



European Maritime and Fisheries Fund

(EMFF)

The fund: overview

Five European Structural and Investment Funds ⁽¹⁾ support the economic recovery of Europe until 2020. One of them, the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF), is specifically tailored to Europe's seas and coasts. Its EUR 6.4 billion budget is focused not only on underpinning the new Common Fisheries Policy and making fisheries and aquaculture more sustainable and profitable, but also on diversifying local economies for the sustainable development of maritime regions and inland fisheries and aquaculture areas.

Potential

Our fisheries are capable of higher yields and revenues once fish stocks are no longer overfished, managed sustainably and given scope to recover. The EMFF is designed to promote this fundamental objective of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) thus contributing to the improvement of the economic, environmental and social performance of the sector.

Like fisheries, all European maritime sectors have great potential for innovation and growth; they already offer over 5 million jobs and generate almost EUR 500 billion a year. But further growth is possible through targeted research and smart investment. Such is the object of the EU's blue growth strategy, which avails itself of various European funds, including the European Regional Development Fund for investment in maritime sectors, Horizon 2020 for relevant research and the EMFF for European cooperation in some maritime domains.

⁽¹⁾ The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund (ESF), the Cohesion Fund (CF), the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF).



Budget

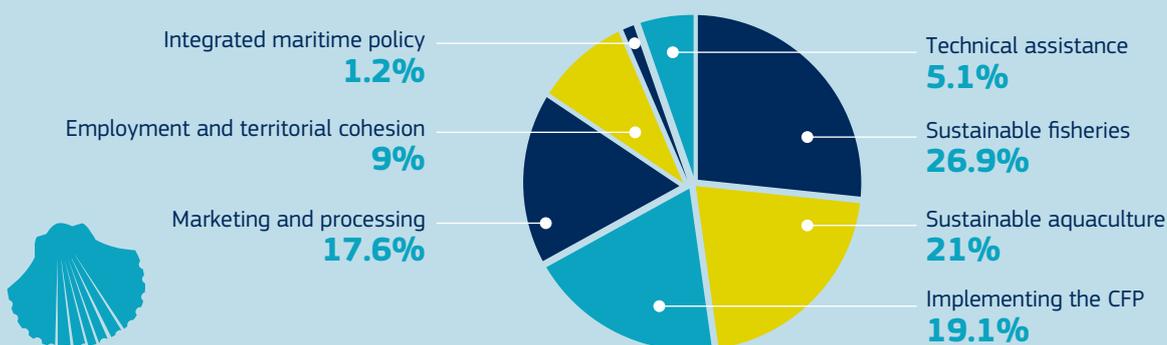
Total (EU + national):
€8.6 billion

EU contribution:
€6.4 billion

(5.7 billion of which are allocated to the Member States to be used under their responsibility in shared management)

The EMFF rests on six main priorities

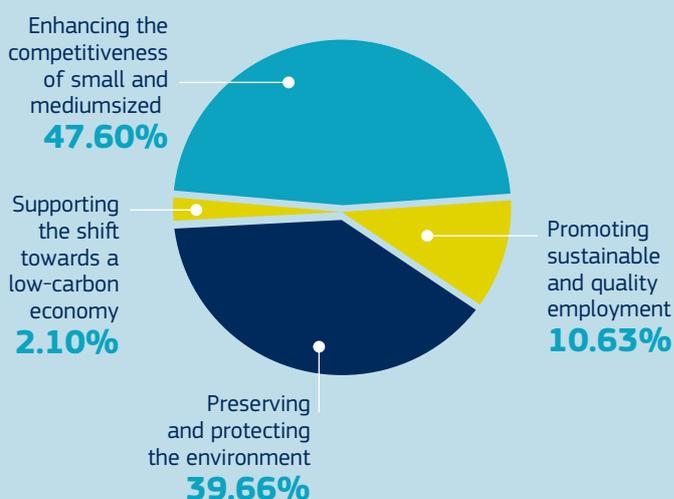
1.  **Sustainable fisheries (26.9%):**
to strike a balance between fishing capacity and available natural resources, to fish more selectively and to stop wasting fish caught inadvertently.
2.  **Sustainable aquaculture (21%):**
to make the sector more successful and competitive by focusing on quality, health and safety, as well as eco-friendly production; and to provide consumers with high-quality, highly nutritional and trustworthy products.
3.  **Implementing the CFP (19.1%):**
to improve data collection, scientific knowledge, control and enforcement of fisheries legislation.
4.  **Marketing and processing (17.6%):**
to improve market organisation, market intelligence and consumer information in the world's largest seafood market.
5.  **Employment and territorial cohesion (9%):**
to help coastal and inland fisheries and aquaculture communities gain more value from the fish they catch and diversify their economies into other maritime fields such as tourism or direct sales.
6.  **Integrated maritime policy (1.2%):**
to improve marine knowledge, better plan activities at sea, promote cooperation on maritime surveillance and manage sea basins according to their specific needs.
 - The remaining **5.1%** concerns **technical assistance**, used to help implementation of the programmes and improve the administrative capacity of the Member States.



Above and beyond these priorities, the EMFF does not prescribe how every cent should be spent, but rather allocates a share of the total budget to each country, and leaves it to each national authority — and each local community — to choose the projects and solutions that work best for their own economy.

The operational programmes adopted by the EU countries can vary widely, depending on factors such as geography or fleet size (please refer to the national fact sheets for a detailed summary of each country's operational programme). But the general trend is to place clear emphasis on two thematic objectives of the EU 2020 strategy for growth and employment:

- making small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) more competitive, to which Member States plan to dedicate almost half the available money;
- preserving and protecting the environment, which accounts for another 40 %;
- national authorities also allocate 10 % of available funds to promoting employment and mobility.



The success of the bottom-up approach: community-led local development

The share of the EMFF allocated to SMEs focuses in particular on the diversification of local economies dependent on fisheries and aquaculture into other sectors of the maritime economy. This area-based, bottom-up approach enabled local communities to propose and test new solutions in the form of over 10 000 projects in the previous programming period (2007–2014). This approach continues under the EMFF, which will fund projects to create jobs in tourism (pesca-tourism and cultural heritage), green products and services (environmental protection, waste management, energy savings and alternative energy), and social services (training courses for young fishers or targeting women, care for children and older people, health care education, etc.).

To implement their local strategies, local communities will also be able to combine financial resources from the EMFF funds with those from other European Structural and Investment Funds. This will foster cooperation and synergies across funds and create optimal conditions for economic recovery, so that local businesses and communities can work together towards a bright, blue and sustainable future for Europe's seas and coasts.

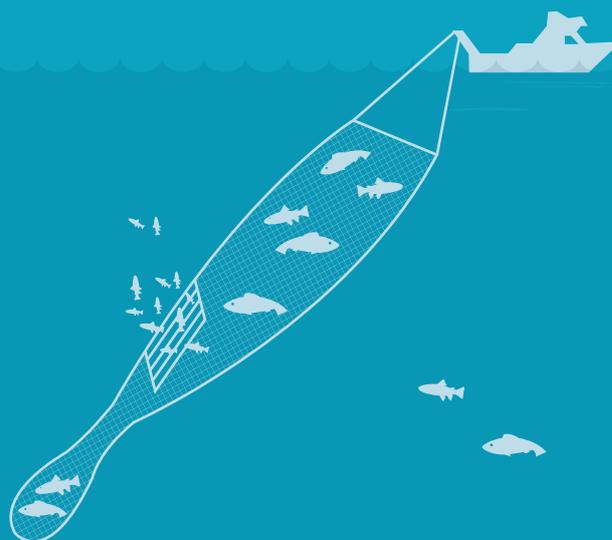


Who benefits from the EMFF — and how?

- European fisheries receive support to ease implementation of the reformed CFP and bridge the innovation gap.
- European fish farmers and fisheries product processors receive funding to adopt new techniques, raise health and environmental standards or diversify into new species and new market outlets.
- Public authorities receive support to strengthen data collection and to comply with their obligations on the control of fishing activities.
- Professional organisations receive funding to draw up and implement production and marketing plans; by 2019 these plans will supersede support for storage of products when market demand is too low.
- Thanks to these plans, the processing industry benefits from steady supplies of wild and farmed products.
- Consumers have access to products that are healthy, highly nutritional and caught or farmed sustainably. Information provided for consumers is also improved.
- European coastal and inland communities dependent on fishing receive support to find new opportunities in the general maritime economy — in turn, this has a positive spin-off effect on local growth and development.
- Scientists and researchers receive funding for studies of immediate interest to the industry, in fisheries management, ocean management, marine environment, climate change, coastal protection, social science, maritime economy, etc.
- Private companies working onshore or offshore receive support for green technologies.

Elective funding for selective fishing

A crucial element of the CFP is the phase-out of discarding — a wasteful practice which contributes to stock depletion. To help fishermen, who are now required to land all the fish they catch, the EMFF can provide support for the landing, storing, processing and marketing of those catches. It can also help fishers to switch to selective, low-impact fishing gears and practices which strongly reduce the incidence of unwanted by-catch.





More information

- [European Commission Fisheries](#)
- [Aquaculture multiannual national plans](#)
- [European Maritime and Fisheries Fund](#)