

## **PLAN**

### **FOR ACTION FOR FLEET SEGMENTS WITH ESTABLISHED IMBALANCE**



This plan is prepared in accordance with Art. 22, para. 4 of Regulation (EU) № 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December, 2013 on the Common Fisheries Policy and sets out the actions that the Bulgarian administration intends to take to implement measures to adapt fishing capacity to for fishing in order to achieve a stable and lasting balance. The plan presents actions, aimed at reducing the fishing fleet in the segments where a structural surplus has been identified and adapting the segments in order to achieve maximum sustainable fisheries.

According to Art. 34 of Regulation № 508/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund, a number of measures have been developed to redirect fishing vessels to non-commercial activities and to support the sector with various financial instruments. The support through financial instruments under the PMAF 2014-2020 and PMAFA 2021-2027, aims to provide credit resources for the implementation of projects, that meet the objectives of the program, which are financially viable and which finance eligible activities under the relevant measures of the PMAF 2014-2020 and PMAFA 2021-2027. The financial instruments have been developed in order to facilitate the financing for the implementation of projects of final recipients under the PMAF 2014-2020 and PMAFA 2021-2027, as well as to provide a financial source for financing part of the costs of beneficiaries of grants under the Program.



## **Measures to adapt fleet segments where structural overcapacity has been identified.**

The prepared plan has a period of implementation 2023 and 2024.

### **Administrative measures in the applicable national legislation.**

With regard to inactive fishing vessels, EAFA continues to apply national legislation, in particular Art. 18c of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Act, according to which there is a possibility to terminate the validity of the license for commercial fishing and the authorization certificates issued on the basis of it for the right to conduct commercial fishing, if the vessel has not been engaged in fishing activities for two consecutive years. Vessels with suspended licenses on this basis shall be officially removed from the register of fishing vessels, and the released capacity shall remain in favor of the State and shall be subsequently distributed among fishing vessels wishing to be entered in the register of the fishing fleet. EAFA continues to implement national legislation in this direction in order to achieve a balance between fishing capacity and fishing opportunities. The implementation of this measure is carried out annually. In 2022, in implementation of the measure, 45 fishing vessels in the segments with a length of up to 12 m and 1 fishing vessel in the segment with a length of 12 - 18 m were withdrawn from the Register of fishing vessels.

At the beginning of 2021 a procedure for allocation of free fishing capacity was launched in accordance with the conditions described in Ordinance 8 of 21 November, 2019 on the terms and conditions for management of the fishing fleet of the Republic of Bulgaria. The objectives of these administrative measures are to improve the management of the fishing fleet as well as to achieve better control over the exploitation of fishing capacity.

### **Measures implemented through the Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Program 2014-2020 during 2022 and 2023.**

#### ***Temporary cessation of fishing activities due to Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, which threatens the security of fishing activities or hinders the economic viability of fishing operations.***

The measure aims to provide compensations for fishing operators for temporary cessation of fishing activities due to Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, which threatens the security of fishing activities or hinders the economic viability of fishing operations.

On 29.12.2022, the acceptance of applications for application under the measure started. The total amount of the grant-in-aid (GIA) determined under the measure is BGN2 525 998.00, with a maximum grant amount per project of BGN200 000. Interest in the measure was shown by 58 owners of fishing vessels, mostly falling into the segments with fishing vessels over 12 m in length.

#### ***Marketing measures***

Regarding the amendment of Regulation (EU) No 508/2014 in respect to special measures to mitigate the effects of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine on fishing activities and to limit the impact of the market shock caused by this war of aggression on the supply chain of fishery and aquaculture products, the measure is aimed at providing an opportunity for financial compensation to commercial fishing operators, to mitigate the effects of Russia's aggressive war against Ukraine on fishing activities and to limit the impact of the market shock caused by from this war of aggression, on the supply chain of fisheries and aquaculture products. The acceptance of project proposals under the measure started on 20.02.2023. The total amount of the GIA is BGN 2 467 506.41, with the maximum amount of the GIA per project – BGN200 000. Interest in the measure was shown by 21 owners of fishing vessels.



***Fishing ports, landing quays, fish auctions and boat shelters. Sector "Investments aimed at construction and / or modernization of boat shelters"***

The implementation of the measure contributes to providing appropriate conditions for the development of a competitive fisheries subsector. The construction of new and modernization of the infrastructure of existing berths and the modernization of fishing ports will increase their energy efficiency, contribute to environmental protection, increase the quality of products being landed, and improve the safety and working conditions of the fishermen.

The total amount of GIA under the measure is BGN1 898 071.47, with a determined minimum amount of GIA per project - BGN80 000 and maximum - BGN1 000 000. On 31.05.2022, the reception of project proposals under the measure was opened. The deadline for submitting applications has been extended until 01.11.2022. Two project proposals have been submitted and approved under the measure, and are in the process of implementation.

**Measures planned to be implemented in 2023 through the Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Program 2021-2027.**

***Permanent cessation of fishing activities***

This activity will contribute to the adaptation of the fishing fleet to fish stocks. Disinvestment (asset withdrawal) efforts in the fisheries sector should be encouraged in those segments where the balance between capacity and sustainable exploitation is unstable. The target is to achieve a balanced fleet that exploits the available resources sustainably by cessation the activity of fishing vessels.

According to approved Indicative annual work program under MFAP 2021-2027 for 2023, it is expected to start receiving applications under the procedure for Permanent cessation of fishing activities in the 4th quarter of 2023. The total amount of the GIA, determined for the procedure is BGN961 236.58. The maximum amount of GIA for a project will be determined on the basis of a methodology.

