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FINANCIAL INSTRUMENT FOR FISHERIES GUIDANCE

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE



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FINANCIAL INSTRUMENT FOR FISHERIES GUIDANCE

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European Commission

Notice to readers

This brochure was updated following the amendments to Council Regulation (EC) No 2792/1999 of 17 December 1999 laying down the detailed rules and arrangements regarding Community structural assistance in the fisheries sector.

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A great deal of additional information on the European Union is available on the Internet.

It can be accessed through the Europa server (<http://europa.eu.int>).

Cataloguing data can be found at the end of this publication.

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Introduction

Fishing and aquaculture are important economic activities in the European Union, in particular in coastal areas where there are few alternatives. They help to supply the European market, on which demand now tends to outstrip supply.

Faced with both the worrying problem of dwindling fish stocks and the challenge of a globalised economy, our fishing industry has, for some years now, been undergoing a process of change essential to the long-term exploitation of resources and a return to competitiveness.



Under its common fisheries policy (CFP), the Community is taking an active part in this restructuring via the Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance (FIG).

To help with the conversion and diversification of their economic fabric, most of the areas dependent on fishing can also apply for funding from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the European Social Fund (ESF).



What the FIG does

The FIG is one of the European Union's four Structural Funds. It was set up in 1993, replacing a number of earlier structural instruments.

It contributes first of all to achieving the goals of the common fisheries policy by underpinning the restructuring of the sector and, secondly, to strengthening economic and social cohesion within the Union by encouraging the development of coastal areas in which fishing is a major component of economic activity.

The FIG is thus intended to: help the industry respond to the challenge of present-day world economic conditions; guarantee environmentally sustainable and economically viable exploitation of fisheries resources; preserve fishing in regions where there are few economic alternatives; provide European consumers with a wide range of quality fishery products.

Under no circumstances should measures co-financed under the FIG contribute to increasing fishing effort.

FIG resources are allocated on the basis of multiannual programmes — SPDs (single programming documents) or OPs (operational programmes) ⁽¹⁾ — drawn up by the Member States and the Commission. The current programming period is seven years, from 2000 to 2006.

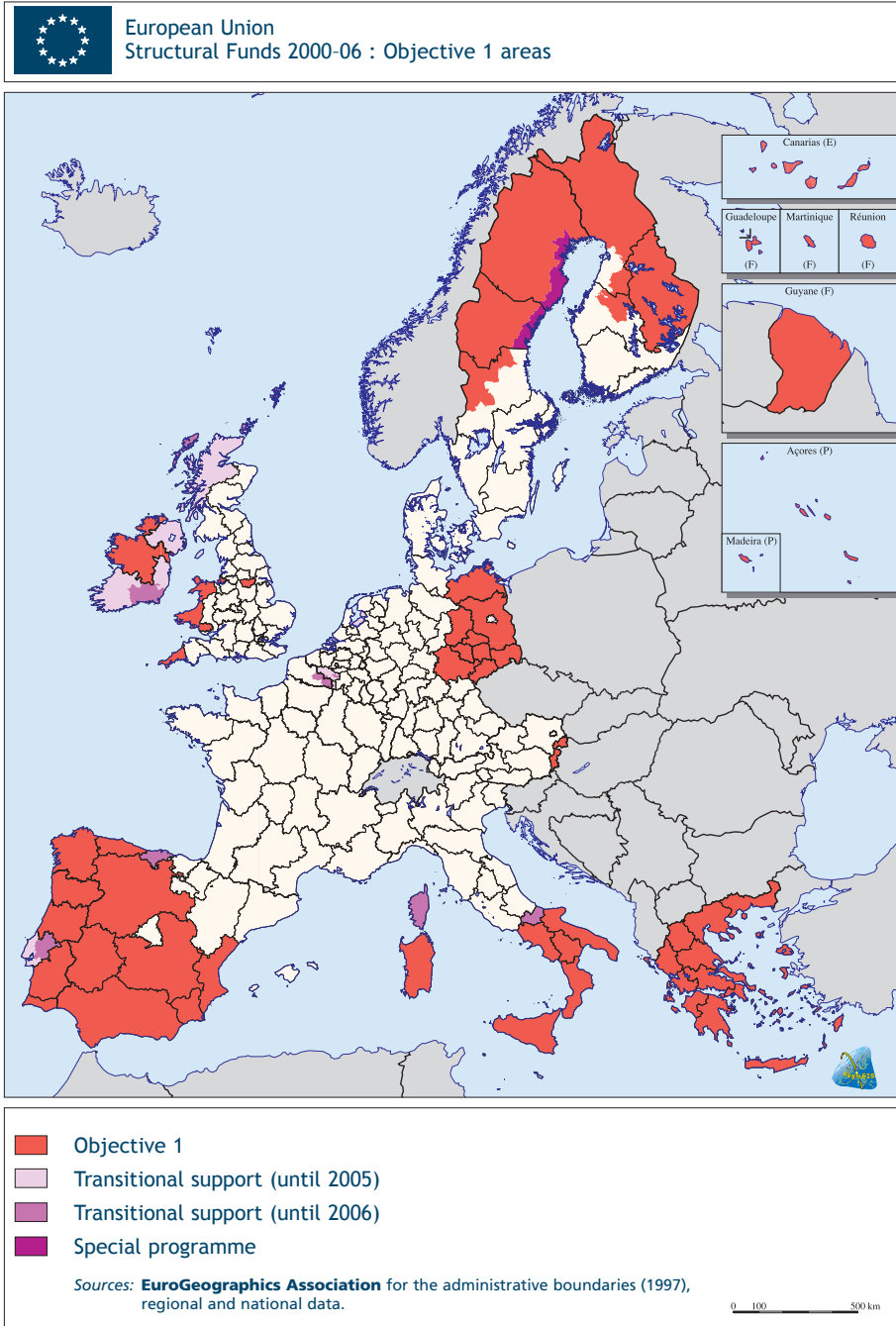
While the general rules governing assistance from the FIG are laid down at Community level, the projects themselves are selected by the Member State concerned.

The FIG operates on a co-financing principle: the funding for each project must include government input from the Member State concerned. Moreover, if the Community assistance relates to revenue-generating investment, there must be an own contribution from the recipient, who may be an individual or a group.

The total FIG budget for 2000-06 is EUR 3.7 billion: EUR 2.6 billion for Objective 1 areas and EUR 1.1 billion for other areas.

By encouraging the development of coastal areas that are dependent on fishing, the FIG is helping to strengthen economic and social cohesion within the Union.

⁽¹⁾ See Annex for glossary.



Where the FIG operates

The FIG operates throughout the Community. Projects to modernise fisheries structures may receive FIG assistance under multiannual programmes, regardless of where they are located.

Projects located in EU regions whose development is lagging behind (i.e. in regions eligible under Objective 1 of the Structural Funds (see map)) can qualify for additional aid.

It should be noted that Member States do not necessarily support and co-finance all measures which are eligible for FIG aid.



© Ifremer

The FIG operates throughout the Community, but grants additional assistance to projects in EU regions whose development is lagging behind.

What the FIG can fund

Adjustment of fishing effort

Many of the problems the industry is currently facing can be traced back to the overcapacity of fishing fleets in relation to the resources available. Accordingly, one of the main priorities of the Union is to help the industry find an environmentally sustainable and economically viable balance that will enable fishing firms to return to long-term profitability without jeopardising resources. This means, in particular, incentives for the removal of a number of vessels from the fleet, with a view to reduce surplus capacity.

□ In all, three types of scheme are eligible for public assistance:

- scrapping of vessels;
- until 31 December 2004, permanent transfer to a non-member country, including through the creation of a joint enterprise;
- reassignment of vessels to non-profitable purposes other than fishing.

□ A vessel must be at least 10 years old. In the case of permanent transfer, including in the framework of a joint enterprise, vessels must be less than 30 years old and exceed 20 GRT/22 GT.

Permanent reassignment to a non-member country may not involve a country which has applied for membership of the European Union, nor may it infringe international rules on the conservation and management of fish stocks or the social provisions governing the working conditions of fishermen.

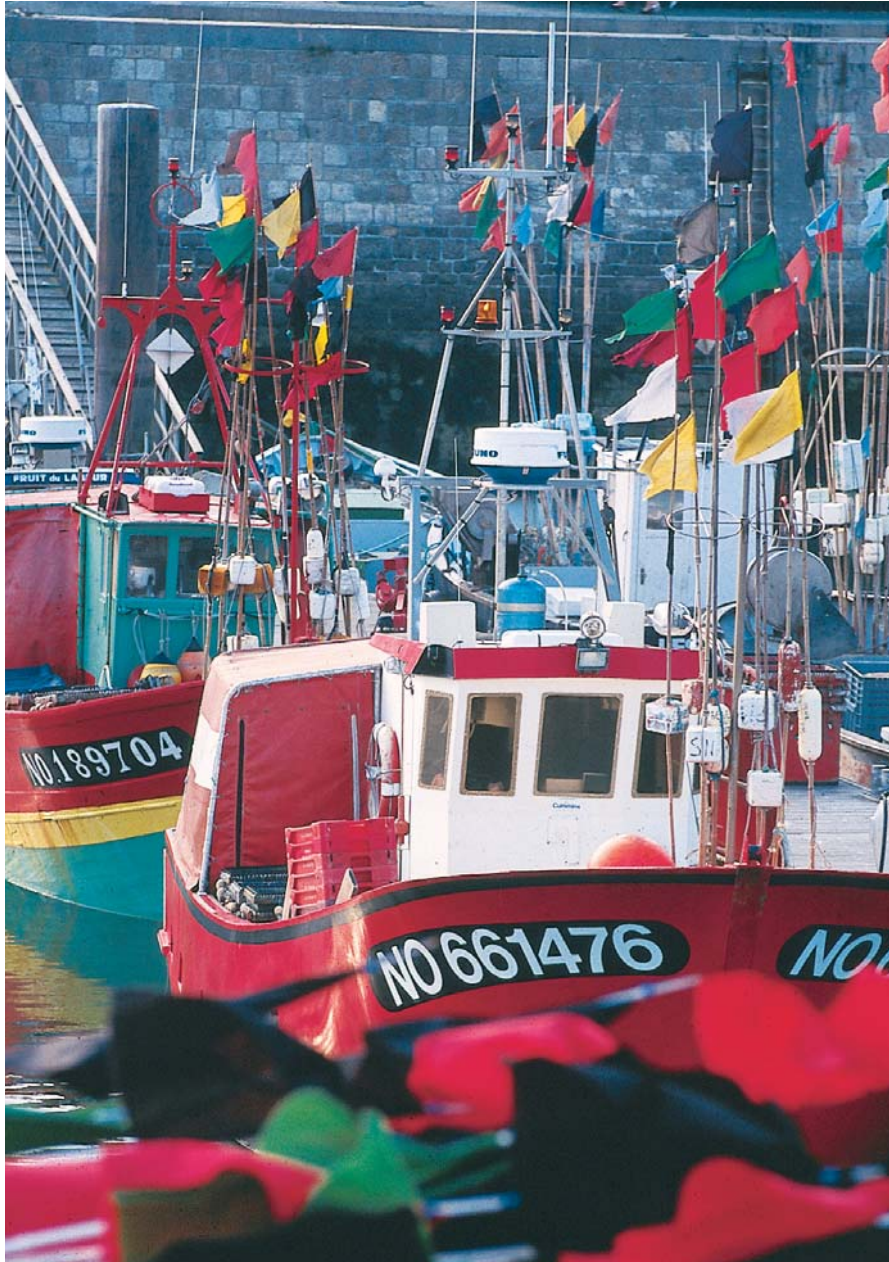
Permanent reassignment to a third country is restricted to countries with whom the European Commission has concluded a fisheries agreement. Derogations may be granted by the Commission on a case-by-case basis for permanent transfers in the framework of a joint enterprise.

- The rules applicable to setting up joint enterprises have undergone a number of changes compared with the 1994-99 programming period. Temporary partnerships are no longer eligible for FIFG financing and there has been an appreciable reduction in the rates of assistance (see below).
- Vessels whose fishing effort has to be reduced by 25 % or more, as a consequence of a recovery plan adopted by the Council, will be eligible for a scrapping premium that is 20 % higher than that available for decommissioning under the FIFG.
- To help reducing overfishing, the FIFG also provides for tie-up schemes, provided that they are backed-up by decommissioning schemes of equivalent effect on fishing effort (see the section on temporary cessation of activities).

Scale of premiums (by vessel size group) ⁽²⁾	
Gross tonnage (GT)	EUR
0 < 10	11 000/GT + 2 000
10 < 25	5 000/GT + 62 000
25 < 100	4 200/GT + 82 000
100 < 300	2 700/GT + 232 000
300 < 500	2 200/GT + 382 000
500 and over	1 200/GT + 882 000
Gross registered tonnage (GRT)	EUR
0 < 25	8 200/GRT
25 < 50	6 000/GRT + 55 000
50 < 100	5 400/GRT + 85 000
100 < 250	2 600/GRT + 365 000

⁽²⁾ The top half of the table (tonnage measured in GT as opposed to GRT) is applicable to all vessels with effect from 1 January 2004 (1 January 2000 in the case of vessels longer than 24 metres between perpendiculars).

Rates of assistance		
A = Financial contribution from the Community (FIFG assistance)		
B = Total national public financial contribution (central, regional, local, etc.)		
Regions qualifying under Objective 1	50 % ≤ A ≤ 75 % B ≥ 25 %	
Objective 1 regions located in a Member State covered by the Cohesion Fund	50 ≤ A ≤ 80 % B ≥ 20 %	
Other areas	25 % ≤ A ≤ 50 % B ≥ 50 %	
Maximum scrapping premium (by vessel age group)		
10–15 years old	16–29 years old	30 years or more
See 'Scale of premiums'	'Scale of premiums', less 1.5 % for every year over 15	'Scale of premiums', less 22.5 %
Maximum premium for permanent reassignment		
Joint enterprise	Simple reassignment to a non-member country	
80 % of the scrapping premium	30 % of the scrapping premium	
Reassignment to non-profitable purposes other than fishing		
Scrapping premium		



© Lionel Flageul

Modernisation aid awarded in connection with the FIG must not serve to increase fishing effort.

Fleet renewal and equipment or modernisation of fishing vessels

Improving health and safety on board fishing vessels and the conditions under which fish are handled/processed and using more selective fishing techniques are essential to the competitiveness of the Community fleet and to sustainable and responsible exploitation of resources.

- Public aid for the renewal of fishing vessels may be granted to vessels under 400 GT and until 31 December 2004. It is subject to the restrictions stipulated by the entry/exit scheme adopted by the Council in 2002 and conditioned by respect of the capacity reference levels for fishing fleets established by the Commission for each Member State (Articles 12 and 13 of Council Regulation (EC) No 2371/2002 of 20 December 2002 on the conservation and sustainable exploitation of fisheries resources under the common fisheries policy).
- Public aid for the equipment or modernisation of fishing vessels is available for vessels that are at least 5 years old, but it cannot concern capacity (in terms of tonnage or engine power) nor must it serve to increase the effectiveness of fishing gear.

Modernisation over the main deck to improve safety on board, working conditions, hygiene and product quality may increase the tonnage of the vessel, provided that such modernisation does not increase the ability of the vessel to catch fish (Article 11(5) of Council Regulation (EC) No 2371/2002 of 20 December 2002 on the conservation and sustainable exploitation of fisheries resources under the common fisheries policy).

Investment for equipping or modernising vessels should relate to:

- the rationalisation of fishing operations, in particular the use of more selective fishing methods; the FIG does not, however, co-finance the replacement of fishing gear;
- the installation of vessel monitoring systems — even for vessels that are less than 5 years old;
- the improvement of the handling/processing and quality of products on board;
- the improvement of working conditions and safety.

Building of new vessels — Scale of eligible costs	
(by vessel size group) Gross tonnage (GT)	EUR
0 < 10	22 000/GT + 4 000
10 < 25	10 000/GT + 124 000
25 < 100	8 400/GT + 164 000
100 < 300	5 400/GT + 464 000
300 < 500	4 400/GT + 764 000
500 or more	2 400/GT + 1 764 000
Equipment and modernisation of vessels — Scale of eligible costs	
(by vessel size group) Gross tonnage (GT)	EUR
0 < 10	11 000/GT + 2 000
10 < 25	5 000/GT + 62 000
25 < 100	4 200/GT + 82 000
100 < 300	2 700/GT + 232 000
300 < 500	2 200/GT + 382 000
500 or more	1 200/GT + 882 000

Rates of assistance for building, equipping or modernising vessels (as a percentage of the eligible cost, which may not exceed the amounts shown in the scale)

A = Financial contribution from the Community
 B = Total national public financial contribution (central, regional, local, etc.)
 C = Own contribution by the (private) recipient

Regions qualifying under Objective 1	A ≤ 35 % B ≥ 5 % C ≥ 60 %
Objective 1 regions located in a Member State covered by the Cohesion Fund	A ≤ 35 % B ≥ 5 % C ≥ 60 %
Other areas	A ≤ 15 % B ≥ 5 % C ≥ 60 %



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Small-scale inshore fishing plays a major role in the general economy of the sector and in the economic and social fabric of the Union's coastal regions.

Small-scale coastal fishing

Vessels under 12 metres overall account for 60 % in number of the EU fishing fleet. In view of the fishing they carry out, they play a major role in terms of the overall economy of the sector and of the economic and social fabric of the EU's coastal regions.

FIFG support for coastal fishing can be obtained for implementing group, family or community projects dealing in particular with:

- improvements in hygiene, safety and working conditions on board;
- the introduction of techniques for making fishing more selective;
- the way in which the chain of production is organised, the aim being to create and/or increase added value in products;
- professional training or requalification.

Aid is restricted to fishing vessels under 12 metres overall that do not use towed gear.

Rates of assistance

A = Financial contribution from the Community

B = Total national public financial contribution (central, regional, local, etc.)

Regions qualifying under Objective 1	$50 \% \leq A \leq 75 \%$ $B \geq 25 \%$
Objective 1 regions located in a Member State covered by the Cohesion Fund	$50 \% \leq A \leq 80 \%$ $B \geq 20 \%$
Other areas	$25 \% \leq A \leq 50 \%$ $B \geq 50 \%$
Aid may not exceed EUR 150 000 per collective project.	

Fishing in inland waters

Commercial freshwater fishing is an important economic activity in a number of EU Member States. In Finland, for example, it occupies about a thousand fishermen.

The FIFG can contribute towards the building and modernisation of vessels for fishing in inland waters.

New vessels must comply with:

- Community rules on hygiene, safety, public health, product quality and working conditions;
- Community rules on tonnage rating;
- the rules on monitoring of fishing activities.

Investment in the modernisation of vessels must be geared towards:

- the rationalisation of fishing operations, in particular the use of more selective fishing methods; the FIFG does not, however, co-finance the replacement of fishing gear;
- improving the handling/processing and quality of products on board;
- improving working conditions and safety.

No aid may be granted, however, if the investment is likely to jeopardise the balance between the size of the fleet and the corresponding fisheries resources.

Fishing vessels built with FIFG aid for use in inland waters may not fish outside those waters.

Protection and development of aquatic resources

The creation of protected marine areas, in particular by building artificial reefs at sea, has been part of the structural policy since 1983. The areas concerned can comprise reefs for protection, restocking or concentration of resources.

The FIGG can contribute to financing fixed or mobile facilities to protect and develop aquatic resources, on condition that these facilities:

- are of collective interest;
- are built/installed by public or semi-public bodies or recognised trade organisations;
- do not adversely affect the aquatic environment.

Each project must remain subject to scientific monitoring and reporting for at least five years.

Aid may not, however, cover restocking operations themselves.

Rates of assistance

A = Financial contribution from the Community

B = Total national public financial contribution (central, regional, local, etc.)

Regions qualifying under Objective 1	$50 \% \leq A \leq 75 \%$ $B \geq 25 \%$
Objective 1 regions located in a Member State covered by the Cohesion Fund	$50 \% \leq A \leq 80 \%$ $B \geq 20 \%$
Other areas	$25 \% \leq A \leq 50 \%$ $B \geq 50 \%$



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FIFG funding has been available since 1993 for installations to protect the aquatic environment and develop aquatic resources.

Fishing port facilities

Optimum conditions for unloading and handling fish on the quayside are major factors in guaranteeing the utmost freshness of the products supplied to the final consumer. The EU has, since 1988, been contributing towards the installation of refrigeration, landing, handling and storage facilities for fishery products.

Aid may be granted for investment in plant and equipment to:

- improve the conditions under which fishery products are landed, processed and stored at ports;
- underpin the activities of fishing vessels (supplies of fuel, ice and water; vessel maintenance and repair);
- improve safety conditions on the quayside during loading and unloading.



© Mostra

The Union has been contributing since 1988 to facilities in fishing ports to guarantee optimum landing and handling conditions on the quayside.

Priority is given to investments which are of interest to fishermen generally and contribute to improving the services available.

Rates of assistance	
A = Financial contribution from the Community B = Total national public financial contribution (central, regional, local, etc.) C = Own contribution by the (private) recipient	
<i>No own contribution by the private recipient</i>	
Regions qualifying under Objective 1	$50 \% \leq A \leq 75 \%$ $B \geq 25 \%$
Objective 1 regions located in a Member State covered by the Cohesion Fund	$50 \% \leq A \leq 80 \%$ $B \geq 20 \%$
Other areas	$25 \% \leq A \leq 50 \%$ $B \geq 50 \%$
<i>Own contribution by the private recipient</i>	
Regions qualifying under Objective 1	$A \leq 35 \%$ $B \geq 5 \%$ $C \geq 40 \%$
Objective 1 regions located in a Member State covered by the Cohesion Fund	$A \leq 35 \%$ $B \geq 5 \%$ $C \geq 40 \%$
Other areas	$A \leq 15 \%$ $B \geq 5 \%$ $C \geq 60 \%$

Development of aquaculture

Aquaculture plays an increasingly important role in the production of fishery products. In 2000, its share of Community production was 17 % in volume terms and 27 % in value terms. It accounts for a total of about 80 000 jobs and is characterised by the multiplicity of species reared and methods used.

Aid may be granted for physical investment in:

- production and management (e.g. construction, expansion, equipping and modernisation of facilities);
- improving public health conditions and product quality and alleviating any adverse effects on the environment;
- improving water flow within aquaculture installations and on service vessels.

Community legislation states that aid may not be granted for intensive fish-farming projects without a prior assessment of the environmental impact.

Rates of assistance

A = Financial contribution by the Community

B = Total national public financial contribution (central, regional, local, etc.)

C = Own contribution by the (private) recipient

Regions qualifying under Objective 1	A ≤ 35 % B ≥ 5 % C ≥ 40 %
--------------------------------------	---------------------------------

Objective 1 regions located in a Member State covered by the Cohesion Fund	A ≤ 35 % B ≥ 5 % C ≥ 40 %
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Other areas	A ≤ 15 % B ≥ 5 % C ≥ 60 %
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Aquaculture, an industry employing around 80 000 people, plays an increasingly important role in the supply of fishery products.

Processing and marketing of fishery and aquaculture products

In the European Union, processed fishery products are worth about twice as much as the total catch of the Member States and account for 96 000 jobs, i.e. 23 % of employment within the fisheries industry. The Community's balance of trade in processed marine products is heavily in the red, however, and a number of Member States rely on imports for their raw materials. As well as being highly diversified, the fishery and aquaculture products processing industry combines age-old traditions and the use of the latest technology.

In the fishery products processing and marketing sector (other than the retail trade), investment aid may be granted towards products for human consumption and the treatment of related waste products.

The investment may be physical investment:

- connected with production and management (e.g. construction, enlargement, equipping and modernisation of facilities);
- intended to bring about an improvement in health and hygiene, increase the added value of products or reduce adverse effects on the environment.

Rates of assistance

A = Financial contribution from the Community

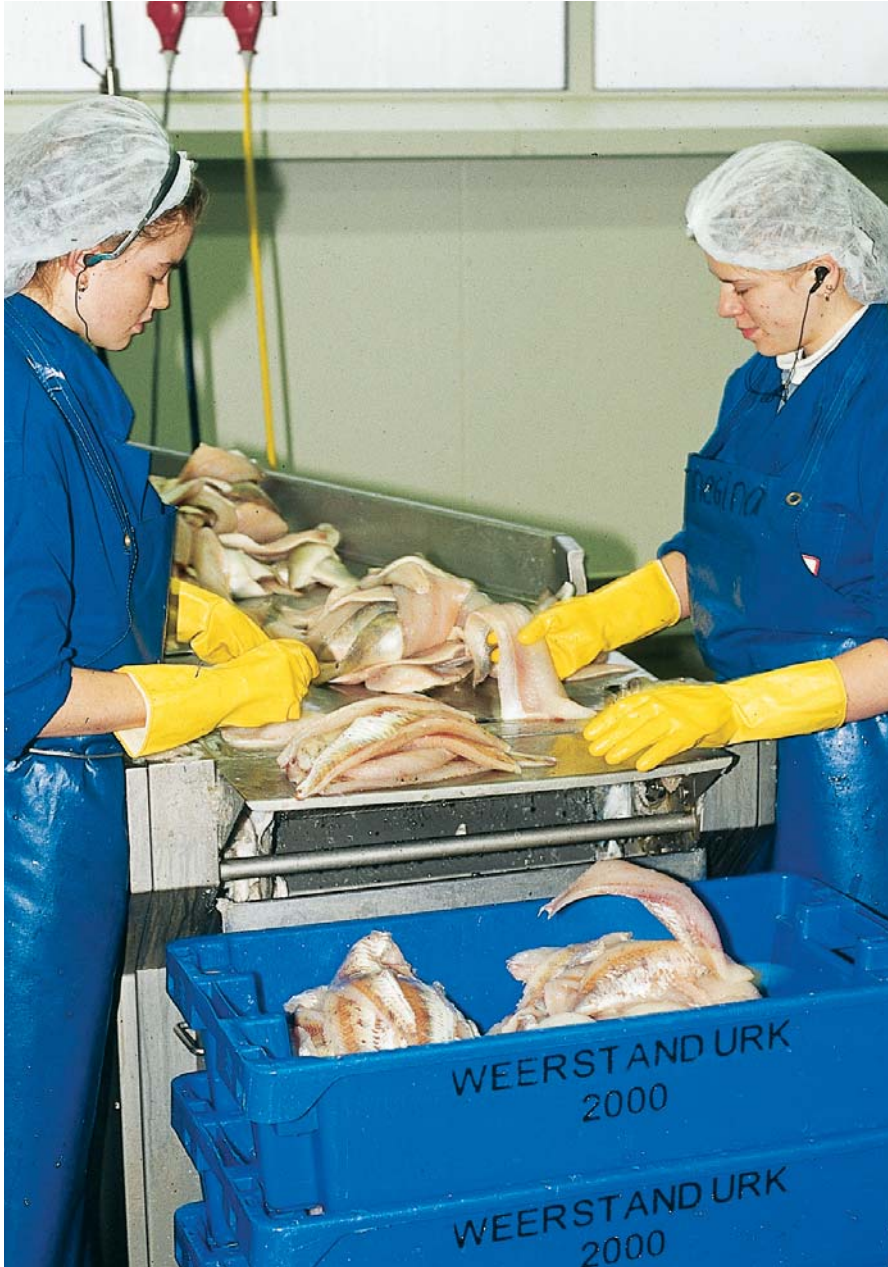
B = Total national public financial contribution (central, regional, local, etc.)

C = Financial contribution by the (private) recipient

Regions qualifying under Objective 1	A ≤ 35 % B ≥ 5 % C ≥ 40 %
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Objective 1 regions located in a Member State covered by the Cohesion Fund	A ≤ 35 % B ≥ 5 % C ≥ 40 %
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Other areas	A ≤ 15 % B ≥ 5 % C ≥ 60 %
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The FIGG awards aid for the processing and marketing of fishery and aquaculture products.

Measures to identify and promote new market outlets

The Community has, since 1988, actively supported a number of promotion campaigns for fishery and aquaculture products, in particular a campaign against the consumption of undersized fish in Spain, a campaign to encourage people to eat fresh fish in France, and educational programmes aimed at primary and secondary schoolchildren and teachers, such as in the United Kingdom.

The FIGF can finance collective schemes to identify and promote new outlets for fishery and aquaculture products, e.g.:

- quality seal and certification schemes;
- promotional campaigns;
- consumer surveys;
- participation in fairs and exhibitions;
- visits to study markets and set up trade links;
- market research, in particular with a view to marketing Community products in non-member countries;
- advisory and other marketing and sales services.

Investment can cover:

- the cost of using advertising agencies and other services in preparing and implementing promotion schemes;
- the purchase or leasing of advertising space and the devising of slogans and labels during the period covered by the promotion scheme;
- printing and equipment costs, the services of external personnel and the use of buildings and vehicles needed for the promotion schemes.

Priority is given to the following:

- measures aimed at encouraging the marketing of overabundant/under-exploited species;
- measures involving one or more producer organisations;
- the implementation of quality policies;
- the promotion of products produced by environment-friendly methods.

Promotional measures may not, however, centre on commercial brands or refer to a given Member State or geographical area, except where the origin is officially recognised in accordance with Regulation (EEC) No 2081/92 on the protection of geographical indications and designations of origin for agricultural products and foodstuffs.

Rates of assistance	
A = Financial contribution from the Community B = Total national public financial contribution (central, regional, local, etc.) C = Own contribution by the (private) recipient	
<i>No own contribution by the (private) recipient</i>	
Regions qualifying under Objective 1	$50 \% \leq A \leq 75 \%$ $B \geq 25 \%$
Objective 1 regions located in a Member State covered by the Cohesion Fund	$50 \% \leq A \leq 80 \%$ $B \geq 20 \%$
Other areas	$25 \% \leq A \leq 50 \%$ $B \geq 50 \%$
<i>With a contribution by the (private) recipient</i>	
Regions qualifying under Objective 1	$A \leq 35 \%$ $B \geq 5 \%$ $C \geq 40 \%$
Objective 1 regions located in a Member State covered by the Cohesion Fund	$A \leq 35 \%$ $B \geq 5 \%$ $C \geq 40 \%$
Other areas	$A \leq 15 \%$ $B \geq 5 \%$ $C \geq 60 \%$

Social measures accompanying restructuring

The Community wants to help alleviate the social and economic impact of restructuring in the fishing industry by making severance and retraining grants available to those affected by the cessation of fishing activities.

In order to help fishermen affected by restructuring in the fisheries sector, the FIFG can part-finance:

- national early retirement schemes for fishermen aged 55 and over who can provide proof of at least 10 years' experience as fishermen and opt for early retirement less than 10 years before the statutory age of retirement in the country concerned;
- individual premiums of up to EUR 10 000 for fishing hands with at least 12 months' work experience who lose their job when their fishing vessel is permanently withdrawn;
- premiums covering individual retraining or diversification for fishermen with at least five years experience. The premiums are adjustable according to the size of the project and the recipient's own contribution. However, they may not exceed EUR 50 000 for fishermen who leave marine fisheries altogether, or EUR 20 000 for diversification outside marine fisheries on a part-time basis.

In addition, to help young fishermen buy their own boat, the FIFG can part-finance aid payable to young fishermen under 35 years of age who are purchasing their first fishing vessel. The vessel must have a length overall of 7 to 24 metres, be 10 to 20 years old and be entered in the Community register of fishing vessels. The aid amount varies according to the size and age of the vessel and the terms on which it is purchased, but may not exceed 10 % of the purchase price or EUR 50 000, and ownership may not be transferred between relatives up to the second degree of kinship.

Rates of assistance	
A = Financial contribution from the Community B = Total national public contribution (central, regional, local, etc.)	
Regions qualifying under Objective 1	$50 \% \leq A \leq 75 \%$ $B \geq 25 \%$
Objective 1 regions located in a Member State covered by the Cohesion Fund	$50 \% \leq A \leq 80 \%$ $B \geq 20 \%$
Other areas	$25 \% \leq A \leq 50 \%$ $B \geq 50 \%$



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The FIGG can, in certain cases, assist those affected by the cessation of fishing activities by part-financing national early retirement schemes.

Measures by groups within the trade

Encouraging those working in the industry to group together to introduce common tools for the management of resources or of their activities, adapt to the new conditions on the market in fishery products or develop an industry-wide approach is a challenge to which the Community is responding via the FIFG.

The FIFG can provide support for various types of measures which those working in the industry have introduced in order to make their activities more viable or to rationalise them, for example:

- setting up producer organisations;
- implementing quality-improvement plans in producer organisations;
- measures of collective interest promoted by producer groups or other organisations acting on their behalf which are aimed at more rational management of resources. The measures may concern: the management of fishing effort; the promotion of technical measures — including more selective fishing methods — for the conservation of resources; the improvement of working conditions and public health monitoring for products; collective aquaculture facilities; measures aimed at better environmental and coastal ecosystem protection; organising electronic trading in fishery products; access to training and to business start-up schemes; the improvement of quality and technological innovation, etc.

The FIFG can also part-finance studies, pilot projects, demonstration projects and training, technical assistance and experience-sharing schemes dealing with various aspects relating to the industry, in particular the promotion of equal opportunities for men and women. Experimental fishing projects are eligible if they involve the introduction of fishing methods that are more selective.

Rates of assistance	
A = Financial contribution by the Community	
B = Total national public financial (central, regional, local, etc.)	
C = Own contribution by the (private) recipient	
<i>Pilot projects other than implemented by public bodies</i>	
Regions qualifying under Objective 1	A ≤ 75 % B ≥ 5 % C ≥ 20 %
Objective 1 regions located in a Member State covered by the Cohesion Fund	A ≤ 75 % B ≥ 5 % C ≥ 20 %
Other areas	A ≤ 50 % B ≥ 5 % C ≥ 30 %
<i>Innovative and technical assistance measures, including pilot projects implemented by public bodies</i>	
Regions qualifying under Objective 1	50 % ≤ A ≤ 75 % B ≥ 25 %
Objective 1 regions located in a Member State covered by the Cohesion Fund	50 % ≤ A ≤ 80 % B ≥ 20 %
Other areas	25 % ≤ A ≤ 50 % B ≥ 50 %
<i>Measures implemented by the industry without an own contribution by the (private) recipient</i>	
Regions qualifying under Objective 1	50 % ≤ A ≤ 75 % B ≥ 25 %
Objective 1 regions located in a Member State covered by the Cohesion Fund	50 % ≤ A ≤ 80 % B ≥ 20 %
Other areas	25 % ≤ A ≤ 50 % B ≥ 50 %

Measures implemented by the industry (with an own contribution by the (private) recipient)

Regions qualifying under Objective 1	A ≤ 35 % B ≥ 5 % C ≥ 40 %
Objective 1 regions located in a Member State covered by the Cohesion Fund	A ≤ 35 % B ≥ 5 % C ≥ 40 %
Other areas	A ≤ 15 % B ≥ 5 % C ≥ 60 %

Temporary cessation of activities

Over the past few years, a series of events, including the non-renewal of the fishing agreement between the Community and Morocco, the shipwreck of several oil tankers and the collapse of cod stocks in the North Sea, have demonstrated in stark terms the extent to which the economic viability of fishing depends on political, ecological and biological factors beyond the control of the firms concerned.

Temporary aid can be granted to fishermen and shipowners who are forced to suspend their activities in the following situations:

- unforeseeable events, in particular of biological impact (e.g. industrial or natural pollution);
- the suspension of, or failure to renew, a fishing agreement concluded by the Community;
- the introduction of a recovery plan adopted by the Council or emergency measures decided by the Commission or one or more Member States to restore stocks which are in danger of collapsing; the reduction of fishing effort as a result of such a plan must be permanent and followed by a decommissioning scheme of equivalent impact;
- the adoption of technical measures restricting the use of certain types of fishing gear or fishing methods.

The FIFG contribution is subject to explicit Commission approval of the measures to be put in place by the Member State and of the corresponding financial compensation.

Furthermore, it is up to the Member State to determine the amount of compensation to be paid in individual cases, taking account of relevant parameters such as the real losses suffered, the scale of the conversion effort, recovery plan or technical adjustment effort.

Recurrent seasonal suspension of fishing activity is not eligible for compensation.



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Rates of assistance	
A = Financial contribution from the Community B = Total national public contribution (central, regional, local, etc.)	
Regions qualifying under Objective 1	$50 \% \leq A \leq 75 \%$ $B \geq 25 \%$
Objective 1 regions located in a Member State covered by the Cohesion Fund	$50 \% \leq A \leq 80 \%$ $B \geq 20 \%$
Other areas	$25 \% \leq A \leq 50 \%$ $B \geq 50 \%$

How FIFG funding is allocated (UK and Ireland)

The projects are selected and processed not by a European Commission department but by the designated management authority or authorities of the Member State concerned.

Project leaders seeking financial support from the FIFG should contact the bodies listed below.

In the United Kingdom:

England including Merseyside — Objective 1

Department for Environment, Food and
Rural Affairs
Fisheries Division I
Nobel House
17 Smith Square
London SW1P 3JR
Tel. (44-20) 72 38 59 03
Fax (44-20) 72 38 59 51
E-mail: fifg.grant@defra.gsi.gov.uk
Internet:
www.defra.gov.uk/fish/grants.htm

Scotland

Scottish Executive
Rural Affairs Department
Pentland House
47 Robb's Loan
Edinburgh EH14 1TY
Tel. (44-131) 244 64 30/60 89
Fax (44-131) 244 31 10/62 88
E-mail:
richard.combe@scotland.gsi.gov.uk
Internet:
www.scotland.gov.uk/fisheries/fifg

Northern Ireland

Department of Agriculture and
Rural Development
Fisheries Department
Castle Grounds
Stormont Estate
Belfast BT4 3PW
Tel. (44-2890) 52 23 73
Fax (44-2890) 52 31 21
E-mail: peter.toner@dardni.gov.uk
Internet: www.eugrants.org

Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly — Objective 1

South West PESCA Ltd
Trevint House
Strangways Villas
Truro
Cornwall TR1 2PA
Tel. (44-1872) 27 03 33
Fax (44-1872) 24 24 70
E-mail: admin@swpesca.co.uk
Internet: www.swpesca.co.uk

**West Wales and the Valleys —
Objective 1**

Welsh European Funding Office/Swyddfa
Cyllid Ewropeaidd Cymru
Programme Management Branch 2/Adran
Rheoli Rhaglenni 2
Machynlleth
Powys SY20 8PE

Tel./Ffon (44-1654) 70 49 00
Fax/Ffacs (44-1654) 70 49 09
E-mail/E-bost:
john.eddington@wales.gsi.gov.uk
Internet/Gwefan:
www.wefo.wales.gov.uk

In Ireland:

Department of the Marine and Natural Resources
Leeson Lane
Dublin 2
Tel. (353-1) 619 92 00
Fax (353-1) 661 82 14
E-mail: press.office@marine.gov.ie
Internet: www.marine.gov.ie

Irish Sea Fisheries Board/Bord Iascaigh Mhara
Marine Services Division
PO Box 12
Crofton Road
Dun Laoghaire
County Dublin
Tel. (353-1) 284 15 44
Fax (353-1) 214 42 54
Internet: www.bim.ie

These bodies will be able to state whether:

- a project falls within the scope of the FIFG;
- a project is consistent with the priorities laid down jointly by the Commission and the UK/Irish authorities for 2000-06; and
- inform the project leader about the procedure for submitting an aid application.

Other Community measures to assist regions dependent on fishing

PESCA Community initiative

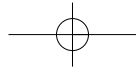
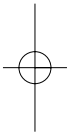
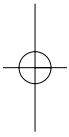
PESCA, like nine other Community initiatives implemented in 1994-99, was not renewed in 2000. Some of the measures designed to assist economic and social diversification which until then had been covered by PESCA now fall within the scope of the FIG (see above).

Conversion schemes

Other measures for the conversion or diversification of the local economic fabric may qualify for assistance from the European Regional Development Fund if the projects concerned are located in a region whose development is lagging behind (Objective 1 under the Structural Funds) or are aimed at the economic and social conversion of areas experiencing structural difficulties (Objective 2 under the Structural Funds), which include most of the areas dependent on fishing.

Training

Measures relating to human resources, in particular specific or continuing training initiatives aimed at improving the chances of finding employment, and measures designed to anticipate and facilitate adaptation to economic and social change or promote equality of opportunity for men and women are, irrespective of their geographical location, eligible for support under the European Social Fund (Objective 3 under the Structural Funds).



Conclusion

The FIGF is proof positive of the European Union's commitment towards the fishing industry, an industry whose continued survival is essential to the economy of coastal regions and to the supply of the Community market in fishery products and whose twin keywords for the future must be a modern approach and competitiveness based on sustainable and responsible exploitation of fishery resources.



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Annexes

Glossary

Community support framework (CSF)

A multiannual development contract drawn up jointly between individual Member States and the European Commission. The CSF sets out the development objectives, the priorities selected for Community intervention and the indicative financing plan. The fisheries sector is more often than not one of the priorities of the Objective 1 CSF for the countries and regions concerned.

Economic and social cohesion

Solidarity between the peoples of the European Union, economic and social progress and reinforced cohesion are enshrined in Part One of the Treaty establishing the European Community. Article 158 of the Treaty specifies that 'the Community shall aim at reducing disparities between the levels of development of the various regions and the backwardness of the least favoured regions or islands, including rural areas.' The Structural Funds are a prime instrument of the policy of economic and social cohesion that is at the heart of intra-Community solidarity.

Management authority

Any authority or public or private national, regional or local body designated by the Member State — or, if the latter performs this function, the Member State itself — responsible for the management of assistance from the Structural Funds.

Monitoring committees

Bodies made up of representatives of the regions, national government bodies, responsible agencies and the Commission. These committees regularly evaluate the implementation of programmes and, where appropriate, propose changes to a measure.

Operational programme (OP)

Coherent set of multiannual measures involving one or more Structural Funds. Submitting an OP after the CSF has been approved is the most frequent method of requesting financial assistance from the Structural Funds.

Priority objectives of the Structural Funds

Financial assistance is concentrated on three priority objectives. Objective 1 (ERDF, ESF, EAGGF and FIFG), the most important of the three, concerns development and structural adjustment of regions whose development is lagging behind. Objective 2 (ERDF and ESF) deals with the economic and social conversion of areas experiencing structural problems. Objective 3 (ESF) — which is not a regionalised objective — is concerned with the adaptation and modernisation of education, training and employment policies and systems. In addition, the FIFG operates, without geographical restriction, in regions that are not covered by Objective 1.

Programming complement

The programming complement lists the measures to be funded in respect of each programme. It is drawn up by the persons in charge of programmes (or the management authorities) who select the projects.

Single programming document (SPD)

Single programming documents combine the features of CSFs and OPs. They tend to concern measures receiving less than EUR 1 billion in Structural Fund co-financing. In regions that are not covered by Objective 1, the FIFG is brought into play via SPDs

Structural Funds

A generic term covering several financial instruments: the ERDF (European Regional Development Fund), the ESF (European Social Fund), the EAGGF (European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund) and the FIFG (Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance). EU financial assistance from the Funds is aimed at resolving structural economic and social problems and thus at reducing inequalities between various regions and social groups.

Legislation

Council Regulation (EC) No 2371/2002 of 20 December 2002 on the conservation and sustainable exploitation of fisheries resources under the common fisheries policy (*Official Journal of the European Communities*, L 358, 31.12.2002)

Council Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 of 21 June 1999 laying down general provisions on the Structural Funds (*Official Journal of the European Communities*, L 161, 26.6.1999)

Regulation (EC) No 1783/1999 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 June 1999 on the European Regional Development Fund (*Official Journal of the European Communities*, L 213, 13.8.1999)

Regulation (EC) No 1784/1999 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 July 1999 on the European Social Fund (*Official Journal of the European Communities*, L 213, 13.8.1999)

Council Regulation (EC) No 1263/1999 of 21 June 1999 on the Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance (*Official Journal of the European Communities*, L 161, 26.6.1999)

Council Regulation (EC) No 2792/1999 of 17 December 1999 laying down the detailed rules and arrangements regarding Community structural assistance in the fisheries sector (*Official Journal of the European Communities*, L 337, 30.12.1999)

Council Regulation (EC) No 1451/2001 of 28 June 2001 amending Regulation (EC) No 2792/1999 laying down the detailed rules and arrangements regarding Community structural assistance in the fisheries sector (*Official Journal of the European Communities*, L 198, 21.7.2001)

Council Regulation (EC) No 179/2002 of 28 January 2002 amending Regulation (EC) No 2792/1999 laying down the detailed rules and arrangements regarding Community structural assistance in the fisheries sector (*Official Journal of the European Communities*, L 31, 1.2.2002)

Council Regulation (EC) No 2369/2002 of 20 December 2002 amending Regulation (EC) No 2792/1999 laying down the detailed rules and arrangements regarding Community structural assistance in the fisheries sector (*Official Journal of the European Communities*, L 358, 31.12.2002)

Council Regulation (EC) No 1258/1999 of 17 May 1999 on the financing of the common agricultural policy (*Official Journal of the European Communities*, L 160, 26.6.1999)

Useful web sites

http://europa.eu.int/comm/fisheries/policy_en.htm

http://europa.eu.int/comm/regional_policy/index_en.htm

http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/index_en.htm

http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/agriculture/index_en.htm

<http://www.marine.gov.ie>

<http://www.defra.gov.uk>

European Commission

Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance — Instructions for use

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