encouraged in order to supply the internal market with high quality food products and ensure food safety. The development of the internal market in Poland will put the Polish fishery sector in a better position to compete with imports and will make it easier for producers to sell their production. In this context, aid may be granted for construction, modernisation and investment in equipment of wholesale enterprises that market fishery products coming from the sea and the aquaculture sector in order to:

- Increase the capacity for storage and marketing of fishery products;
- Promote systems guarantying high quality and safety of fishery products;
- Reduce negative impact on the environment;
- Improve the working conditions;
- Preserve the cold chain;
- Promote systems improving the traceability of fisheries products;
- Enhance the skills of the workforce through appropriate training;
- Reconstruct existing market establishments.

2. Beneficiary of the measure

Private operators or companies;
Public or semi-public bodies;
Organisations or associations of producers.

3. Financial contribution of the measure

Public contribution will be limited to 60 % of total eligible investments

4. Quantitative objectives – Indicators

See table above

5. Specific information on this Measure

A priority on micro and small enterprises will be enforced in the selection process. At least 50% of available funding will be earmarked for micro and small enterprises. This percentage may be revised by the Monitoring Committee on the basis of the experience in implementing this measure.

Priority Axis 3: Measures of common interest

3.1. Main objective under priority Axis 3

In compliance with the EC Regulation № 1198/2006 and according to the strategy presented in chapter 4, the main objectives of the Priority Axis 3 will be:

- The reinforcement of the port, fishing shelters and landing site facilities and the construction of infrastructure in order to ensure a profitable and competitive fishing industry in the long-term;
- To ensure a profitable and competitive fishing sector in the long term which takes into account the restructuring needs of the Polish fishing fleet which is partially shifting from cod to pelagic fishing activities;
- The enhancement of the organisation of the sector, especially of the market, but also of the professional skills and of innovation in the fisheries sector. Partnerships with scientists should also be encouraged;
- To ensure sustainability regarding the natural resources;
- To disseminate newly acquired knowledge concerning the fisheries sector;
- To promote fisheries products.
- To promote energy saving initiatives and investments (including operations in accordance with art.9 and 10 of regulation (EC) n° 744/2008).

These will be achieved via the modernisation of existing ports, fishing shelters and landing sites used for landing catches, and the promotion of fish and fisheries products. Currently, the obsolete infrastructure of the fishing ports and shelters and the absence of adequate equipment and facilities is a hindrance for the further development of the fishery sector. New fishing shelters and landing sites need to be constructed mainly along the coast.

Support under priority Axis 3 of the EFF covers also the measure “Collective actions”. The managing authority will encourage the implementation of these measures among the producer’s organisations and associations, taking into account the collective nature of these measures.

The collective facilities created under Axis 3 could also be used for tourist activities such as sailing or sport fishing. Where there is a local action group, these facilities can be utilised in the framework of the integrated strategies developed under Axis 4.

3.2. Baseline and quantified targets

Result indicators	Baseline	Intermediary objective 2010	Objective 2013
Nº of modernised ports	0	3	12
Nº of modernised shelters and landing sites	0	5	10
Nº of constructed shelters and landing sites	0	0	1-2
Nº of Producers' organisations created	0	1	2
Increase of the average fish consumption	11,83 kg/capita per year (2006)	14 kg/capita per year	16 kg/capita per year
Increase of the added value of the fish processed and marketed	190 million €	+ 60 %	+90 %

Source: SFI

3.3. Justification of the average rate of co-financing and beneficiaries

Poland is covered entirely under Convergence Objective and has a weak absorption capacity. Therefore the maximum percentage of Community Aid and the maximum intensity provided for by the Regulation is applied.

3.4. Description of the main measures proposed under Priority Axis 3 based on the drawn strategy:

The general approach intended by the measures under Priority Axis 3 is to support the implementation of the Priority Axis 1 and 2 by:

- Restructuring the fisheries sector;
- Modernising and reconstructing common facilities for fishing activities;
- Supporting the organisation of the sector via the development of the market and other actions of collective interest

The measures to be undertaken by this Priority Axis are:

- Measure 3.1. Collective actions;
- Measure 3.2. Protection and development of aquatic fauna and flora;
- Measure 3.3. Investments in reconstruction and modernisation of fishing ports, landing sites and shelters;
- Measure 3.4. Development of new markets and promotional campaigns;
- Measure 3.5. Pilot projects;
- Measure 3.6. Modification for reassignment of fishing vessels.

3. 5. Demarcation with similar activities under the other Community funding and measures taken to ensure complementarities

- The construction of new fishing port facilities will be financed, on the EU side, by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). The EFF will take in charge the co-funding of modernisation and repair of existing ports facilities connected to fisheries.
- The construction and modernisation of shelters and landing sites shall be eligible under EFF.
- Experimental fishing will be subject of investments only under EFF.
- The EFF will support the rehabilitation of spawning grounds for migratory fish species.
- Measures for protection of and development of the aquatic flora and fauna can in some cases be supported under the LIFE + financial instrument, especially within the areas designated as NATURA 2000. The national authorities in charge of EFF and Life+ will exchange data in order to avoid the risk of double funding. The intervention of the EFF in NATURA 2000 areas will be limited to actions linked with fishing activities.
- "Projects co-financed by the operational programme will fully respect the provisions of the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive, the Habitats and Birds Directives. Appropriate screening criteria will be applied at the selection stage of the projects to ensure that they are compliant with the above mentioned Directives. Co-financing of projects having negative impact on potential Natura 2000 sites (i.e. sites that in the Commission's view need to be designated on 1/05/2004, but were not designated by Poland) will not be permitted."

The Managing Authority will comply with the provisions of the "Demarcation lines for the EAFRD, EFF and Cohesion Funds programmes", the document approved by the NSRF Coordination Committee.

Measure 3.1. Collective actions

1. Description of the measure

The EFF will support measures of common interest aiming mainly at a better organisation of the fisheries sector. The Polish administration intends to implement all the measures of common interest foreseen in the regulation.

The main types of investment may concern:

- Creation of new producers organisations and restructuring of the existing ones, according to EC Regulation № 104/2000;
- Improvement of professional skills, networking and exchange of experience and best practice among organisations and scientists – organisation of trainings, seminars, practice exchange programs and conferences. These will cover in particular areas related to hygiene, quality control, traceability, etc.;
- Promotion of partnership between scientists and operators in the fisheries sector;
- Promotion of selective fishing methods or gears and reduction of by-catches and promotion for improvement of hygiene, working conditions and safety as well as the removing of lost fishing gears.
- Carrying out energy audits for group of vessels and provide expert advice on the development of restructuring or modernisation, including a FAS (regulation (EC) n°744/2008).

2. Beneficiaries of the measure

The following beneficiaries are foreseen:

- Organisations recognised according to EC Regulation № 104/2000 as representatives of producers;
- Other associations of the fishery sector.
- Private companies, public or semi-public bodies;
- Research institutes.

3. Financial contribution of the measure

The public contribution will be of 100% of the total investment, out of which 75% of the total eligible investment will come from EFF.

4. Quantitative objectives – Indicators

See table above

Measure 3.2. Protection and development of water fauna and flora

1. Description of the measure

The measure will support actions such as:

- Construction or/and installation of fixed or mobile facilities designated to protection and development of aquatic flora and fauna;
- Rehabilitation of inland waters, including reproduction areas and migration routes for migrating species, although the construction and installation of facilities will be limited to existing barriers;
- Environment protection and improvement within the NATURA 2000 Programme, if linked to fishing activities;
- Direct restocking shall not be eligible for aid, unless explicitly foreseen as a conservation measure by a Community legal act.

Support under Article 38(2)(c) of the ERF (i.e. measures relating to the protection and enhancement of the environment in the framework of NATURA 2000 where its areas directly concern fishing activities) may also cover costs for the consultation of stakeholders during the discussion of management plans, studies for monitoring and surveying species and habitats including mapping and risk management (early warning systems, etc.) and the preparation of information and publicity material.

2. Beneficiaries of the measure

Beneficiaries will be:

- Organisations, groups or associations;
- Public or semi-public bodies, with effective involvement and representation of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors;
- Other bodies appointed for that purpose by the Managing Authority.

3. Financial contribution of the measure

The public contribution will be of 100% of the total investment, out of which 75% of the total eligible investment will come from ERF.

4. Quantitative objectives – Indicators

Not applicable

Measure 3.3. Fishing ports, landing sites and harbours

1. Description of the measure

The main actions to be financed are the following:

- Modernisation of **existing fishing ports**. This action will include:
 - Expansion and modernisation of berths for fishing vessels and boats;
 - Construction of facilities for provision of fuel, ice, water supplies and electricity;
 - Construction and improving of facilities for disembarking, processing and cold storage of fishing products;
 - Facilities and equipment to provide maintenance and repair services of fishing vessels and boats;
 - Development of IT systems for management of fishing activities;
 - Construction of facilities for waste treatment and storage, as well as for improving working conditions, safety and hygiene.
- Investment in **landing sites**, serving as safety shelters as well as facilities for the distribution of fresh catches:
 - Construction, modernisation and extension of facilities for landing and improvement of safety during landing operations;
 - Construction of facilities for provision of fuel, ice and water supply;
 - Construction of facilities for cold storage;
 - Construction of locations for storage and treatment of waste and losses.
- Investment in the construction or modernisation of **shelters** along the coastline. These shelters are aimed at improving the safety of workers in the fisheries sector.

2. Beneficiaries of the measure

Beneficiaries will be:

- Organisations, groups or associations;
- Private companies;
- Public or semi-public bodies.

3. Financial allocation

The public contribution will be of 100% of the total investment, out of which 75% of the total eligible investment will come from EFF.

4. Quantitative objectives – Indicators

See table above

Measure 3.4. Development of new markets and promotion campaigns

1. Description of the measure

The main actions to be financed are the following:

- Promotion of equipment and procedures for the marketing of fish products through the improvement of product quality, safety and traceability;
- Market studies;
- Promotional campaigns (advertisement campaigns to stimulate fish consumption and to promote fisheries products, awareness campaigns for protection and sustainable exploitation of resources, etc.);
- Participation in, and organisation of, sea food and fishery products exhibitions;
- Specific campaigns to inform about the origin and quality of the products (certified, labelled, etc.).

2. Beneficiaries of the measure

Beneficiaries will be:

- Organisations, groups or associations;
- Private companies;
- Public or semi-public bodies.

3. Financial allocation

The public contribution will be of 100% of the total investment, out of which 75% of the total eligible investment will come from EFF.

4. Quantitative objectives – Indicators

See table above

Measure 3.5. Pilot projects

1. Description of the measure

The EFF will help the fishery sector in Poland to acquire and disseminate new technical and scientific knowledge and test it in conditions close to reality through the support to pilot projects. These pilot projects may concern:

- Testing and implementing new technical and technological solutions;
- Testing technical improvements aiming at reducing energy consumption for vessels, engines, equipment or gear and at reducing emissions and contributing to the fight against climate change (in accordance with article 10 Regulation (EC) 744/2008).
- Developing and testing methods intended to improve fishing gear selectivity, to reduce by-catches and discards, or other impact of fisheries on the environment;
- Simulating flock management methods, distribution of fish quotas, including, if necessary, establishment of no-fishing zones, in order to evaluate the biological and economic consequences, including experimental restocking;
- Developing alternative fishing management methods.

The projects should not be of commercial value for the period of the investment. The pilot projects supported shall include adequate scientific follow-up. The results and technologies developed shall be presented in technical reports available to the public.

Pilot projects supported by the EFF must be truly innovative. Small technical improvements of well known technologies in the EU are not sufficient to qualify for support under Article 41 of the EFF. Pilot projects should also have limited cost and duration.

2. Beneficiaries of the measure

Scientific organisations; research institutes; environmental organisations; producers' organisations; other organisations designated for that purpose by the Managing Authority; administration; private companies

3. Financial contribution of the measure

The public contribution will be of 100% of the total investment, out of which 75% will come from EFF.

4. Quantities objectives - Indicators

Not applicable

Measure 3.6. Modification for reassignment of fishing vessels

1. Description of the measure

The aim of the measure is to create an opportunity for the reassignment of fishing vessels in activities outside fishing. The measure will concern the reassignment of fishing vessels for the following purposes:

- Preservation of historical heritage (e.g. as a monument);
- Tourism;
- Scientific and research purposes;
- Training;
- Control activities.

2. Beneficiaries of the measure

Actions under the Measure are limited to public or semi-public bodies.

3. Financial contribution of the measure

The public contribution will be of 100% of the total investment, out of which 75% of the total eligible investment will come from EFF.

4. Quantitative objectives - Indicators

Not applicable

Priority axis 4: Sustainable development of fisheries areas

4.1. Main objective under priority Axis 4

Priority axes I, II and III concern sectoral measures within the fisheries sector. Priority axis 4 has a territorial dimension and it complements the sectoral measures. Poland allocated a substantial share (32%) of its EFF resources to Axis 4 in view of the opportunities offered by this axis for the development of the fisheries areas.

The main objectives of Axis 4 are to:

- Minimise the decline of the fisheries sector;
- Reconvert the areas affected by changes in this sector;
- Improve the quality of life in fishing communities.

For this purpose, Poland needs to build up capacity among local stakeholders through training, upgrading of their professional skills and development of entrepreneurship with the view to diversification of activities in fisheries sector in order to improve the quality of life of communities in fisheries areas. Moreover, the measures are aimed at raising the attractiveness of the areas through the development of eco-tourism and small fisheries-related infrastructure, protection and recovery of the environment, as well as development and regeneration of hamlets and villages with deeply rooted fishing activities and tradition.

An important objective is also **to improve the cooperation** between public authorities and the organisations/bodies representing the fisheries sector, as well as between fisheries groups.

The existing **Leader local structures** will be used where relevant in this process.

The financial support under Axis 4 may cover the assistance for:

- Setting-up of fisheries groups (development of partnerships and strategies);
- Implementation of local development strategies;
- Fisheries groups to undertake cooperation projects.

Within the framework of the implementation of the Local Strategy for the Development of Fisheries Areas (LSDFA), it is possible to apply for co-financing under certain measures provided for in the Priority Axes 1, 2 and 3. These measures include:

1. Priority Axis II: _____Aquaculture, inland fishing, processing and fish market:
 - a) Measure 2.1. Aquaculture;
 - b) Measure 2.2. Inland Fishing except for Measure 2.3. Temporary cessation of inland fishing activities;
2. Priority Axis III - Measures of common interest:
 - a) Measure 3.1. Collective actions;

- b) Measure 3.4 Development of new markets and promotional campaigns;
- c) Measure 3.6 Modification for reassignment of fishing vessels.

The financial assistance for the implementation of the LSDFA under the above-mentioned Measures will be granted according to the rules and in the amount provided for in the Operational Programme.

4. 2. Baseline and quantified targets

Indicator	Baseline	Objective 2010	Objective 2013
No. of Fisheries Groups established	0	12	30
Territory covered by Fisheries Groups	0	18.000	45.000
Population of the territory covered by the groups	0	600.000	1.500.000
Jobs created or maintained in fisheries areas	0	600	2500

Source: CSO, MARD

4.3. Justification of the average rate of co-financing, the areas concerned and the beneficiaries

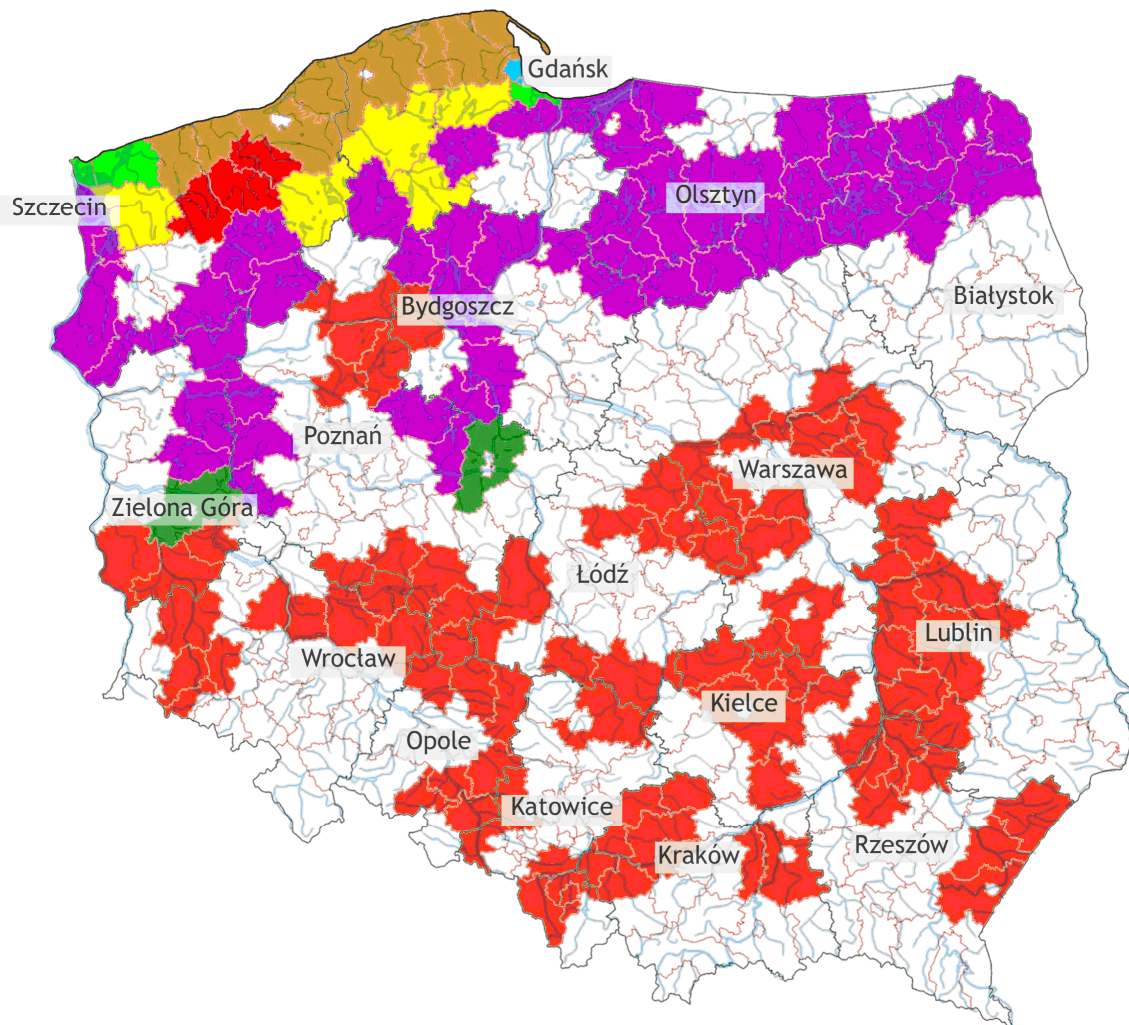
4.3.1. Rate of co-financing

Poland is covered entirely under Convergence Objective and has a weak absorption capacity. Therefore the maximum percentage of Community Aid and the maximum intensity provided for by the Regulation is applied.

4.3.2. Description of the fisheries areas in Poland

The assistance under Axis 4 will concern specific areas where fishing activities are carried out, in particular the areas stretched along the coast where the main fishing ports are located. Areas situated along major rivers and lakes used for fishing or offering favourable conditions for fishing will also be covered. The main occupation of the population of those areas is fishing or aquaculture.

Map of potential fisheries areas in Poland



-  Baltic Sea coastal areas of considerable significance to sea fishing and with a large concentration of salmonidae farming
-  Baltic Sea coastal areas of considerable significance to sea fishing and with a large concentration of lake fisheries and brackish waters with carp and/or trout ponds
-  Baltic Sea coastal areas of considerable significance to sea fishing
-  Areas with a large concentration of salmonidae farming
-  Areas with a large concentration of salmonidae farming and lake fisheries
-  Areas with a large concentration of lake fisheries
-  Areas with a large concentration of carp farming
-  Areas with a large concentration of lake fisheries and carp farming

The fisheries areas in Poland could be divided from a geographical, economic and social point of view into four main categories:

- Coastal sea areas located along the whole Polish sea coast where coastal fishing as well as processing of fish products is carried out;
- Estuaries of main rivers where the production of salmonidae is concentrated;
- Areas where aquaculture facilities exist, consisting of clusters of major aquaculture units, breeding mainly carp and trout, including traditional aquaculture centres dealing with fish farming;
- Lake districts where inland fishing and angling is carried out.

4.3.3. Criteria for the selection of fisheries areas

Having regard to specific national conditions, the Managing Authority will determine detailed criteria for the selection of fisheries areas in cooperation with the competent local authorities and relevant scientific institutions.

Fisheries areas will be eligible if they meet the following minimum criteria:

- A fisheries area should be smaller than NUTS III (powiats);
- The area must be coherent from a geographical, economical and social point of view;
- In general, the total population should not exceed 100.000 inhabitants. Towns with a population below 100.000 inhabitants are eligible.
- Traditional activities related to the fisheries sector were carried out on a historical basis in the area;
- At least one of the following three criteria must be fulfilled:
 - The population density is low; or
 - Fishing is an important economic activity but is in decline¹³; or
 - Small fishing communities represent an important share of the population.

The territory covered by one group should be coherent and have sufficient critical mass in terms of human, financial and economic resources to support a viable “Local Strategy for the Development of Fisheries Areas” (LSDFA). Only one Group may operate in a specific area.

4.3.4. Beneficiaries

These will be Fisheries Groups selected through calls for proposals. The candidates should submit a local strategy (LSDFA) which will cover a specific area corresponding to the above criteria. Apart from that, the Groups must:

- Be composed of a public-private partnership in which the private component is above 50%;
- Present an integrated multisectoral strategy for the development of their area;

¹³ Percentage share of persons employed in the fisheries and fisheries-related sectors in relation to the total number of people employed in a specific geographical area as well as the number of fish farms and establishments dealing with the processing of fishery and aquaculture products and product waste and other entities involved in the fisheries and fisheries-related activities as compared with the entire economy of the area.

- Be established as a legal entity after the approval of their local plan and function under the relevant national legislation.

The Groups will be responsible for the selection of the projects to be funded within a strategy. The **final beneficiaries** of those projects will be fisheries communities, workers within the fisheries sector or those who through their work have a link with the sector, local communities, public or private organisations involved in local development of the selected area (NGOs, foundations, associations, local councils, civil society). Public or private potential final beneficiaries who want to diversify their activities will also be concerned.

4.4. Demarcation lines with Leader and other Funds

Since Axis 4 areas may overlap with territories where Leader and/or other Funds could intervene, the Managing Authority/Implementing Bodies will ensure:

- Demarcation lines between the strategies proposed by Fisheries Groups and other groups for example the Local Actions Groups under Leader;
- Demarcation lines between the tasks of different Groups (“who does what”);
- Demarcation lines between the Funds;
- Coordination mechanisms between and within the Groups.

Appropriate cross-check mechanisms will be introduced to avoid double-financing, especially as regards axis 3 and axis 4 of the EAFRD co-financed Rural Development Programme.

When an Axis 4 intervention area coincides with an area where exists an efficient Leader LAG, the existing administrative and financial structure may be used to create the Fisheries Group and to set-up and implement a Local Strategy for the Development of Fisheries Areas. In this case, there is a need to separate clearly the decision making, control and financial procedures and mechanisms, as well as the selection committees.

Since some measures are eligible both under Axis 4 and Leader, it is essential that the strategies proposed by the Fisheries Groups are independent from and complementary with the Leader strategies of the Local Action Groups. Clear demarcation lines between the Funds will be established within the strategies concerned. It will be the ultimate responsibility of the Managing Authority to determine which strategy finances which project.

The Managing Authority will comply with the provisions of the "Demarcation lines for the EAFRD, EFF and Cohesion Funds programmes", the document approved by the NSRF Coordination Committee.

Measure 4.1. Development of Fisheries Areas

In order to improve the social and economic situation of fisheries and fisheries-related communities and to implement the principles of the Common Fisheries Policy, it is important to coordinate the activities undertaken in fisheries areas. Therefore, the action to support the permanent development of fisheries areas are aimed at establishing the "Fisheries Groups" (LFG) as well as preparing and implementing the "Local Strategies for the Development of Fisheries Areas" (LSDFA).

1. Selection of Fisheries Groups

Fisheries Groups will be able to organise themselves in the areas selected according to the above-mentioned criteria and their activity must be closely connected with the fisheries and fisheries-related sectors.

The basic requirement for Fisheries Groups is that they must organise themselves on the basis of a **bottom-up approach** with the active participation of local communities, business entities and non-governmental organisations. Applications under this measure can be submitted in particular by associations, unions of associations and other non-governmental organisations recognised as legal entities, as well as by units of local self-government and their unions.

Priority will be given to the applications for the establishment of a Fisheries Group within the framework of **experienced structures** already existing in the area.

Partners who are members of a Local Group should have the capability to make decisions and to perform the tasks entrusted to them, in particular as far as **administrative and financial tasks** are concerned.

Fisheries Groups prepare Local Strategies for the Development of Fisheries Areas, which will take into consideration the **needs of local fisheries communities**, as well as the objectives of the Common Fisheries Policy.

In order to select Groups, at least **two calls for proposals** will be organised. They will be launched under the responsibility of the Managing Authority. The selection of a Group will be made on the basis of specific criteria defined at national level by the Managing Authority.

- The first call for tenders will be issued not later than one year after the approval of the Programme by the European Commission. It is planned to select around 40% of the total number of Groups within the first call for proposals. In the meantime, all necessary steps will be undertaken with the view to informing the potential beneficiaries about the possibilities for the organisation of Groups and on rules and criteria for applying for co-financing. A significant role in these activities will be performed by local partners and stakeholders, especially those from the fisheries sector. Technical assistance under Axis 5 could also be used to animate the process of the creation of the groups.

- The second call will be launched not later than two years following the selection of the Fisheries Groups resulting from the first call for proposals. The period of time in between can be used by other entities interested in this measure, but need more time to organise and establish coherent and effective administrative structures and to prepare properly their Local Strategies for the Development of Fisheries Areas.

The actions foreseen by the Fisheries Group will be presented in Local Strategy for the development of fisheries areas which could cover the whole programming period of the OP and should include an annual break down of the planned expenditures.

2. Implementation of the local strategies

The following table shows the **administrative and financial circuits** which will be put in place by the Managing Authority in order to implement Axis 4.

Taking into account the innovative nature of Axis 4, the institutional circuits for implementation of this Axis will be subject to constant monitoring. The circuits presented below may be revised on the basis of the experience gained during the implementation of this priority axis.

- Fisheries Groups' selection and contracting procedure

Activity	Responsible body
Launching of call for proposals	Managing Authority + Intermediate body (regional self-government)
Receipt of applications and assessment of Local Strategies	Managing Authority
Selection of the Groups	Managing Authority + Intermediate body (regional self-government)
Administrative decision	Minister
Legal commitment	Minister

- Project selection procedure within the Group

Activity	Responsible body
Call for proposals	Group
Receipt of applications	Group
Eligibility check	Group
Selection of projects	Group
Notifying beneficiaries	Group
Legal commitment	Group
Payment to beneficiaries	Intermediate body (ARMA)

- Financial and control procedures

Activity	Responsible body
Receipt of application for payment	Intermediate body (regional self-government)
Verification of the delivery of project activities	Intermediate body (regional self-government)
On spot checks and reporting	Managing Authority and Intermediate body (regional self-government)
Payment	Intermediate body (Arma)
Keeping of accounting records	Group
Verification prior to final payment	Intermediate body (regional self-government)
Internal audit	Intermediate body (regional self-government)

Within the Groups, decision-making process to be set-up will give appropriate weight to the representatives of the fisheries sector. Women and people under 30 years of age will be given incentives for their active participation and they should have a fair representation in the decision making process. Application to the Group must be open to all those who are interested.

3. Financial allocation

The running costs for groups will be funded at 100% (75% EFF and 25% other national public funds) and will represent maximum 10% of the budget of the grant.

4. Complementary information related to this measure

Preparation of the Local Strategies for the Development of Fisheries Areas

The main task of the Fisheries Group is to prepare and then to implement the Local Strategies for the Development of Fisheries Areas (LSDFA).

The LSDFA to be included in the application submitted by a candidate group should comprise the following elements:

- Description of the area where the local strategy will be implemented including the boundaries of the area;
- Arrangements for consulting local partners;
- Description of the local group: partnership, decision-making procedures, level of private participation;
- Assessment of initial situation and analysis of the needs and potential in the area;
- Objectives established for the implementation of the Strategy of the development of fisheries areas; strategy for achieving the objectives (list of measures); complementarities with other development programmes;

- The measures should be presented in a Strategy of the development of fisheries areas covering the whole period of the duration of the Operational Programme. The Strategy of the development of fisheries areas should present for each measure: the objectives, a brief description of the measures, the expected results and the financial allocation by year;
- Methods of informing the potential beneficiaries and the general public;
- Administrative arrangements, detailed audit trail procedures;
- Evaluation and monitoring arrangements.

The Local Strategy must have the following features:

- Territorial approach: creation of a common vision for the development of the area; efficient use of local resources, integrated activities at local level;
- Bottom-up approach: active participation of representatives of the population in planning, decision making and implementation of the strategy;
- Integrated and multi-sectoral approach: the strategy is based on interaction of partners from all sectors of the local economy;
- The commitments of Poland in the framework of international agreements (Helcom, Baltic Sea Strategy) and Natura 2000¹⁴.

The Fisheries Group must have the capacity to implement the strategy which covers the following elements:

- Quality of the local team including former experience or appropriate training;
- Demonstrated administrative and financial capacity;
- Capacity to mobilise the necessary co-funding.

Under this measure, support to the establishment of fisheries groups in their pre-development stage will be provided through the provision of training, setting-up of a data-base of experts and information meetings for potential fisheries groups.

¹⁴ This scores additional points.

Measure 4.2 Support for inter-regional and transnational cooperation.

In order to stimulate local initiatives more effectively and to help cooperation with groups in other regions and countries developing similar activities, the Managing Authority will support inter-regional and transnational cooperation of fisheries groups.

The following could be covered under this measure:

- Cost of elaborating the cooperation projects;
- Cost of investment for implementation of the common projects, including training.

Only the Groups selected under the Measure 4.1 can be the **beneficiaries** of this measure.

1. Financial allocation

The amount of assistance shall be up to 100% of eligible costs (75% EFF).

2. Demarcation line

As regards the actions for the support of sustainable development of fisheries areas, there is a risk of double financing from the EFF and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development under which Priority Axis Leader + will be implemented. In order to avoid such a risk, steps will be undertaken to establish close cooperation between the Intermediate Bodies which will be implementing Leader and Axis 4. This will contribute to better transparency and to minimising the risk of double-financing.

Priority axis 5. Technical assistance

5.1. Main objective under priority Axis 5

Technical assistance is a very important instrument for Member States covered by the Convergence Objective and having only limited experience in managing structural funds.

The main objectives of the technical assistance under Priority Axis 5 are to:

- Manage efficiently the operational programme, including its preparation, the implementation of all the measures foreseen, as well as performing the necessary control, monitoring and assessment functions;
- Ensure effective functioning of the administration involved in enforcing the Common Fisheries Policy.

5.2. Beneficiaries of the measure

The **beneficiaries** of this priority axis will be all bodies or institutions involved in the implementation of the OP, as well as bodies responsible for the enforcement of principles of CFP.

5.3. Demarcation line

There is no risk of the measure being simultaneously financed by other Community financial instruments.

5.4. Description of the main measures proposed under Priority Axis 5 based on the drawn strategy:

Measure 5.1: Technical assistance

1. Description of the measure

Actions under this measure will include:

- 1) **Preparatory studies** to facilitate the implementation of various priority axes/measures, such as: a strategy for aquaculture and market analysis involving data collection for aquaculture and processing sector.
- 2) **Communication actions:** a communication plan will be established and will provide for:
 - continuous dissemination of information to potential beneficiaries on funding opportunities under various measures in line with the Article 51 of the EFF Regulation;
 - informing the general public on the role played by the EU in the programme and on the programme's impact.

- 3) **Expenditures related to OP implementation**, including operational costs of the management and control systems of all bodies involved, under the responsibility of the Managing Authority. The principal mean will be a significant reinforcement of human resources. Furthermore, it is intended to provide adequate offices and equipment facilitating the programme's implementation, including appropriate IT equipment and the relevant training, as well as a contribution to the salaries of the officials and experts concerned.
- 4) Expenditures related to the **closure of the FIFG** for the programming period 2004-2006.
- 5) Expenditure related to increasing the capacity of the human resources for the services in charge of controlling the **enforcement of the CFP**. This will include the provision of training and a contribution to the salaries of the staff of the bodies concerned including expenditure related to the implementation of the Fishing Effort Adjustment Plan and possibly by the FAS (Regulation (EC) n°744/2008).
- 6) **Evaluations and other studies**, including an interim evaluation to be launched so that its results can be used by the European Commission in the strategic debate foreseen by Article 16 of the EFF Regulation on the progress of the implementation of the National Strategic Plans foreseen for 2011.
- 7) The establishment of a **national network of fisheries groups** benefiting from Axis 4 under this programme pursuant the Art. 45 (5) of the EFF Regulation including expenditure related to the setting-up of the groups.
- 8) Measures to **disseminate information**, networking, raise awareness, promote cooperation and exchange of experiences throughout the Community.

2. Financial allocation

The amount of public aid under this measure is 100% of eligible costs (75% EFF and 25% national public contribution).

VII. FINANCIAL PROVISIONS. INDICATIVE FINANCING PLANS FOPR THE OPERATIONNAL PROGRAMME

(all figures are in current prices)

Table 1. Financing plan of the operational programme giving the annual commitment of the EFF in the operational programme

Year	EFF
2007	0
2008	120.001.664
2009	121.825.117
2010	119.906.010
2011	121.944.858
2012	124.084.618
2013	126.330.307
Total EFF	734.092.574

Table 2: Financial Table for Operational Programme by priority axis

Financing of the Operational Programme by priority axes	Total public contribution	EFF contribution	National contribution	EFF co-financing level
	a=b+c	b	c	d=b/a*100
PRIORITY AXIS				
1. Measures to adjust the fishing fleet	225.121.723	168.841.292	56.280.431	75%
2. Aquaculture, inland fishing, processing and market of fisheries and aquaculture products	195.758.020	146.818.515	48.939.505	75%
3. Measures of common interest	195.758.020	146.818.515	48.939.505	75%
4. Sustainable development of fisheries areas	313.212.832	234.909.624	78.303.208	75%
5. Technical assistance	48.939.504	36.704.628	12.234.876	75%
TOTAL	978.790.099	734.092.574	244.697.525	75%

VIII. PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION SYSTEM

1. Management and implementation rules and procedures

1.1. Managing Authority functions

The Operational Programme Managing Authority is the minister competent for fisheries represented by the "Director of the Fisheries Department" at the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.. He is responsible for its implementation in accordance with due financial management rule, and, in particular, for:

- a) preparing the Operational Programme, in compliance with the objectives and priorities set out by the National Strategic Plan for the fisheries sector;
- b) monitoring the achievement of main results and the impact defined by the OP;
- c) monitoring the development of the administrative capacity of the structures involved in the execution of the OP;
- d) ensuring the implementation of the OP in compliance with the decisions of the Monitoring Committee, of the EU Regulations and of the Community principles and policies, particularly the ones in the fields of fisheries, competition, public procurement, environment and gender equality;
- e) developing and promoting partnerships at the central level, as well as between the central, regional and local levels;
- f) analysing and proposing amendments to the programme and forward the proposals to the Monitoring Committee regarding reallocation of funds within the OP;
- g) elaborating implementation procedures for the OP;
- h) preparing the appraisal and selection criteria for projects;
- i) performing quality checks on delegated tasks to the intermediate bodies;
- j) approving implementation procedures for the OP;
- k) ensuring the proper information dissemination to citizens and the mass-media regarding the role of the EU in the execution of the OP and raise the awareness of the potential beneficiaries regarding the opportunities generated by the OP;
- l) ensuring the efficient, effective and transparent use of the EFF funds that co-finance the OP;
- m) participating in the annual meetings with the European Commission aimed at examining the implementation results.
- n) In addition and according to the Article 59 of the EFF Regulation, the Managing Authority is also responsible for: ensuring that operations are selected for financing in accordance with criteria applicable to the Operational Programme and detailed rules established at the Community and national level, and that they comply the above-mentioned requirements throughout their implementation period;
- o) ensuring that evaluations of the Operational Programme referred to in Article 48 and 49 of the above-mentioned Regulation are performed in accordance with Article 47 of the Regulation;
- p) establishing procedures for ensuring that all documents concerning expenditures and audits, required to ensure the proper audit trail are stored in

accordance with the requirements of Article 87 of the above-mentioned Regulation;

- q) ensuring that the Certifying Authority and Audit Authority receive all necessary information about procedures and verifications carried out with regard to expenditures on certification and audit, respectively;
- r) the monitoring committee work management and delivery of information required for quality monitoring of the operational programme implementation in the light of its specific objectives;
- s) preparation and submission of the annual and final implementation reports to the Commission, after their approval by the monitoring committee;
- t) ensuring the compliance with the rules concerning information and promotion established in Article 51 of the above-mentioned Regulation;
- u) control the use of funds and eligibility of expenditure incurred by beneficiaries within the framework of implemented operations, including the on-site checks i.a. within the scope determined in Article 59 (b);
- v) collect the data on the implementation of individual operations and the entire Operational Programme, necessary for financial management, monitoring, verification, audit and evaluation of the Programme with the use of IT system.

The MA will be restructured in order to fulfil all its tasks and obligations according to Article 59 of the EFF Regulation. For this purpose employment will be increased and new positions will be created for officials who will be responsible for specific areas of OP management. Those areas shall be:

- The management of the Monitoring Committee;
- The follow-up of the implementation of five priority axis;
- The reporting and monitoring tasks;
- The control/inspection (on the spot) operations.

The fusion of FIFG service within the MA is also foreseen. Finally, the MA existing legal, analysis and strategic planning services shall be reinforced. The restructuring of the MA is expected to be achieved six months after the approval of this OP.

1.2. Intermediate Bodies

Pursuant to Article 58 (2) of the Regulation No. 1198/2006, the Managing Authority may designate one or more intermediate bodies to carry out some or all of the tasks of the managing authority. In relation to the above, the following bodies are designated as intermediate bodies for the purposes of the Operational Programme:

Agency for Restructuring and Modernisation of Agriculture (ARMA) – Intermediate Body for implementation of Axes I-III of the Programme shall in particular:

- 1) cooperate with the Managing Authority with regard to the requirements concerning information and communication provided for in Article 51 of the Regulation 1198/2006;
- 2) accept applications, verify and assess them, issue co-financing decisions and sign contracts on the basis of the authorisation issued by the Managing Authority, in accordance with criteria of the Operational Programme and detailed rules established at the Community and national level and ensure that

the co-financed operations comply the above-mentioned requirements throughout their implementation period;

- 3) approve the operations submitted by the beneficiaries within a separate service to the one who assesses the operations.
- 4) accept and verify applications for payment, present the statements of certified expenditure to the Managing Authority, make payments to beneficiaries and prepare and present the budget estimates to the Managing Authority, including for priority axis IV;
- 5) control the use of funds incurred by beneficiaries within the framework of implemented operations, including the on-site checks i.e. within the scope determined in Article 59 (b);
- 6) provide data on implementation of the Program to Managing Authority in order to prepare annual report referred to in Article 67 of the Regulation No 1198/2006;
- 7) detect irregularities, report them on a current basis to the Managing Authority and recover the unduly paid funds from the beneficiaries;
- 8) store the documents related to the implementation of operations, required to ensure the proper audit trail in accordance with Article 87 of the Regulation No 1198/2006.

A detailed contract or agreement will be signed between the Ministry and the Agency to specify further the delegated tasks.

Voivodeship Local Government - Intermediate Body for Axis IV of the Programme shall in particular:

- 1) cooperate with the Managing Authority with regard to the requirements concerning information and communication provided for in Article 51 of the Regulation 1198/2006;
- 2) accept applications, verify them i. a. in terms of their compliance with the *Strategy for the Development of Fisheries Areas*, approve the operations and sign the agreements on co-financing, on the basis of the authorisation issued by the Managing Authority, in accordance with criteria of the Operational Programme and detailed rules established at the Community and national level and ensure that those operations comply with the above-mentioned requirements throughout their implementation period;
- 3) accept and verify applications for payment, and then submit them to ARMA for execution;
- 4) present the ARMA with the statements of certified expenditure and prepare and present the demand for funds to ARMA;
- 5) control the use of funds incurred by beneficiaries within the framework of implemented operations, including the on-site checks i.a. within the scope determined in Article 59 (b);
- 6) collect the data on the implementation of individual operations within priority axis IV of the Operational Programme, necessary for financial management, monitoring, verification, audit and evaluation of the Programme and transmit them to Managing Authority;
- 7) provide data on implementation of the Program to Managing Authority in order to prepare annual report referred to in Article 67 of the Regulation No 1198/2006;

- 8) store the documents related to the implementation of operations, required to ensure the proper audit trail, in accordance with Article 87 of the Regulation No 1198/2006.

A detailed contract or agreement will be signed between the Ministry and the Voivodship Local Governments to specify further the delegated tasks.

1.3. Certifying Authority

Minister of Finance represented by "the Director of the Department of the Paying Body at the Ministry of Finance" is the Certifying Authority of the Operational Programme. The Minister of Finance is particularly responsible for:

- a) Preparation and submission of certified expenditure declarations and applications for payment to the Commission;
- b) Certifying that:
 - The expenditure declaration is accurate, it results from reliable accounting systems and is based on verifiable supplementary documentation;
 - Declared expenditures are in accordance with applicable Community and domestic principles and were incurred in relation to operations selected for financing in accordance with the programme applicable criteria and comply with Community and domestic principles;
- c) Ensuring that received information concerning procedures and verifications carried out due to the declaration-included expenditures constitute the appropriate certification basis;
- d) Taking into account the results of all audits carried out by the Audit Authority or on its behalf for certification needs;
- e) Keeping electronic record of the accounting records concerning the expenditures declared to the Commission;
- f) Management of registration of amounts liable for recovery procedure and amounts withdrawn after the annulment of the entire or part of the operation contribution. Amounts recovered before the closing of the Operational Programme, which are to be returned to the European Union general budget after financial corrections carried out in accordance with Article 97 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1198/2006 on the European Fisheries Fund, are deducted from the next expenditure declaration.

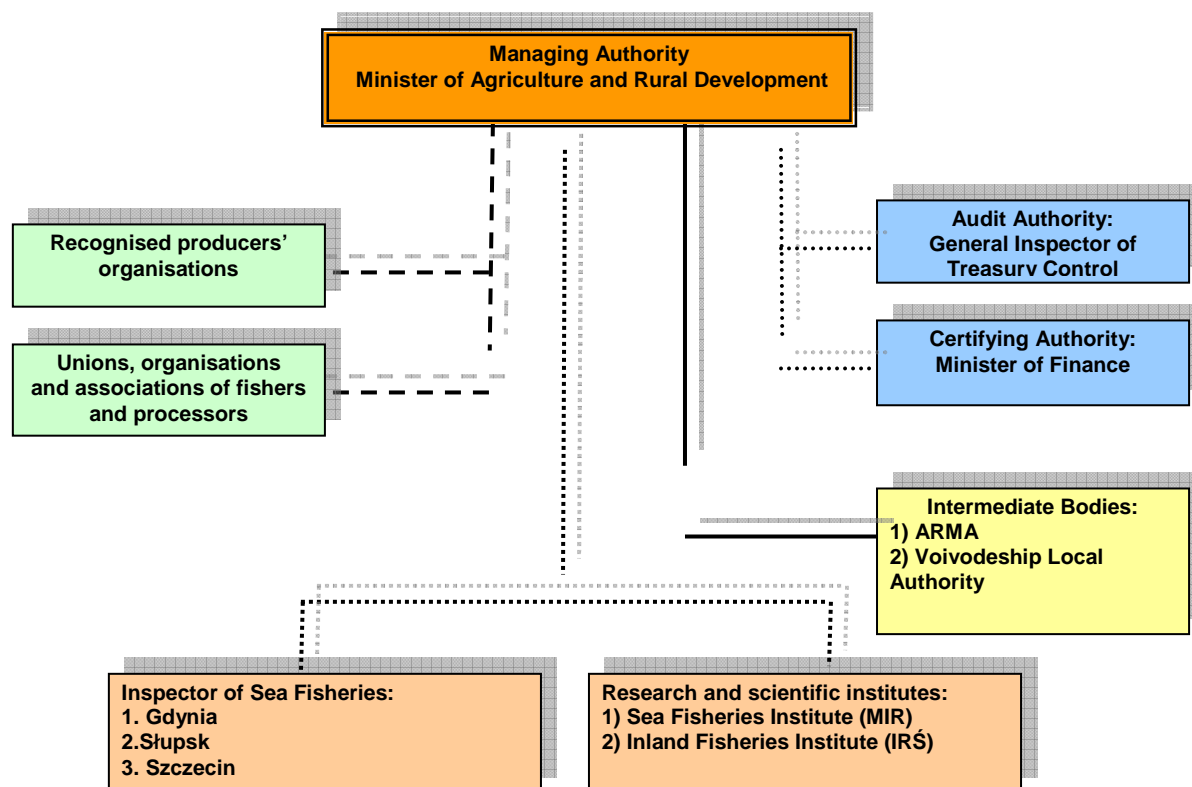
1.4. Audit Authority

General Inspector of Treasury Control represented by "the Director of the Protection of EU Financial Interests Department" at the Ministry of Finance is the Audit Authority of the Operational Programme. The General Inspector is particularly responsible for:

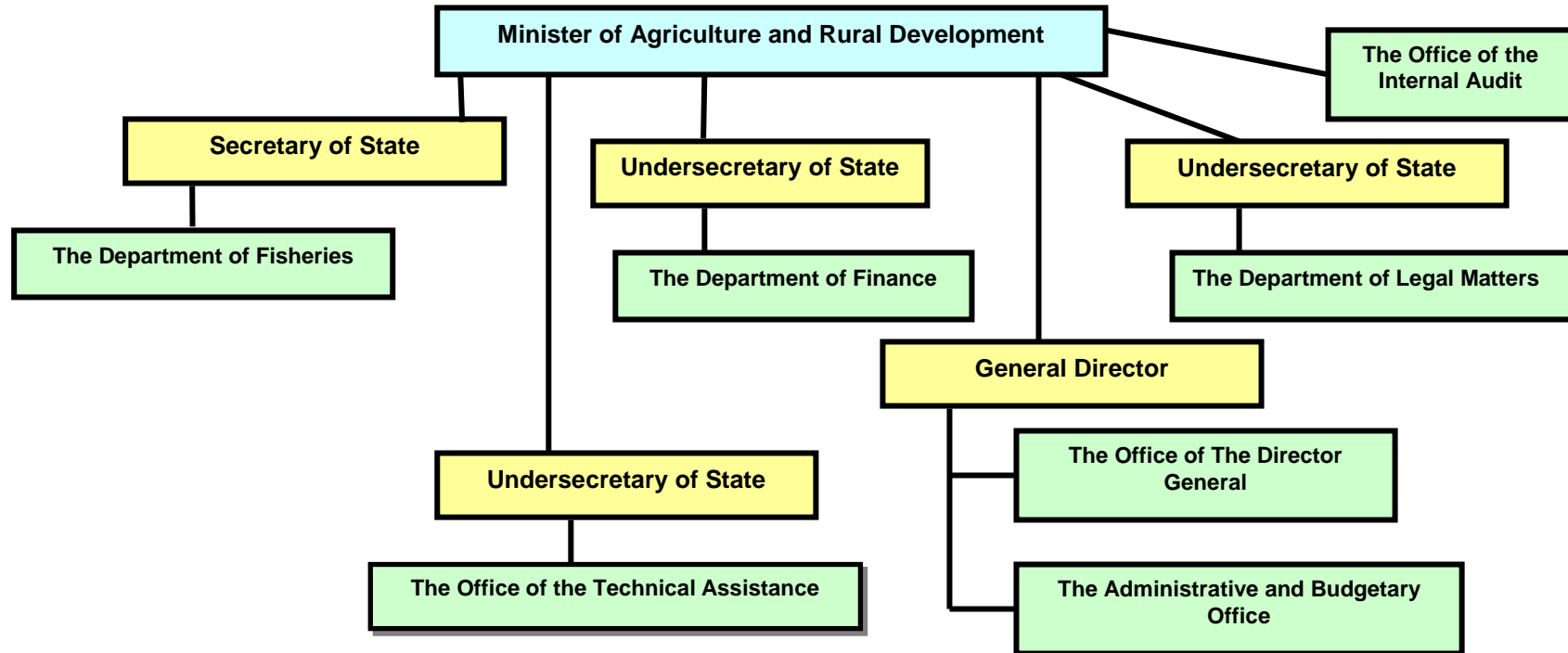
- a) ensuring that audits are carried out to verify effective functioning of the management and control system of the operational programme;
- b) ensuring that audits are carried out on operations on the basis of an appropriate sample to verify expenditure declared;

- c) presenting the Commission, within nine months of the approval of the operational programme, an audit strategy covering the bodies which will perform the audits referred to above, the method to be used, the sampling method for audits on operations, and the indicative planning of audits to ensure that the main bodies are audited and that audits are spread evenly throughout the programming period;
 - d) ensuring that the managing authority and the certifying authority receive all necessary information on the audits and controls carried out;
 - e) by 31 December each year from 2008 up to 2015:
 - submitting to the Commission an annual control report setting out the findings of the audits carried out during the previous 12 month period ending on 30 June of the year concerned in accordance with the audit strategy of the operational programme and reporting any shortcomings found in the systems for the management and control of the programme. The first report to be submitted by 31 December 2008 shall cover the period from 1 January 2007 to 30 June 2008. Information concerning the audits carried out after 31 July 2015 are included into the final audit report, which is the supplement for a winding-up declaration, discussed below (f);
 - issuing opinions on the basis of checks and audits carried out on behalf of the Auditing Authority regarding the efficiency of the functioning of the management and control system, which provide reasonable assurance that expenditure declarations submitted to the Commission are accurate and provide reasonable assurance that transactions constituting their basis are accurate and compliant with legislation;
 - submitting, where applicable under Article 85 of the Regulation (EC) No 1198/2006 on the European Fisheries Fund, of the partial closure declaration including the evaluation of compliance with legislation and accuracy of given expenditures.
 - f) submission of the closure declaration, including the evaluation of validity of application for payment of the balance and accuracy and compliance with legislation of the transactions constituting the basis for expenditures included in the final expenditure declaration, to which the final audit report is attached, to the Commission no later than on 31 March 2017.
- 2) The Audit Authority shall ensure that audit work takes account of internationally accepted audit standards into account.
 - 3) In the case when the audit and check, mentioned above (1) (a) (b) are carried out by entity other than the Audit Authority, the audit authority shall ensure that such body has the necessary functional independence.
 - 4) The Commission comments on the audit strategy discussed above (1) (c) no later than within three months from the date of submission. If no remarks are raised within this time-limit, the strategy is considered approved.

2. The Programme implementation system



ORGANISATION STRUCTURE OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT in relation to the implementation of the OP



3. The body responsible for receiving payments made by the Commission and the bodies responsible for making payments to the beneficiaries.

The Commission makes payments for the implementation of the Operational Programme in a form of: advance payment, interim payments and payment of the balance to the separate EFF bank account (programme account), denominated in Euro and managed by the Ministry of Finance.

From the account opened for the Operational Programme, financial resources converted into PLN, are transferred to the central account of state budget income, pursuant to the order of the Minister of Finance, and constitute income of the state budget. The means are allocated for financing operations under the Operational Programme "Sustainable Development of the Fisheries Sector and Coastal Fishing Areas 2007-2013".

The Managing Authority makes annual forecasts of expenditure in accordance with the national provisions on the state budget.

The Intermediate Body (ARMA) is responsible for making payments to the beneficiaries.

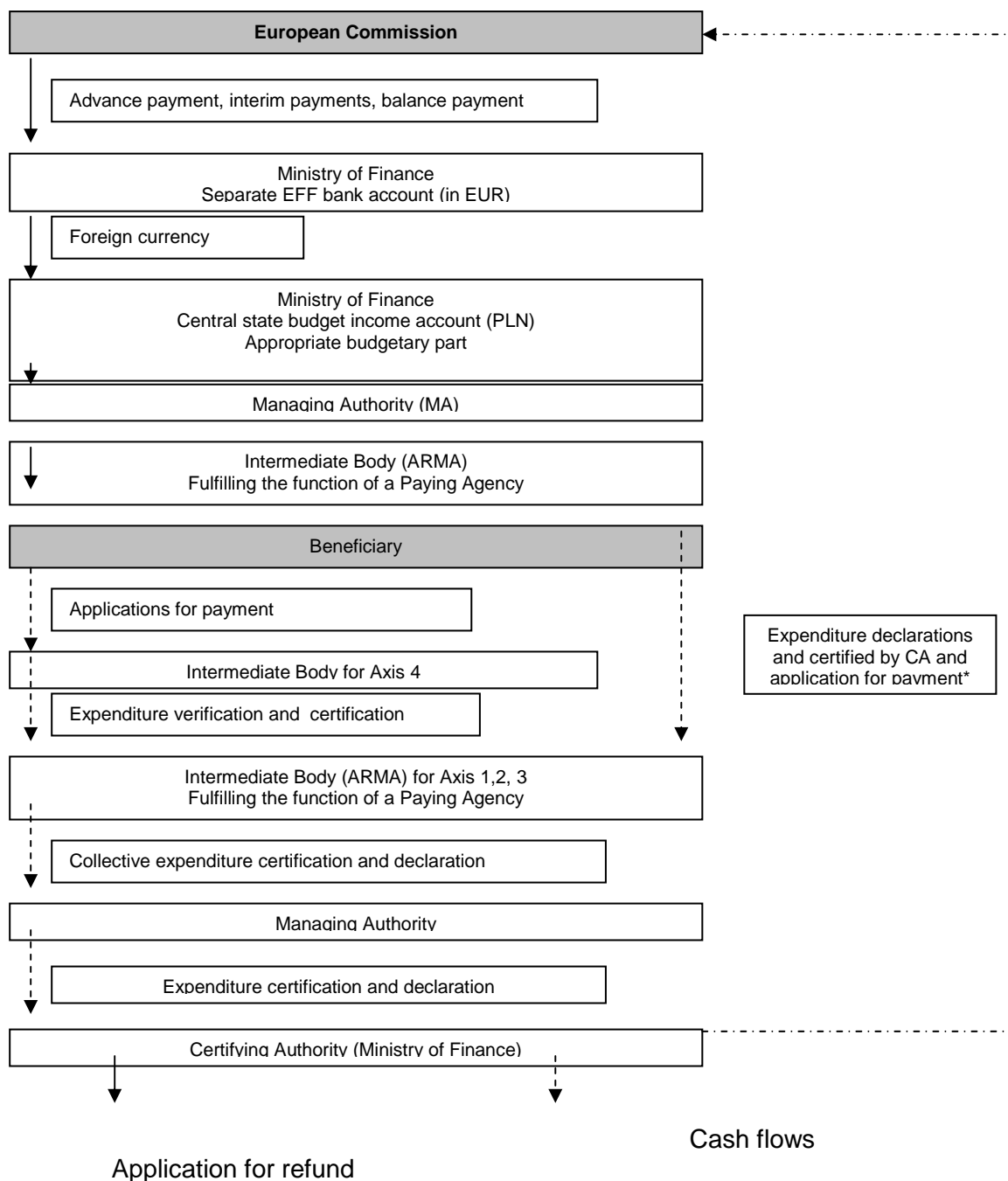
The Intermediate Body verifies the expenditure and draws up a statement of expenditure and submits it to the Managing Authority.

Based on the documents received, the Certifying Authority draws up the Certification and the statement of expenditure as well as application for payment and submits them to the Commission. These documents provide a basis for transferring the funds by the European Commission.

See flow chart: 8.3

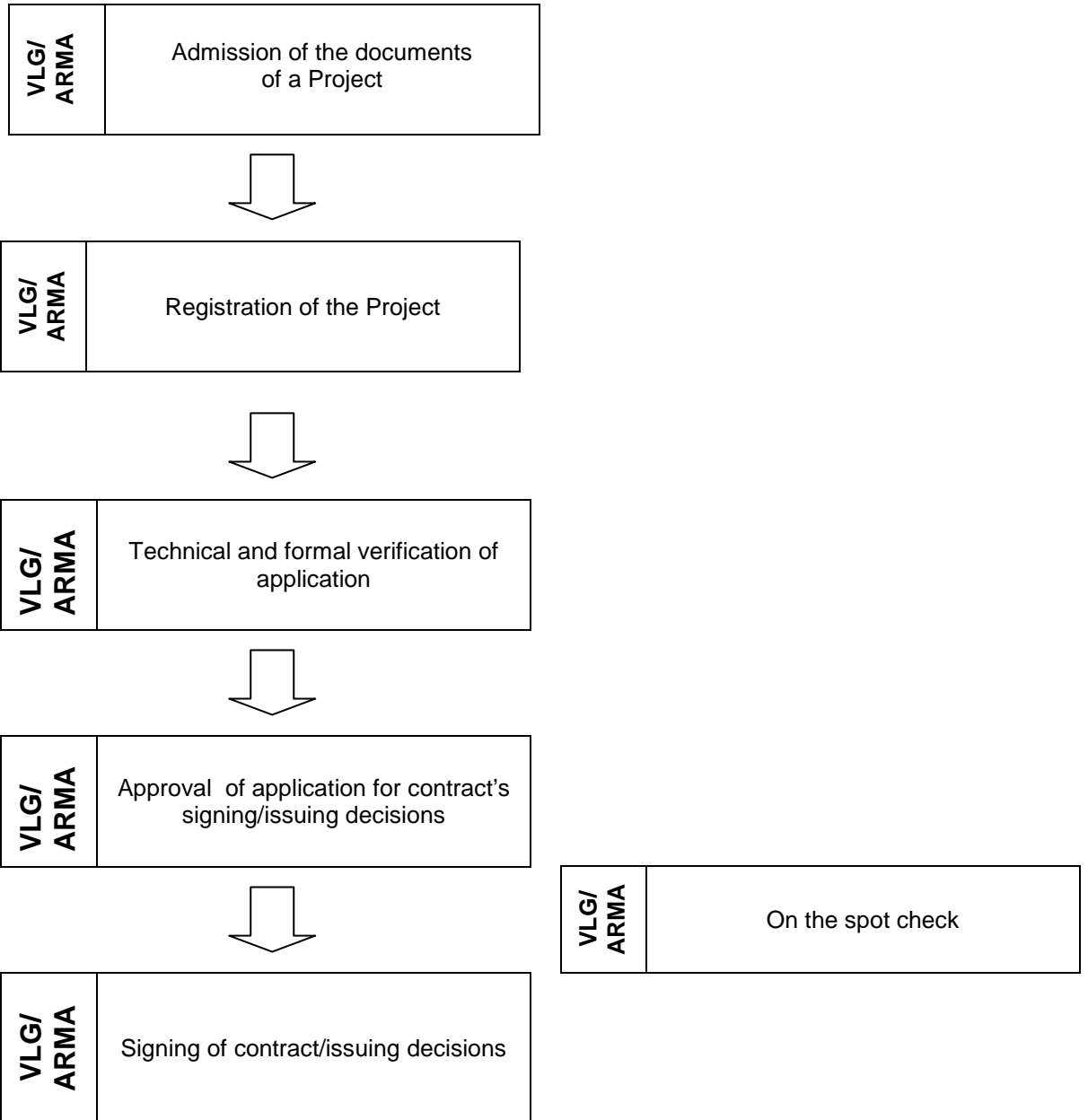
4. A description of procedures for the mobilisation and circulation of financial flows in order to ensure their transparency

The circulation of financial flows scheme within the framework of EFF

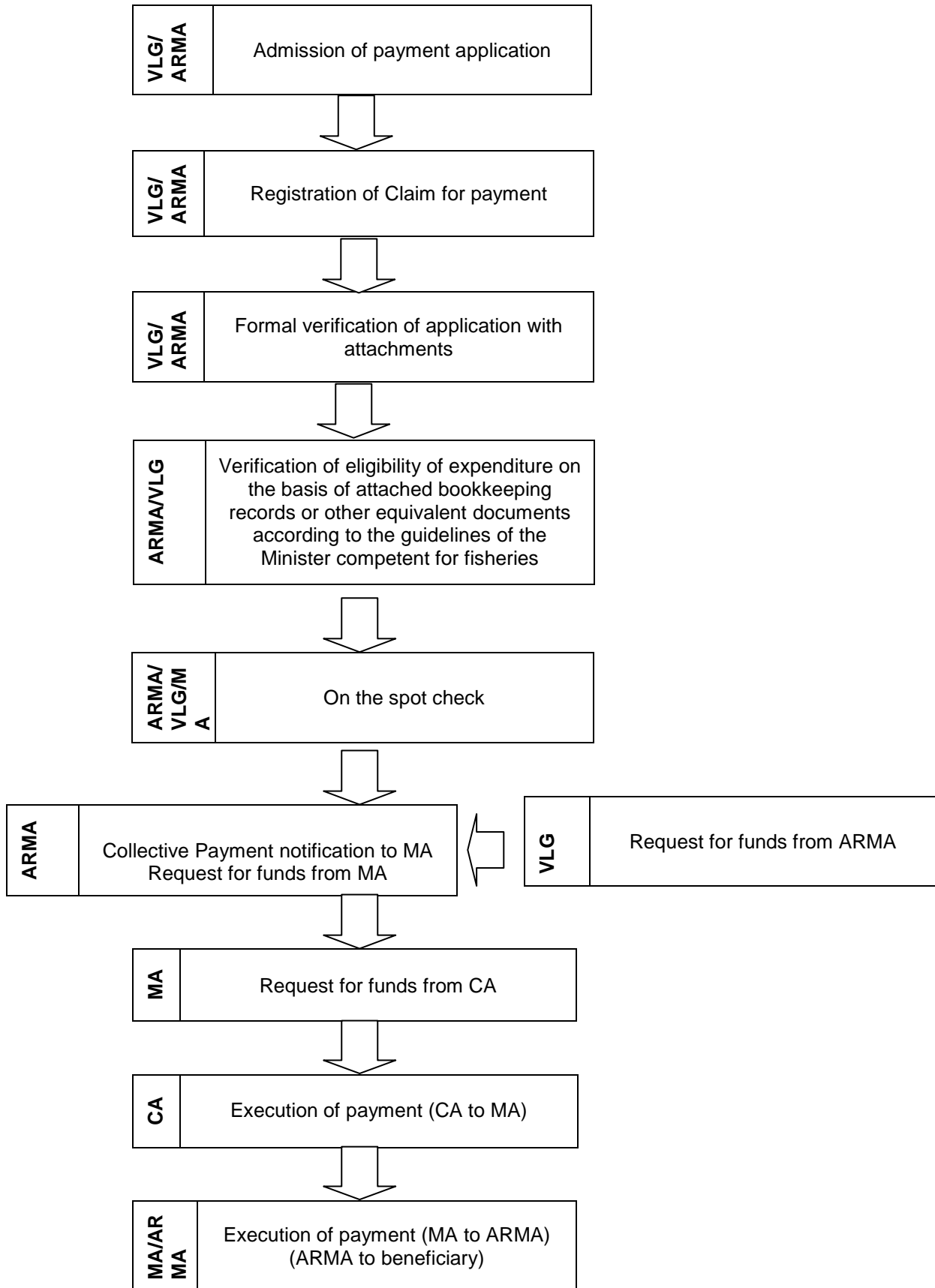


*pursuant to Article 58 (1) (b) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1198/2006 of 27 July 2006 on the European Fisheries Fund

PROJECT APPLICATION FLOW CHART



PAYMENT APPLICATION FLOW CHART



5. Description of the monitoring and evaluation system as well as the composition of the Monitoring Committee

Operational Programme shall be subject to monitoring in accordance with the rules specified in Article 62 of the Regulation No 1198/2006. Monitoring shall be used to study appropriate implementation of the Programme and be conducted by the Monitoring Committee and the Managing Authority.

The Commission shall participate in the monitoring through its participation in the Monitoring Committee and the annual review of the Operational Programme which shall include, in particular, the analysis of the annual implementation and control reports.

Monitoring Committee

The Operational Programme Monitoring Committee shall be appointed within 3 months from the date of the approval of the Programme, according to the rules specified in Article 63 of the Regulation No 1198/2006.

The Monitoring Committee shall be composed of:

- 1) representatives of the Managing Authority;
- 2) representatives of the Certifying Authority;
- 3) representatives of the Intermediate Bodies;
- 4) representatives of the social and economic partners (stakeholders);
- 5) representatives of non government environmental organisations;
- 6) representatives of national organisations interested in the participation in the implementation of the Programme
- 7) a representative of the Sea Fisheries Institute ;
- 8) Inland Fisheries Institute (IRŚ);
- 9) a representative of the European Commission with an advisory capacity
- 10) a representative of the Audit Authority with an advisory capacity.

The meetings of the Monitoring Committee shall take place according to the needs, however at least two times a year.

Pursuant to Article 65 of the Regulation 1198/2006, the tasks of the Monitoring Committee shall include, in particular, to:

- 1) analyse and adopt the selection criteria of operations within the period of six months from the date the Operational Programme has been accepted, and to adopt all amendments of these criteria according to the needs of programming;
- 2) conduct a periodical review of progress in reaching specific targets of the Operational Programme on the basis of documents presented by the Managing Authority;
- 3) analyse the impact of the programme implementation, in particular whether the targets set for each priority axis and for the interim evaluation have been reached;

- 4) analyse and adopt the annual and final reports on implementation before they have been sent to the Commission;
- 5) analyse and adopt proposals for OP amendment to be submitted to the Commission

In order to ensure appropriate quality and effectiveness of the tasks implemented, the Committee may appoint sub-committees and working groups and use the opinions of independent experts.

Detailed rules of Monitoring Committee functioning and the scope of its tasks shall be regulated by the national provisions drawn up by the Managing Authority.

6. Coordination between the operational programmes implemented under NSRF and operational programmes financed by EAFRD and EFF.

Appropriate coordination mechanisms are necessary in order to ensure coherence and complementarity in the implementation of Structural Funds, the Rural Development Fund and the EFF. In Poland, the following has been foreseen:

a) the setting-up of a team under the Minister for Regional Development, composed by representatives of all the Managing Authorities and Intermediate Bodies of all the OPs, relevant ministries involved in the implementation of the OP's, the Ministry of Finance, the Office of Competition and Consumer Protection, Central Statistical Office and the Public Procurement Office. The main task of this team is the follow-up and monitoring of the implementation of the OP's and taking appropriate measures where necessary.

b) the setting-up of a NSRF Coordination Committee under the Minister of Regional Development. This Committee is composed of the representatives of ministers involved in the implementation of the respective operational programmes, the minister competent for public finance, voivodeship marshals, voivodes, representatives of associations of territorial self-government units and representatives of social partners (organisations associated in the Trilateral Commission, non-governmental organisations, etc.). Representatives of the Commission and European Investment Bank and European Investment Fund (EIF) will also participate in this Committee in an advisory capacity.

This enlarged Committee coordinates the implementation of horizontal EU policies, the achievement of the strategic objectives and evaluation activities. The Coordination Committee shall, as a rule, meet every 6 months and shall carry out periodic revision of the NSRF implementation progress. Its tasks shall include, in particular:

- to provide the minister competent for regional development with recommendations on the progress of NSRF implementation and the respective operational programmes based on monitoring reports,

- to provide the minister competent for regional development with recommendations resulting from evaluation studies,
- to provide the minister competent for regional development with recommendations on the compliance of the operational programmes with the Community policies,
- to formulate recommendations about the proposals of modifications of the NSRF and in particular on possible shifts of resources between the operational programmes and use of the *national performance reserve*,
- to formulate recommendations regarding the need to ensure coherence and complementarities between national, regional and EU co-financed OP-s,

The NSRF Coordination Committee shall also monitor the application of the horizontal rules of gender equality and sustainable development in all operational programmes.

Aiming at elimination of possible overlapping of interventions from individual operational programmes financed from the EFF, EAFRD, Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund, the Managing Authority will comply with the provisions of the *Demarcation line between the Operational Programmes of Cohesion Policy, Common Agricultural Policy and Common Fisheries Policy* – the document accepted by the NSRF Coordination Committee.

The following coordination tools will be assured to guarantee observation of the demarcation between this OP and other operational programmes at the stage of implementation:

1. NSRF Coordination Committee (in which representatives of the Managing Authority of the "Sustainable Development of the Fisheries Sector and Coastal Fishing Areas 2007-13" Operational Programme and the Managing Authority of the Rural Development Programme also participate);
2. relevant Monitoring Committees;
3. cross-checking of projects;
4. statements by beneficiaries.

The NSRF Coordination Committee will establish a Working Group in which the managing authorities of the relevant EFF, EAFRD, ERDF and ESF programmes are represented. This Working Group under the NSRF Coordination Committee will have the task to develop proposals for cross-checking mechanisms for investments supported under the different programmes (such as: relevant questions in application forms, sample checks, joint access to databases) to avoid double financing and to guarantee that demarcation lines are respected.

7. Data exchange between the Commission and Poland carried out electronically for the purpose of meeting the requirements in order to conduct management, monitoring and evaluation.

Pursuant to the provisions of Article 20 (1) (g) (VI), in order to meet the requirements regarding payments, monitoring and evaluation specified in Regulation 1198/2006, data exchange between a Member State (via the Managing Authority of the

Operational Programme "Sustainable Development of the Fisheries Sector and Coastal Fishing Areas 2007-2013) and the Commission will take place by means of SFC 2007 (Client Certificate Request Procedure) computer system, established by the Commission to serve this particular purpose.

In order to fulfil the provisions of Article 66 (2) of the Commission Regulation (EC) No 498/2007 of 26 March 2007 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 1198/2006 on the European Fisheries Fund, Poland appointed a coordinator of the system for the purposes of OP "Sustainable Development of the Fisheries Sector and Coastal Fishing Areas 2007-2013".

8. Selecting partners referred to in Article 8 of Regulation 1198/2006 and the results of their cooperation. The list of partners who were consulted and a summary of the results of the consultation.

During the preparation of the operational programme, consultations were held with a wide circle of social and economic partners (stakeholders). The aim of these meetings was to discuss the views of the sector on the development strategy for the fisheries sector in light of the possibilities offered by the European Fisheries Fund.

Stakeholders of the fisheries sector were informed from the very beginning of the process of the preparation of the programme and about the content of the programme in different stages of its development. A Working Group for Operational Programme "Sustainable Development of the Fisheries Sector and Coastal Fishing Areas 2007-2013" has been set up comprising 46 members selected from the fisheries sector, scientific circles and the representatives of the regional administration (representatives of voivodeship and marshal offices). See: Annex.

Altogether 10 meetings were held between February 2006 and December 2006. A full list of the stakeholders consulted is in Annex 4.

The following main recommendations were made by the sector during the various consultation meetings:

A.: Experience with the implementation of the "Fisheries and Fish Processing Operational Programme 2004-6"

- 1) sea fishing – necessity of financial support for the replacement of engines on fishing vessels and construction of new fishing vessels, continuation of permanent cessation of fishing activities, increase of the amount of compensations for temporary cessation of fishing activities;
- 2) aquaculture and inland fishing – necessity to continue investments for the construction and modernisation of devices to facilitate migration of anadromous fish and simplification of the relevant procedures, as well as increase in allocation for this measure;
- 3) ports – too small allocation of funds as compared to the needs in this area; necessity to modernise access roads to harbours and ports used for fisheries;

- 4) processing - too small allocation of funds and complicated legal framework and procedures;
- 5) promotion of fish products and participation in fairs – too narrow circle of beneficiaries and difficulty to secure co-financing;
- 6) producers' organisations – complicated legal framework and procedures of providing financial aid;
- 7) coastal fishing – lack of precise criteria and difficulties to implement integrated projects.

B.: Opportunities and threats of the sector

Opportunities:

1. The development of fish market organisations in Poland in view of the need to consolidate fish producers to facilitate representation of their interests.
2. Significant aspect of functioning of the first sale of fish and tightening the production chain were pointed out; need to eliminate the intermediaries who boost the prices of fish products and lower the buying-in prices.
3. Recreational aspects of coastal angling and angling in inland waters.
4. Necessity to develop promotion campaigns to increase the consumption of fish products.

Threats:

1. Necessity to eliminate progressing contamination of the natural environment, deterioration of the state of resources and thus limitation in access to raw material.
2. Need to increase rate of absorption of EU resources, *inter alia*, by facilitating pre-financing of projects implemented by beneficiaries as well as simplifying legal framework.

A significant number of recommendations was taken into account and in particular concerning the allocation of financial resources among priority axes, the co-financing rates to be applied, the financing of new engines with less fuel consumption, the modernisation of existing ports, as well as financing of promotion campaigns.

9. Elements to ensure information on the Operational Programme and its promotion pursuant to Article 28 of this Regulation.

The Managing Authority, according to the Article 51 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1198/2006 has to carry out information measures aimed at potential beneficiaries and other institutions involved in Operational Programme implementation, which will relate to the following issues:

- a) informing potential beneficiaries, organisations involved in the fisheries sector, professional organisations, social and economic partners, bodies promoting gender equality, the interested non-governmental organisations on possibilities offered by the Programme, regulations and methods allowing access to financing;
- b) conditions one must fulfil in order to be eligible for support within EFF;
- c) procedures for selection of applications;

- d) project selection criteria;
- e) informing beneficiaries about the amount of Community co-financing;
- f) Information points, providing information about the programme, and rules and methods governing access to financing.

These measures will be implemented e.g. by issuing publications and organisation of training, advisory services, seminars and meetings with potential beneficiaries.

9.1. Measures addressed to the general public

Information measures on the main features of the Operational Programme will be addressed to the general public. In addition, it will be important to inform the general public of the implementation and progress of the Operational Programme. The objective of the measures will above all be to emphasise the Community role and provide transparency of assistance from the EFF; as well as its significance for the development of the fishing sector in Poland and the European Union.

Measures in this respect will be mainly carried out by means of mass media, i.e. press and television. Particularly important promotional campaign will be carried out when the implementation of the Operational Programme commences. The aim will be to notify the public of launching the Programme, measures to be implemented and rules and possibilities of co-financing. The important feature of campaign is also to inform the public about the source of financing, i.e. EFF and the Community role in improving the fishing sector.

In addition, separate website was also established. The website is devoted solely to the fishing sector. In the long term, it will mainly include information about EFF aid. It will fulfil information role and feature current information on the Operational Programme, other documents and legal acts on granting financial aid under the Operational Programme. It will allow fast search of related information and any documents necessary to apply for support.

The website of Managing Authority or Intermediate Body responsible for the implementation of the respective priority axes will also feature the list of beneficiaries of the Programme and information on implementation of the respective operations.

Managing Authority will ensure cooperation in the area of information and publicity with appropriate regional, local and other public authorities, social and economic partners, non-governmental organisations, trade and professional associations, business circles, educational institutions and centres of information on the UE as well as Commission Representation in Poland. Managing Authority will also ensure wide and effective participation of all appropriate entities, above all the Intermediate Bodies for the respective priority axes, pursuant to the applicable national provisions and practices, considering the need to promote gender equality and sustainable development.

Operational Programme logo will also be prepared. It will be a graphical sign promoting the Operational Programme and unambiguously relating to it. The logo will thematically refer to the fishing sector and the EU, which will ensure fast

reference to Community support and type of this support, i.e. fishing and fish processing.

9.2. Measures addressed to the potential beneficiaries

For the purposes of information and publicity of the Operational Programme, specific measures will be addressed to the potential beneficiaries. The measures will mainly be carried out in the regions in which the fishing sector plays an important role in economy and everyday life of the residents.

Important elements of these campaigns will include delivery of meetings, trainings, seminars, etc. in fishing regions, above all coastal regions, but also other regions of Poland, where fisheries areas are located. They will consist, similarly to the previous programming period, of direct meetings of the representatives of the Managing Authority and Intermediate Bodies with fishers and employees of the fishing sector. It will also provide possibility to compare the results of the implementation and Programme objectives in the respective programming periods.

The campaigns will familiarise all the interested parties with the possibilities offered by EFF resources as well as the conditions, procedures and mode of granting support. The aim is to facilitate access of the possible beneficiaries to the EFF and thus the best possible absorption of the resources available.

Establishment of a network of information points in the respective regions is, *inter alia*, planned. Their task would be to maintain direct contact with the possible beneficiaries and to notify them of the Operational Programme, procedures related to the selection of applications, project selection criteria, etc.

The Managing Authority will inform the European Commission about the initiatives taken in particular in the annual and final reports, as well as in the framework of the Monitoring Committee.

9.3. Financing measures in the scope of information and promotion

About EUR 10 million, i.e. 1% of the total funds for the Operational Programme, are to be allocated for measures relating to the promotion and information. Calculations are based on lessons learnt in respect of publicity measures in the previous programming period of 2004-2006. Attention was paid to the number of possible beneficiaries and current costs of publicity campaigns, including the most expensive ones, e.g. broadcasting advertising spots in the mass media. This figure may be revised by the Managing Authority in the light of the progress in the implementation of the measure.

9.4. Body responsible for the implementation of information and publicity measures, as well as their monitoring

The Managing Authority will be responsible for the management of this measure. In the longer term, it is planned to appoint a Team for publicity and information as well as technical assistance under the responsibility of the Managing Authority.

Evaluation of publicity and information measures will be performed periodically.

IX. ANNEXES TO THE OPERATIONNAL PROGRAMME FOR FISHERIES FOR POLAND

Annex 1. Detailed information on landing of the Polish fleet

Table 1. Total volume of landings of marine organisms caught by Polish vessels in 2006 (Domestic ports)

Abbreviation	Name of port	Total landings of marine organisms in live weight equivalent (t)	Abbreviation	Name of port	Total landings of marine organisms in live weight equivalent (t)
KOŁ	Kołobrzeg	26,922.470	USM	Ustronie Morskie	87.056
HEL	Hel	13,934.457	OKS	Oksywie	84.140
WŁA	Władysławowo	12,796.586	SOP	Sopot	83.093
UST	Ustka	8,485.297	MEC	Mechelinki	79.918
DAR	Darłowo	2,427.476	DĘB	Dębki	78.032
DZI	Dziwnów	2,028.997	KAM	Kamień Pomorski	77.558
ŁEB	Łeba	1,985.813	REW	Rewa	66.431
ŚWI	Świnoujście	1,966.510	DWI	Dźwirzyno	61.021
JAS	Jastarnia	1,002.134	ROW	Rowy	60.771
MRZ	Mrzeżyno	865.761	PRZ	Świnoujście-Przytór	54.161
TRB	Trzebież	786.394	DBK	Dąbki	54.009
PAS	Nowa Pasłęka	504.015	SUC	Suchacz	49.626
ZAG	Górki Zachodnie	490.519	WSG	Górki Wschodnie	43.775
GDY	Gdynia	419.564	KMN	Kamienica Elbląska	24.933
PIA	Piaski II	385.813	KRM	Krynica Morska I	22.998
MIZ	Międzyzdroje	370.714	PUC	Puck	21.479
CHY	Chłopy	350.351	SZT	Szutowo	21.354
LBN	Lubiń	249.058	JEL	Jelitkowo	21.177
FRO	Frombork	223.707	SWA	Swarzewo	18.213
TOL	Tolkmicko	208.490	STE	Stegna	16.956
KRM	Krynica Morska II	198.689	OBŁ	Obłuże	13.075
RWL	Rewal	197.916	MIK	Mikoszewo	8.509
KĄT	Kąty Rybackie I	190.122	MIW	Międzywodzie	3.442
KUŻ	Kuźnica	185.303	CHŁ	Chłapowo	2.620

STP	Stepnica	168.445	CHA	Chałupy	2.007
NIE	Niechorze	159.718	LBC	Lubczyna	1.103
KRS	Świnoujście- Karsibór	159.658	GĄS	Gąski	0.000
JAR	Jarosławiec	152.980	KAR	Karwia	0.000
PIA	Piaski I	139.684	OSŁ	Ostłonino	0.000
KĄT	Kąty Rybackie II	138.911	SAR	Sarbinowo	0.000
DĄB	Szczecin- Dąbie	135.940	SZN	Szczecin	0.000
ORŁ	Orłowo	135.664	WAP	Wapnica	0.000
GDA	Gdańsk	132.420	-	Sierosław	
WAR	Nowe Warpno	119.973	-	Chrząszczewo	
STŁ	Szczecin- Stołczyn	115.343	-	Świnoujście- Ognica	
UNI	Unieście	111.242			
WOL	Wolin	96.435			
SWB	Świbno	95.724			
JAN	Jantar	88.449			

Source: MARD

Annex 2. Structure of landings in selected domestic ports

Table 2. Structure of landings in selected domestic ports (2006)

Species of marine organism (t) and (pcs) (landings in equivalent live weight)	Name of port								
	Kołobrzeg	Hel	Władysławowo	Ustka	Darłowo	Dziwnów	Świnoujście	Łeba	Jastarnia
Garfish	0.255	0.340	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.014	0.105	0.000	2.769
Gobies	0.000	0.000	1.660	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Cod	2,181.382	663.219	3,349.686	2,702.462	1,171.975	467.078	397.147	1,032.097	658.013
Plaice	20.898	0.000	0.000	2.875	0.517	0.106	13.000	0.060	0.253
Ruffe	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.136	0.000	0.000
Sea bream	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.104	0.023	0.000
Atlantic salmon (pcs)	20.000	3,469.000	2,652.000	6,312.000	550.000	20.000	2.000	106.000	3,939.000
Red hake	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.188	0.000	0.000
Redfin perch	0.317	2.170	0.316	0.060	0.000	7.251	87.411	3.728	1.475
Rainbow trout (pcs)	0.000	1.000	0.000	2.000	28.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Roach	0.032	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.002	0.011	25.192	0.346	0.000
Pike perch	0.648	0.000	0.005	0.250	0.012	24.919	2.957	1.329	0.000
Whitefish	0.003	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.002	0.002	0.216	0.008	0.000
Herring	12,384.529	502.293	1,806.335	2,267.703	646.133	209.641	988.735	0.287	107.816
European flounder	3,388.942	105.562	277.054	458.046	285.293	1,267.015	447.343	913.944	111.485
Sprat	8,720.875	12,573.327	7,278.125	2,840.550	287.875	0.000	0.000	21.450	1.375
Sea trout (pcs)	444.000	17,808.000	16,714.000	43,855.000	8,180.000	22.000	8.000	255.000	21,147.000
Turbot	1.921	1.739	5.478	11.212	0.664	51.028	2.042	11.096	0.968
Eel	0.430	0.199	0.442	0.014	0.055	0.710	0.247	0.000	4.614
Viviparous blenny	0.000	0.497	0.018	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.530
Whiting	220.285	0.000	0.000	1.452	0.000	0.000	0.695	0.000	0.000

Source: MARD

Annex 3. Information on the prices of fisheries products

3.1. Sea fisheries. First sale prices in ports

Specification Species – product type	XII 2004	XII 2005	XII 2006	XII 2007	III 2008	Ratio 2007/2006
Władysławowo – sale prices in PLN/kg^a						
Cod gutted, head on, M	4,80	5,70	7,20 ^b	7,00 ^{b/}	6,00 ^b	97,2
guttet, head on S	5,10	6,00				97,2
Herring D	1,20	1,20	1,20	1,30	1,25	108,3
S	0,70	1,00	1,15	1,15	1,20	100,0
Sprat	0,50	0,50	0,65	0,50	0,50	76,9
Flounder	1,80	2,00	2,40	2,40	-	100,0
Kołobrzeg – sale prices in PLN/kg/kg						
Cod gutted, head on M	5,50	5,80	7,50 ^b	7,30 ^{b/}	6,50 ^b	97,3
guttet, head on S	6,00	6,00				97,3
Herring D	1,30	1,20	1,20	1,25	1,25	104,2
S	1,10	1,10	1,15	1,25	1,20	108,7
Sprat	0,65	0,70	0,75	0,70	0,70	93,3
Flounder	2,00	2,20	2,20	2,00	1,60	90,9

^a 2004 r. buying prices., ^b od 2006 r. cod gutted. w/head unsorted

Source: SFI data..

3.2. Aquaculture. Prices of fresh carp and trout at various market levels (PLN/KG)

Year	retail	Whole sale	First sale		retail	whole sale	First sale	
			Buying	Retail qty			Wholesale qty	Retail qty
	carp				trout			
2004	11,64	8,84	8,11	9,72	13,65	8,14	7,98	11,42
2005	11,51	8,45	6,73	9,50	15,13	8,01	8,09	11,39
2006	11,38	8,51	7,75	8,99	15,65	9,06	9,25	11,10
2007	11,99	8,75	8,51	10,10	16,28	9,56	8,69	11,38
I kw. 2008	12,56	9,48	*	10,09	16,49	9,80	*	11,31

Source: CSO data and data from Fish Industry Magazine.

Annex 4. List of partners consulted on the content of the Operational Programme

- 1) Maritime University in Szczecin;
- 2) University of Agriculture in Szczecin;
- 3) Agency for Restructuring and Modernisation of Agriculture;
- 4) Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development;
- 5) Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development;
- 6) Department of Structural Policy Coordination, Ministry of Regional Development;
- 7) Department of Maritime Safety, Maritime Economy Ministry;
- 8) Department of Cultural Strategy and European Affairs, Ministry of Culture;
- 9) Department of Nature Conservation, Ministry of the Environment;
- 10) Foundation of Assistance for Agriculture;
- 11) Central Statistical Office;
- 12) Inland Fisheries Institute in Olsztyn;
- 13) Kołobrzaska Grupa Producentów Ryb (Kołobrzeg Group of Fish Producers);
- 14) Krajowa Grupa Producentów Ryb w Ustce (National Group of Fish Producers in Ustka);
- 15) National Farmers' Union, Farmers' Circles and Organisations (Krajowy Związek Rolników, Kółek i Organizacji Rolniczych);
- 16) Sea Fisheries Institute in Gdynia;
- 17) NSZZ Solidarność (Independent Self-governing Trade Union "Solidarity");
- 18) Polish Union of Fisheries Employers in Toruń (OZPR);
- 19) All-Polish Agreement of Trade Unions (OPZZ);
- 20) All-Poland Association of Leaseholders and Administrators of Real Estate in Fisheries of the State Treasury (Ogólnopolskie Stowarzyszenie Dzierżawców i Administratorów Nieruchomości Rybackich Skarbu Państwa);
- 21) Regional Sea Fisheries Inspectorate in Gdynia;
- 22) Regional Sea Fisheries Inspectorate in Słupsk;
- 23) Regional Sea Fisheries Inspectorate in Szczecin;
- 24) Organisation of Employers-Producers of Inland Fisheries in Toruń (Organizacja Pracodawców-Producentów Ryb Śródlądowych);
- 25) Organizacja Producentów Rybnych Władysławowo Sp. z o.o. (Władysławowo Fish Producers Organisation, limited liability company);
- 26) Polish Angling Association;
- 27) Polish Association of Fish Processors in Koszalin;
- 28) Polish Fisheries Society in Poznań (Polskie Towarzystwo Rybackie);
- 29) Polish Fisheries Society in Poznań - Department of Salmonidae Producers (Polskie Towarzystwo Rybackie);
- 30) Północnoatlantycka Organizacja Producentów (North Atlantic Producers' Organisation);
- 31) Fishing and Fish Services Company (PPiUR) "Szkuner";
- 32) PPPiH Dalmor S.A.;
- 33) Stowarzyszenie Armatorów Rybackich w Kołobrzegu (Association of Fishing Shipowners in Kołobrzeg);
- 34) Fish Market Development Association in Gdynia;
- 35) Stowarzyszenie Rybactwa Dolnej i Środkowej Wisły (Lower and Medium Vistula Fishing Association);

- 36) Stowarzyszenie Rybaków Zalewu Wiślanego (The Vistula Lagoon Fishers' Association);
- 37) University Of Warmia And Mazury in Olsztyn;
- 38) Office of the Committee for European Integration;
- 39) Marshal Office of Pomorskie Voivodeship;
- 40) Marshal Office of Warmińsko-Mazurskie Voivodeship;
- 41) Marshal Office of Zachodniopomorskie Voivodeship;
- 42) WWF Poland;
- 43) Zrzeszenie Producentów Ryb w Katowicach (Fish producers' Association in Katowice);
- 44) Sea Fishers' Association - Producers Organisation in Gdynia;
- 45) Związek Producentów Ryb w Poznaniu (Fish Producers' Association in Poznań);
- 46) Union of the Voivodeships of the Republic of Poland.