

European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)

Republic of Cyprus

Cyprus – overview

Coast and ports

- Coastline of 782 km, representing 0.72 % of the total EU-23 coastline.
- Commercial harbours: Larnaca and Limassol.
- Fishing shelters: Agia Triada, Paralimni, Agia Napa and Potamos Liopetri (in Famagusta area), Xylofagou, Ormidia, Xylotymbou, Larnaca and Zygi (in Larnaca area), Limassol old port and Akrotiri (in Limassol area), Agios Georgios Pegias and Pomos (in Pafos area), Kato Pyrgos (in Nicosia area).

Potential

Cyprus has a longstanding fisheries tradition and history. Despite its limited contribution to the gross domestic product (GDP), the Cypriot fisheries sector holds primary significant socio-economic importance, particularly in coastal areas.

In 2013, the Cypriot fishing fleet comprised 894 vessels, with a combined grossed tonnage of 3 500 and a total engine power of 39 000 kW. For the same year, the total volume of seafood landings achieved by the Cypriot fleet was around 900 tonnes, and its total value amounted to EUR 5.3 million.

Aquaculture is also a very important activity: it constitutes between 80 % and 85 %, in terms of both value and volume, of the total national fisheries production. At the same time, aquaculture delivers socio-economic benefits to the coastal communities by offering important employment that contributes to the local income.



Economic performance and employment

- In 2013, fishing enterprises in the Cypriot fleet numbered 925, with the vast majority (96 %) owning a single vessel. Total employment in the same year was estimated at 1 431 jobs, corresponding to 909 full-time equivalent workers. The total volume of landings achieved by the Cypriot fleet in 2013 was around 900 tonnes of seafood, corresponding to a total value of EUR 5.3 million.
- The aquaculture sector has nine marine offshore farms and seven inland farms (located in Troodos mountain), as well as three marine fish hatcheries, one shrimp hatchery and two other inland units culturing ornamental fish. In 2013, 260 people were employed in the aquaculture and processing sectors. Fish production amounted to 5 400 tonnes and the total value of aquaculture products was EUR 33.5 million. The total employment in 2011 was 276 jobs in the aquaculture sector and 75 in the processing sector.

Cyprus's Operational Programme









Budget

Total (EU + national):
€52 610 495

EU contribution:
€39 715 209

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

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



1. Fisheries

What?

The marine fisheries sector in Cyprus faces challenges in terms of its sustainability, at both biological and economic level. The poor state of many commercial fish stocks (in particular demersal stocks) has resulted in low catches by the Cypriot fleet and low incomes for fishermen. In addition, the risk of further reduction of the stocks due to the potential increase of fishing pressure but also due to the change of the climate conditions and the spread of alien species (e.g. *Lagocephalus skeleratus*) calls for effective interventions in the management of the fisheries sector.

OP aim

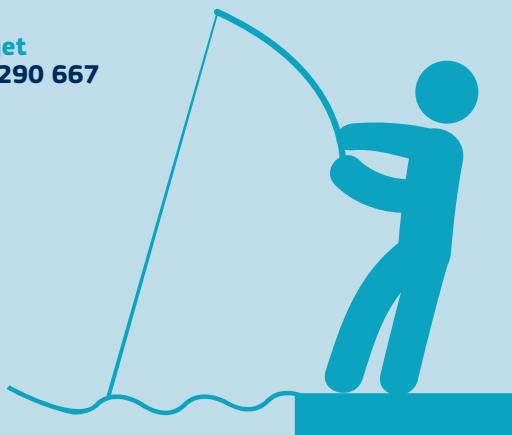
EMFF funding will support the adjustment of the Cypriot fleet fishing effort to the available fish resources, the use of more selective fishing gear, the creation of artificial reefs, the establishment of marine protected areas and the modernisation of fishing infrastructures (landing sites, ports and shelters), aiming at ensuring sustainable management of the fisheries sector at biological, environmental and economic levels.

Key result

A sustainable fisheries sector that ensures healthy stocks, sustainable marine ecosystems and economic and social stability for the fisheries sector.

Budget

€18 290 667



2. Aquaculture

What?

The main factors favouring the development of the aquaculture sector are the good environmental and climatic conditions (warm, clean and oligotrophic waters, relatively low wind intensity), availability of adequate sea areas at a reasonable distance from the coastline, and the existence of appropriate infrastructure, skilled human resources and access to research facilities in Cyprus.

The Cypriot aquaculture industry is divided into four main categories:

- marine finfish species
- shellfish
- fresh water finfish
- marine finfish hatcheries and nurseries.

The largest segment by far is marine fish production; in 2012 this accounted for more than 90 % of the total sales value.

The main cultured marine species are sea bream, sea bass and meagre, and in fresh water aquaculture, rainbow trout and sturgeon. In 2012, Cypriot aquaculture production reached a total of 4.3 thousand tonnes and its total value amounted to EUR 23.6 million.

OP aim

EMFF funding will support the aquaculture sector's competitiveness and environmental and economic sustainability, mainly through the development of joint support facilities and infrastructures, investment to increase the efficiency of aquaculture units, promotion of aquaculture products in new markets and the development of maritime spatial planning.

Key objective

By 2023, aquaculture activities are expected to treble, contributing to food supply, environmental protection and employment.

Budget

€12 600 000



3. Common Fisheries Policy (CFP)



What?

The Department of Fisheries and Marine Research of the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment of Cyprus is responsible for the scientific assessment of fish stock and for analysing biological and fishing data of catch levels for key commercial species. It is also responsible for analysing the sector's economic situation and for data collection.

OP aim

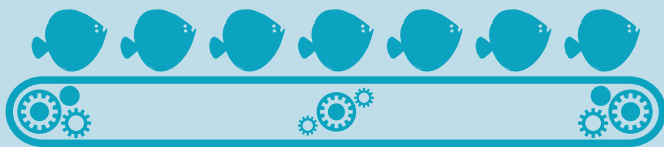
The CFP sets regulations for managing European fishing fleets and conserving fish stocks. Cyprus implements them by improving and supplying scientific knowledge, collection and management of data, and by providing support, monitoring, control and enforcement.

Key result

EMFF funding will support the collection, management and use of data required by the CFP, as well as the implementation of control, inspection and enforcement systems as set out by the CFP.

Budget

€10 282 603



4. Community-led local development strategies



What?

Most fisheries activity takes place in the coastal regions of Cyprus; the mountainous areas of Troodos host limited aquaculture activities. The main challenges for Cypriot hosts and aquaculture areas involve creating new sources of income and new jobs, exploiting their comparative advantages, enhancing their environmental assets, promoting social well-being and preserving maritime cultural heritage.

OP aim

EMFF funding will help increase employment and territorial cohesion in fisheries-dependent areas by:

- creating new jobs and diversifying activities;
- promoting social well-being and preserving cultural heritage;
- enhancing and capitalising of environmental assets

Key result

Help fisheries and aquaculture-dependent communities to diversify their economies and add value to their fishing activities.

Budget

€7 000 000

5. Marketing and processing



What?

In 2012, the Cypriot seafood processing sector comprised four enterprises, as well as nine more enterprises where seafood processing was not the main activity. In the same year, 56 persons were full-time employed in the sector. The total income generated by the Cypriot seafood processing sector in 2012 was EUR 8.7 million, while the nine enterprises not included in the sector generated a turnover of EUR 5.7 million, attributed to seafood processing activities. The Cypriot trade balance of fishery products (including aquaculture and products for non-food use) in 2012 was negative both in volume and value (of around 12 500 tonnes and EUR 35 million, respectively). Imports are distributed more or less evenly across European and non-European countries, while the vast majority of Cypriot exports are directed at non-European countries.

OP aim

EMFF funding will be invested in new or improved seafood processing products, technology, management systems and marketing tools and measures (e.g. labelling related to environmental sustainability, promotional campaigns etc). In addition, incentives will be provided to establish fishery producers' organisations aimed at improving existing organisational structures and ensuring optimal management of seafood product marketing.

Key result

The processing sector will be modernised, and its economic performance and sustainability will be supported through investments in the development of new or improved products, the introduction of new technology and systems, and in marketing and promotional campaigns.

Budget

€1 570 558



6. Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP)



What?

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

OP aim

EMFF funding will support Cyprus to develop and implement the programme of measures under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (Directive 2008/56/EC). Respective projects aim at protecting marine and biodiversity and improving knowledge on the marine environment in view of contributing to the achievement of 'good environmental status of European seas and oceans by 2020'.

Key result

Preservation and protection of the marine environment and its resources.

Budget

€1 866 667

(€1 million has been allocated under 'Technical Assistance of the OP')

Simplification

Interoperability between national administrative services to reduce the administrative burden for potential beneficiaries (e.g. inter-service communication for issuance of legal documents such as tax clearance and criminal record data), reduction and simplification of the monitoring reports required for public procurement projects with the use of a comprehensive information system, reduction of the verification levels (on-the-spot checks), based on sampling methodology with additional use of sampling risk assessment tools, and better coordination across all monitoring and control bodies involved.

Synergies

Financing from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and the EMFF will support Cyprus to implement community-led local development (CLLD). Although a mono-fund approach will be applied for the implementation of EMFF, for those fisheries and aquaculture areas where agricultural activities are equally important, a single, coherent and comprehensive strategy for the development of the area with complementary interventions and investments of both funds (EAFRD and EMFF) has been envisaged.

Synergy with the ERDF has been planned, for implementation of a comprehensive plan aimed at increasing energy efficiency in the business sector (small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) including aquaculture and seafood processing).

Success stories

1. Collective action to combat the toxic *Lagocephalus skeleratus* population (invasive species)

Strenuous exercise of fishing pressure to *Lagocephalus skeleratus* stocks (highly toxic fish damaging catches and local marine biodiversity), by groups of small coastal fishermen, before and during its reproduction period (i.e. in June and July).

Total (public) cost: €264 940 (including EFF funding of €132 470)

2. Creation of an artificial reef in the sea area of Amathounda

Installation of an artificial reef resulting in the restoration and enhancement of marine biodiversity and fishing resources in the local sea area.

Total (public) cost: €171 097 (including EFF funding of €85 548.50)

3. Fishing tourism

On-board investments allowing fishermen to carry out complementary activities (fishing tourism).

Total (public) cost: €6 782 (including EFF funding of €3 391)

4. Fisheries Festival

Organisation of fisheries festival as part of cultural events in the fishing shelter of Zygi and Protaras Square at Paralimni during the summer period.

Total (public) cost: €81 500 (including EFF funding of €40 750)

More information

- European Commission Fisheries
- European Maritime and Fisheries Fund
- Republic of Cyprus - Operational Fisheries Programme (OPF) 2007-2013
- Operational Programme for Fisheries and (OPFA) 2014-2020
- Aquaculture multiannual national plan