



FAME Support Unit

EMFF implementation report 2020

September 2021

Copyright notice:

© European Union, 2021

Reproduction is authorised provided the source is acknowledged.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION – Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries

Disclaimer:

The information and views set out in this report are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the official opinion of the Commission. The Commission does not guarantee the accuracy of the data included in this report. Neither the Commission nor any person acting on the Commission's behalf may be held responsible for the use which may be made of the information contained therein.

Recommended citation:

EUROPEAN COMMISSION – Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Unit D.3 (2021): FAME SU, EMFF implementation report 2020, Brussels

Authors:

Raimonds VESERS, Angelos SANOPOULOS

Contact:

FAME Support Unit
Boulevard de la Woluwe 2
B-1150 Brussels
T : +32 2 775 84 44
FAME@fame-emff.eu

Table of Contents

1	Executive summary	1
2	Introduction	4
2.1	Background	4
2.2	Purpose and target groups	4
2.3	Structure of the report	5
3	Overview of the implementation of the operational programmes	6
3.1	Key developments	6
3.2	EMFF implementation progress	7
3.2.1	EMFF implementation per UP	8
3.2.2	EMFF implementation per sea basin	10
3.2.3	EMFF implementation per MS	11
3.2.4	EMFF implementation per measure	13
3.2.4.1	Measures by EMFF funding committed per MS	16
3.2.4.2	Types of operations per selected articles	17
3.2.5	Average EMFF support	19
3.2.5.1	Average EMFF support by Member State	20
3.2.5.2	Average EMFF support by measure implemented	21
3.2.6	EMFF contribution to CFP objectives	23
3.2.7	EMFF contribution to IMP objectives under shared management	25
3.2.8	EMFF contribution to the Europe 2020 Thematic Objectives	26
3.2.9	Contribution to the EMFF objectives, Article 5	26
3.2.10	EMFF support for climate change objectives	28
3.2.11	EMFF contribution to specific topics	29
3.2.11.1	Operations involving vessels	29
3.2.11.2	Landing obligation	31
3.2.11.3	Innovation	36
3.2.11.4	Natura 2000	36
3.2.11.5	Biodiversity	38
3.2.11.6	Outermost regions	38
3.2.11.7	Mitigation of the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic	39
3.2.12	EMFF common result indicators, status quo	41
3.2.13	EMFF programme-specific result indicators	45
4	Issues affecting the performance of the programme and corrective measures taken (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013)	47
4.1	Issues affecting performance	47
4.2	Corrective measures taken	49
5	Information on serious infringements and remedy actions (Article 114(2) of Regulation (EU) No. 508/2014)	50
6	Information on the actions taken to ensure the publication of beneficiaries (Article 114(2) of Regulation (EU) No. 508/2014)	52

7	Activities in relation to the evaluation plan and synthesis of the evaluations (Article 114(2)) of Regulation (EU) No. 508/2014, Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) NO 1303/2013).....	53
8	Citizen’s summary (Article 50(9) of Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013).....	62
9	Report on the implementation of financial instruments (Article 46(1) of Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013)	63
	Annex 1: EMFF contributions to policy objectives and specific topics	65
	Annex 2: EMFF implementation per Member State.....	68
	Annex 3: EMFF implementation per measure.....	70
	Annex 4: Top five measures per MS according to the EMFF amount committed	73
	Annex 5: Types of operations per selected article.....	81
	Annex 6: EMFF common result indicators (Infosys data).....	86
	Annex 7: EMFF common result indicators (AIR data).....	89
	Annex 8: EMFF programme specific result indicators (AIR data)	91

List of Tables

Table 1: EMFF implementation per UP.....	8
Table 2: EMFF implementation per sea basin	10
Table 3: EMFF implementation by size of Operational Programme.....	11
Table 4: EMFF implementation per Member State per year (2014-2020)	12
Table 5: EMFF implementation per measure 2014-2020	15
Table 6: Average and maximum EMFF committed to an operation per Union Priority	20
Table 7: Average and maximum EMFF funding committed to an operation per Member State	21
Table 8: Size of operations by measures implemented.....	22
Table 9: EMFF contribution to CFP objectives	23
Table 10: EMFF contribution to IMP objectives	25
Table 11: EMFF contribution to the Europe 2020 Thematic Objectives.....	26
Table 12: EMFF contribution to the EMFF objectives.....	27
Table 13: EMFF contribution to climate change of operations selected for support.....	28
Table 14: General overview of all vessel-related operations (EU total).....	30
Table 15: EMFF contribution to landing obligation (broad approach).....	32
Table 16: EMFF contribution to landing obligation (AIR – broad approach).....	33
Table 17: EMFF contribution to landing obligation (narrow approach)	33
Table 18: EMFF contribution to innovation	36
Table 19: EMFF contribution to Natura 2000 (directly related EMFF measures)	37
Table 20: EMFF contribution to Natura 2000 (potentially contributing EMFF measures).....	37

Table 21: EMFF contribution to biodiversity	38
Table 22: EMFF contribution to the outermost regions.....	39
Table 23: EMFF contribution COVID-19 pandemic support measures	40
Table 24: RI values: Ex-post values as a percentage of ex-ante values.....	43

List of Figures

Figure 1: EMFF funds committed, cumulative (left) and per year (right), as a percentage of total allocation.....	7
Figure 2: EMFF spending, cumulative (left) and per year (right), as a percentage of total allocation.....	8
Figure 3: Cumulative commitment rates for EMFF implementation per UP (2014-2020) as a percentage of total allocation	9
Figure 4: EMFF implementation per MS – EMFF committed (2014-2020).....	12
Figure 5: EMFF committed per Article (EUR million)	14
Figure 6: Level of OP diversification (commitments to top five measures as a percentage of total EMFF funding committed, and total number of measures in the OP).....	17

List of abbreviations

AIR	Annual Implementation Report
CFP	Common Fisheries Policy
CIR	Common Implementation Regulation
CISE	Common Information Sharing Environment
CLLD	Community-led Local Development
CMES	Common Monitoring and Evaluation System
COM	European Commission
CPR	Common Provision Regulation
EMFF	European Maritime and Fisheries Funds
ESI Funds	European Structural and Investment Funds
EU	European Union
FFR	Fishing Fleet Register
FLAG	Fishing Local Action Group
IB	Intermediate Body
IMP	Integrated Maritime Policy
IMS	Integrated Maritime Surveillance
LAG	Local Action Group (see FLAG)
LO	Landing Obligation
MA	Managing Authority
MPA	Marine Protected Area
MS	Member State
NUTS	Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics
OP	Operational Programme
PO	Producer Organisation
RI	Result Indicator
SCO	Simplified Cost Options
SME	Small or Medium-sized Enterprise
SO	Specific Objective
SPA	Special Protection Area
SSCF	Small-scale Coastal Fishery
TA	Technical Assistance
TO	Thematic Objective
UP	Union Priority

1 Executive summary

The EMFF implementation report 2020 describes how the available EMFF financial support has been put to use by the Member States. The impact of the EMFF on key policy objectives and specific topics is highlighted. Reporting is based on the latest data available, which pertains to all operations supported between January 2014 and December 2020. The report aggregates and analyses the data provided by Member States on each operation (via Infosys reporting). Additional context is taken from information provided by Member States in their Annual Implementation Reports (AIRs).

During its sixth year, implementation of the EMFF continued to advance as expected, despite the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak. The EMFF Regulation was amended to provide emergency support to counter the negative effects of the pandemic. The uptake of these measures is addressed further below.

EMFF Absorption

By the end of 2020, **EUR 4.1 billion of EMFF support had been committed** to operations in the Member States. This corresponds to 71.6% of the total EMFF envelope of EUR 5.69 billion available under shared management. EUR 797 million in support, or 14% of the total EMFF allocation, was committed in 2020. By comparison, EUR 661 million was committed during 2019. At this rate, it could be expected that all available EMFF support will be committed by 31 December 2023.

EUR 1.9 billion of the support committed (nearly 46% of all EMFF support), contributes to the objective of **enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs**, most of which operate in remote communities.

EUR 1.5 billion (nearly 37% of all EMFF support) contributes to **preserving and protecting the environment** for example through protection of Natura 2000 areas and promoting resource efficiency and waste reduction.

The remaining **EUR 0.7 billion** is committed to a variety of topics, which notably include promoting quality **employment and labour mobility**.

By Union Priority

EUR 1.1 billion has been committed to **Union Priority 1** “Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource-efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge-based fisheries”. 72.3% of the available allocation for the priority has been committed to funding operations.

EUR 755 million has been committed to **Union Priority 2** “Fostering environmentally sustainable, resource-efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge-based aquaculture”. 67.1% of the available allocation for the priority has been committed to funding operations.

EUR 922 million has been committed to **Union Priority 3** “Fostering the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy”. 84.3% of the available allocation for the priority has been committed to funding operations.

EUR 364 million has been committed to **Union Priority 4** “Increasing employment and territorial cohesion”. 66.5% of the available allocation for the priority has been committed to funding operations.

EUR 716 million has been committed to **Union Priority 5** “Fostering marketing and processing” 66.3% of the available allocation for the priority has been committed to funding operations.

EUR 56 million has been committed to **Union Priority 6** “Fostering the implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy”. 75.5% of the available allocation for the priority has been committed to funding operations.

By Measure

Six of the 51 measures in the EMFF account for nearly EUR 2.43 billion, or 60% of all EMFF funding committed to date. These are: **data collection** (EUR 482 million), productive investments in **aquaculture** (EUR 440 million), **control** (EUR 439 million), **processing** of fisheries and aquaculture products (EUR 404 million), **local development strategies** (EUR 353 million), and **fishing ports** (EUR 313 million). Productive investments in aquaculture is for the first time the second most demanded measure moving from EUR 348 million in 2019 to 440 million in 2020, overtaking investments in control and enforcement.

Expenditure declared by beneficiaries reached EUR 2.4 billion (41.5% of total EMFF funding) since the beginning of the programming period. Beneficiaries claimed EUR 634 million or 11.1% of the total EMFF allocation in 2020; same as in 2019. The level of expenditure varies significantly between MSs, ranging from 9% to 76.6% of the total EMFF allocation. Overall, of every EUR committed, EUR 0.58 has been claimed by beneficiaries.

EMFF contribution to specific topics

This report provides dedicated sections on each of the topics below, with a full breakdown of relevant details in the following chapters.

- **Support to the fishing fleet**

Of a total EMFF commitment of EUR 4.1 billion, EUR 671.9 million (16.5%) was dedicated to 35 756 operations linked to vessels. EMFF spending on vessel-specific operations amounted to 21.1% of the total EMFF spending. During 2020, EMFF commitment and spending on these operations more than doubled, mostly in the form of compensation for temporary cessation related to the COVID-19 pandemic. As of the end of 2020 the EMFF supported 13 123 fishing vessels.

- **Small-scale coastal fisheries (SSCF)**

Of 35 756 operations linked to vessels, 13 580 (38.0%) were for SSCF vessels. This segment received 25% of the EMFF spending dedicated to vessels (EUR 124 million of EUR 500 million).

- **Landing obligation**

MSs selected 4 111 operations related to the landing obligation (LO), based on the FAME “broad approach”, with total EMFF funding of EUR 147.7 million. The FAME “narrow approach” identified 2 975 operations with total EMFF funding of EUR 102.5 million. Of these, 2 213 operations with EUR 50.6 million of EMFF funding committed were implemented in relation to added value, product quality and use of unwanted catches (Article 42).

- **Innovation**

Operations related to innovation were selected by all 27 MAs: overall 1 092 operations with a total EMFF budget of EUR 226.7 million. As of the end of 2020, nearly half of all the commitments to innovations related to aquaculture (Article 47).

- **Natura 2000**

In total, EUR 414 million of the EMFF funding was committed, and EUR 229 million spent, under measures directly or potentially supporting the Natura 2000 network.

- **Biodiversity**

A wide range of EMFF measures potentially contribute to protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems. MSs committed EUR 1 637 million in EMFF funding over a total of 36 636 operations.

- **Climate change**

Overall, the EMFF contribution to climate change objectives by the end of 2020 was EUR 735 million, or 18.0% of the total EMFF funding committed to date.

- **Outermost regions**

To support the offsetting of additional costs for the fishing, farming, processing and marketing of certain fishery and aquaculture products, and to retain the economic viability of operators from the outermost regions, ES, FR and PT selected 4 043 operations with a total budget of EUR 164.3 million.

- **Mitigation of the COVID-19 pandemic impact**

Overall, EUR 108.7 million of the EMFF funding in 5 913 operations was committed to mitigating the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. This corresponds to 2.7% of total EMFF funding committed at the end of 2020. 74.0% (EUR 80.5 million) of the funding was allocated via the temporary cessation of fishing activities (Article 33).

2 Introduction

2.1 Background

FAME (Fisheries and Aquaculture Monitoring and Evaluation) is a support unit for the European Commission's Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE).

Through its network of experts, FAME provides support to the European Commission (COM) and to the Member States (MSs) for the monitoring and evaluation of the European Maritime and Fisheries Funds (EMFF). One of the core tasks of FAME is to provide reports on the progress of EMFF implementation.

The managing authorities (MAs) of the EMFF operational programmes (OPs) report implementation progress according to:

- Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013 (Common Provision Regulation, CPR) Article 50 and Regulation 508/2014 Article 114 (EMFF Regulation), specifying that MAs shall prepare and submit an **annual implementation report (AIR) by 31 May each year**, from 2016 up to and including 2023. AIRs are subject to an admissibility and acceptance procedure by the COM. Quantitative data from AIR tables 1 to 4 are presented as of 15 August 2021. At that date the AIR acceptance procedure was not yet finalised for all MSs, so any subsequent AIR modifications are not taken into account in this report.
- Regulation (EU) No. 508/2014 **Article 97(1)(a)** and Regulation (EU) No. 2017/788 and Regulation (EU) No. 1242/2014 (Commission Implementing Regulation), specifying that MAs shall, **by 31 March each year**, provide the COM with relevant cumulative data on operations selected for funding up to the end of the previous calendar year, including key characteristics of the beneficiary and the operation itself. The Article 97(1)(a) report is often colloquially referred to as "Infosys". Infosys contains various complementary data that is not available in the AIR.

FAME aggregates the data of the Infosys reports and AIRs submitted by MAs with the purpose of presenting the state of play in terms of implementation of the operational programmes, and to demonstrate the effect of this on various policy objectives and specific topics. Compared to the AIRs, the structure of the Infosys data allows for more detailed analysis and the detection of reporting errors. Infosys data thus serve as the basis for the quantitative part of the EMFF report. Infosys data is compared to AIR data and explanations are provided where there are significant differences.¹ The greatest value added from AIR reports comes from the qualitative information (for example, issues affecting the performance of the programme and the corrective measures taken; descriptions of evaluation plans, etc.).

2.2 Purpose and target groups

The aim of this report is to highlight the most important achievements of the EMFF implementation, as provided through Infosys and the AIR, in a way that is timely and can be directly used for communication purposes or decision-making by the COM and MSs.

¹ See FAME SU: CT03.1 working paper EMFF AIR and EMFF Article 97(1)(a) reports differences, October 2018.

2.3 Structure of the report

The report broadly follows the structure of the AIR and represents the state of EMFF implementation as of 31 December 2020.

The report addresses the state of EMFF implementation at the level of Union Priorities (UPs), sea basins and MSs. It provides an overview of the main achievements of the OPs in relation to the CFP, the IMP objectives and the EU 2020 Thematic Objectives, as well as contributions to the horizontal objectives and specific topics. It also addresses EMFF absorption at the level of individual measures and provides an overview of the result indicators reported.

According to the methodology developed by FAME, EMFF articles are linked to these policies and objectives. Annex 1 of this report gives an overview of the methodology.

3 Overview of the implementation of the operational programmes

3.1 Key developments

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic crisis, EMFF implementation continued to advance in 2020. In total, EUR 4.08 billion (EUR 4.09 billion in the AIR²) of EMFF funding was committed, corresponding to 71.6% of the total EMFF funding available. Payments claimed by beneficiaries continued to increase and reached EUR 2.37 billion (AIR: EUR 2.42 billion), or 41.5% of the total EMFF funding. In total, just over 68 000 operations were reported in Article 97(1)(a) reports.

The Commission adopted 32 OP modification decisions in 2020. Many MSs had more than one OP modification during 2020. In most cases, OPs were amended to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic crisis. For individual countries, the number of OP modifications ranged up to eleven as of the end of 2020.

In the AIR section “Overview of the implementation of the operational programme” MSs provided information on issues including the management of the OP and its amendments; calls for proposals; financial implementation; achievement of output and result indicators; and factors that impacted OP implementation.

Most MSs in their AIR 2020 referred to challenges due to the pandemic. In particular, they underlined how the pandemic led to delays in the implementation of already-approved projects and caused operations to be scaled back, delayed or even withdrawn. Beneficiaries had to deal with falling landing values; challenges with the import and export of goods and raw materials; banks changing their position towards financing of the fisheries sector; rising costs due to restrictive measures; reduced turnover; and changed sales channels. Delays to construction work and limited availability of raw materials were further aggravating factors. Activities directly impacted by public health restrictions included seminars, face-to-face training and trade fairs.

Besides coronavirus, several other hindering factors were also mentioned. In particular, the implementation of OPs was affected by the complexity of national legislation (BG, UK); by Brexit (FR); by reorganisation of national administrations (PL, EE); by the ban on fishing for cod in the eastern Baltic Sea (LV); and by the exhaustion of available funding (IE). BE mentioned the increasing complexity of EMFF implementation due to standards set in Good Environmental Status³ as well the introduction of new EU policies like Farm to Fork⁴ and Blue Economy.⁵

Solutions applied by MSs included introducing compensation measures to mitigate the impact of the pandemic; extending project implementation deadlines; switching to web-based solutions to administer OP implementation; modifying project selection criteria; and updating

² Please see section 2.1 for explanations of discrepancies between Infosys and AIR.

³ Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848 of 17 May 2017 laying down criteria and methodological standards on good environmental status of marine waters and specifications and standardised methods for monitoring and assessment, and repealing Decision 2010/477/EU.

⁴ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, The Council, The European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions A Farm to Fork Strategy for a fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food system, COM/2020/381 final.

⁵ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, The Council, The European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on a new approach for a sustainable blue economy in the EU Transforming the EU's Blue Economy for a Sustainable Future, COM(2021) 240 final.

their guidance documents for beneficiaries. Other measures applied were to reallocate funding; review RI values (IT); continuously improve national normative acts (LV); promote domestic seafood consumption (IE); and focus on finalising and paying projects with active grants, to ensure that the entire funding is used (DK).

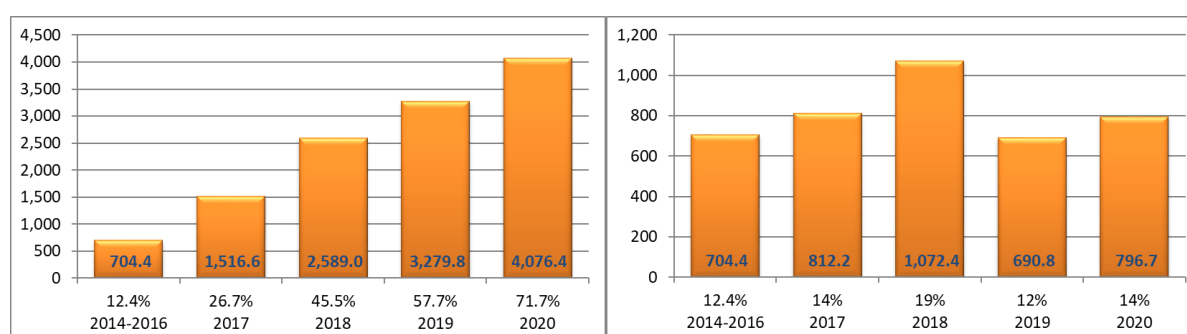
From the positive side, COVID-19 pandemic mitigation measures in many cases boosted OP implementation and the absorption of funds.

In the AIR section several MSs also mentioned preparations for the 2021-2027 period (BE, BG, FI).

3.2 EMFF implementation progress

As expected, EMFF implementation continued to advance and the overall EMFF commitment rate at the end of 2020 stands at 71.7% (Figure 1).

Figure 1: EMFF funds committed, cumulative (left) and per year (right), as a percentage of total allocation⁶



Source: Infosys 2020

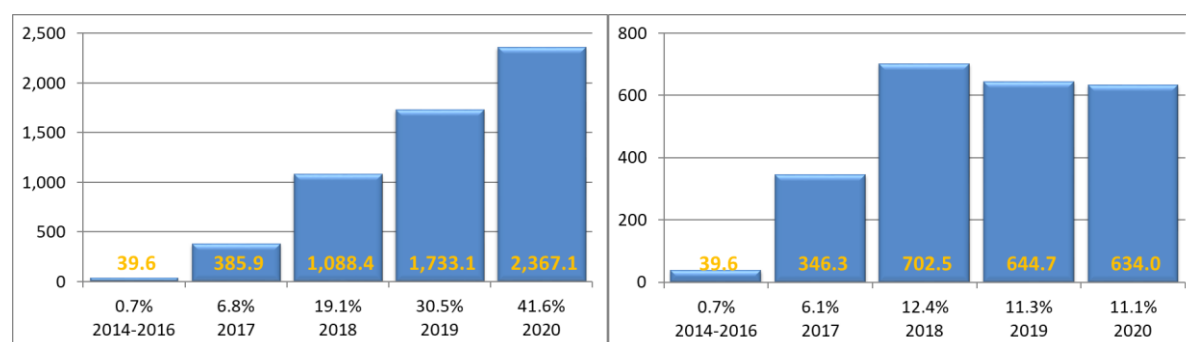
Compared to 2019, commitments in 2020 were even higher. This can be explained by the implementation of mitigation measures provided by the European Commission in relation to coronavirus.

Absorption varies from year to year (Figure 1). The average absorption for the last four years of implementation (2017-2020) is slightly below 15%. Assuming the same tempo holds, all the EMFF financing available can be committed during the next two years.

With expenditure of EUR 2.4 billion declared by beneficiaries, the total EMFF absorption rate has reached 41.6%.

⁶ Infosys data on annual EMFF funding committed are calculated by date of approval of each operation (Infosys field 13 “Date of approval”). Annual time series of EMFF funding committed are subject to MS-introduced modifications related to earlier reporting periods (for example, correction of errors and changes to approval dates). The total EMFF allocation is also subject to change due to decommitments. As a result, time series presented in EMFF reports may change each year.

Figure 2 shows that 2018 was a peak year in which beneficiaries declared 12.4% of the total EMFF allocation. In 2019 and 2020 payments claimed by beneficiaries stabilised slightly above 11%.

Figure 2: EMFF spending, cumulative (left) and per year (right), as a percentage of total allocation⁷

Source: Infosys 2020

3.2.1 EMFF implementation per UP

The EMFF pursues the following Union Priorities for the sustainable development of fisheries, aquaculture and related activities:

- Union Priority 1 – Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource-efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge-based fisheries
- Union Priority 2 – Fostering environmentally sustainable, resource-efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge-based aquaculture
- Union Priority 3 – Fostering the implementation of the CFP
- Union Priority 4 – Increasing employment and territorial cohesion
- Union Priority 5 – Fostering marketing and processing
- Union Priority 6 – Fostering the implementation of the IMP

Table 1: EMFF implementation per UP

UP	Total EMFF allocation (EUR) (AIR, 31/12/2020)	Total EMFF committed by Managing Authority (EUR) (Infosys, 31/12/2020)	Commitment rate %	Total eligible EMFF expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the Managing Authority (EUR)	Absorption rate %	No of operations
UP1	1 492 533 195	1 078 725 002	72.3	591 381 059	39.6	40 266
UP2	1 124 690 222	754 785 986	67.1	365 161 949	32.5	8 562
UP3	1 093 894 229	921 678 745	84.3	626 593 764	57.3	1 013
UP4	547 691 820	364 319 194	66.5	163 237 517	29.8	8 666
UP5	1 078 850 376	715 555 478	66.3	480 038 293	44.5	8 176
UP6	72 890 432	55 730 571	76.5	23 521 192	32.3	230
TA	286 529 073	185 627 882	64.8	117 162 162	40.9	1 499
Total	5 697 079 346	4 076 422 857	71.6	2 367 095 937	41.5	68 412

Source: Infosys 2020

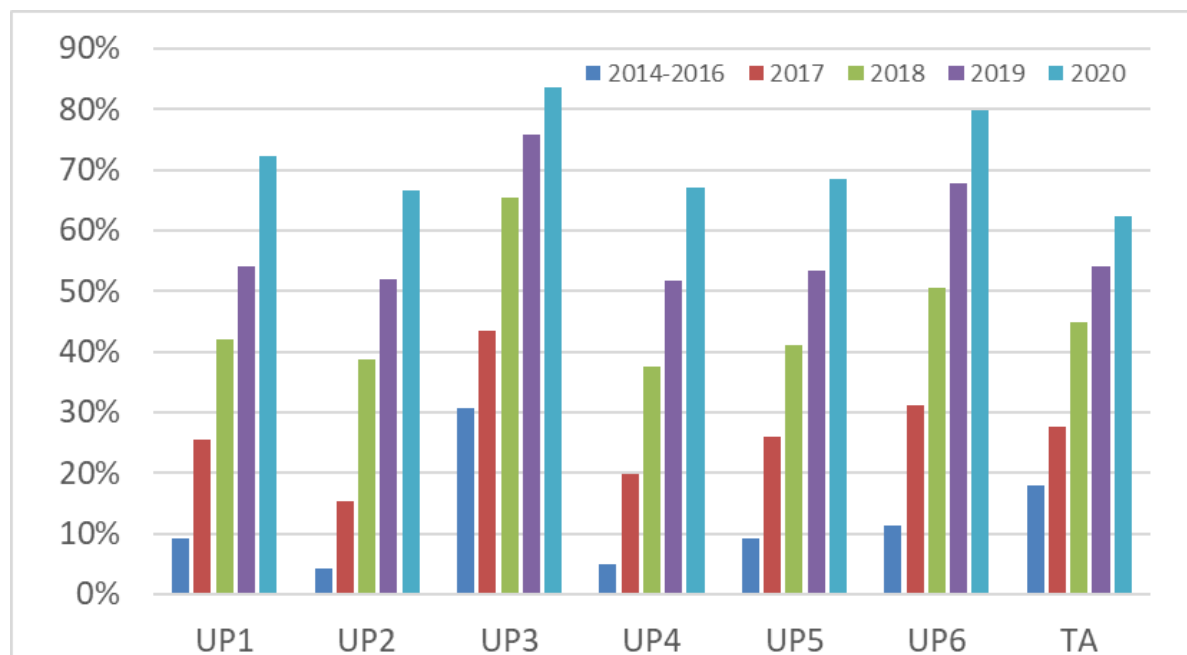
In absolute terms, the most advanced of the Union Priorities is UP1, with EUR 1.1 billion – or 72.3% of the total allocation – already committed (Table 1). This is the first year when

⁷ Calculating spending is to some extent less straightforward than calculating commitments. Infosys data on annual EMFF spending are calculated by subtracting the previous year's data from the current year's data. Moreover, this approach encounters the same challenges as those involved in calculating commitments. As a result, time series presented in EMFF reports may change each year.

committed support to fisheries has exceeded commitments to UP3 (EUR 922 million – or 84.3% of the total allocation).

UP3 covers data collection and control, which are usually performed by state-governed entities. This implies a simpler path to implementation, and as a result UP3 has until now been the best performer. In relative terms UP6 follows, with a level of commitment of 76.5%, but the total planned EMFF allocation for UP6 is by far the smallest amongst all the UPs, at just EUR 73 million.

Figure 3: Cumulative commitment rates for EMFF implementation per UP (2014-2020) as a percentage of total allocation



Source: Infosys 2020

In terms of the amount committed, UP2 (EUR 755 million) is in third place and a fraction ahead of UP5 (EUR 716 million). However, the UP2 commitment constitutes only 67.1% of the EMFF allocation available for this Priority, and is the lowest relative value of absorption amongst all UPs.

UP1 accounts for more than 40 000 operations, or nearly 60% of all EMFF operations. UP2, UP4 and UP5 each have around 8 000 operations.

The overall EMFF absorption rate is 41.5%. UP3 leads with 57.3% (EUR 626.6 million) of the total available EMFF funding already claimed by beneficiaries. In absolute terms, UP3 is followed by UP1 and UP5, with EUR 591.4 million and EUR 480.0 million respectively. The least advanced situation in terms of payment claims is under UP4, where beneficiaries have claimed 29.8% of the total allocation to this priority.

Figure 3 shows the EMFF commitment rate for each UP and each year. UP3 demonstrates the best continuous performance year on year, but all the other UPs also demonstrate strong growth in commitments.

3.2.2 EMFF implementation per sea basin

Looking at the various sea basins, for the purpose of this report FAME applied a simplified approach based on a common agreement with DG MARE from 2017. Under this arrangement, MSs are grouped by sea basin in the order below, ignoring the fact that several MSs have operations in more than one basin:

- Black Sea – BG, RO
- Mediterranean Sea – CY, GR, HR, IT, MT, SI
- Atlantic Ocean – ES, FR, IE, PT, UK
- North Sea – BE, DE, DK, NL
- Baltic Sea – EE, FI, LT, LV, PL, SE
- Landlocked – AT, CZ, HU, SK

The most significant part of the EMFF funding – nearly EUR 2.5 billion – is allocated to the Atlantic basin (Table 2). Commitment in the Atlantic sea basin has exceeded EUR 1.63 billion (EUR 1.69 billion in AIR), or 65.3% of the total planned EMFF allocation. In monetary terms, the Mediterranean and Baltic Sea basins are the next most significant, with EUR 884 million (EUR 906 million in AIR) and EUR 809 million (EUR 798 million in AIR) respectively in commitments. In relative terms, the highest commitment rate (85.9%) was reached in the Black Sea basin. The number of operations is highest in the Atlantic (26 552) and Mediterranean (18 338), mostly due to the numerous cessations, both permanent and temporary.

In terms of absorption, the leader again is the Atlantic basin with EUR 1.08 billion (EUR 1.10 billion in AIR) already claimed by beneficiaries. In relative terms, the highest share (50%) of the total planned EMFF allocation was claimed in the North Sea basin. Absorption remains slower in the Black Sea (29.0% declared).

Table 2: EMFF implementation per sea basin

Sea basin	Total EMFF allocation (EUR) (AIR, 31/12/2020)	Total EMFF committed by Managing Authority (EUR) (Infosys, 31/12/2020)	Commitment rate %	Total eligible EMFF expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the Managing Authority (EUR)	Absorption rate %	Number of operations
Atlantic	2 502 146 056	1 633 127 991	65.3	1 078 132 275	43.1	26 552
Baltic	1 030 005 010	809 269 783	78.6	481 116 819	46.7	15 285
Black sea	249 245 098	214 172 683	85.9	72 260 048	29.0	953
Landlocked	88 298 056	67 824 768	76.8	33 578 673	38.0	1 352
Mediterranean	1 256 164 135	884 733 038	70.4	416 147 985	33.1	18 338
North sea	571 220 991	467 294 595	81.8	285 860 136	50.0	5 932
Total	5 697 079 346	4 076 422 857	71.6	2 367 095 937	41.5	68 412

Source: AIR/Infosys 2020

3.2.3 EMFF implementation per MS

EMFF implementation per Member State varies significantly (Annex 2).⁸ Commitment rates are in the range of 31.9% (Slovakia) to over-commitment⁹ in Austria (101.9%). In monetary terms, the MSs with the largest OP allocations usually also have the largest commitments: EUR 579 million for Spain (11 590 operations), EUR 415 million for Poland (9 136 operations), EUR 388 million for France (4 182 operations), EUR 356 million for Italy (11 527 operations), and EUR 338 million for Portugal (5 354 operations). Spain, with the largest EMFF budget, reached 52% commitment.

Progress in EMFF absorption also differs notably among MSs. In relative terms it is led by Ireland and Finland, with respectively 76.6% and 70.6% of the total EMFF funding available already declared by beneficiaries. Countries with an absorption rate of less than 30% are Greece, Slovenia and Slovakia (SK has 35 operations and payment claims by beneficiaries are at the level of 9% of the total EMFF funding available).

Overall, of every EUR committed, EUR 0.58 has been declared by beneficiaries to MAs.

Table 3 reveals that there is a relationship between the size of OP allocation and the rates of commitment and absorption. The OPs were divided into three groups:

- total EMFF allocation below EUR 100 million (11 MSs: AT, BE, BG, CY, CZ, FI, HU, LT, MT, SI and SK);
- total EMFF allocation from EUR 100 million to EUR 300 million (10 MSs: DE, DK, EE, HR, IE, LV, NL, RO, SE, UK);
- total EMFF allocation above EUR 300 million (6 MSs: EL, ES, FR, IT, PL, PT).

The last group, comprising OPs with the largest allocations, shows lower rates of commitment and absorption compared to the first two groups. EMFF expenditure is the highest for OPs belonging to the middle group. Around two-thirds of all operations are implemented in the six MSs having total EMFF allocation above EUR 300 million.

Table 3: EMFF implementation by size of Operational Programme

Total EMFF allocation per MS (EUR million)	Total EMFF allocation (EUR) (OP, 2021)	Total EMFF committed by Managing Authority (EUR) (Infosys, 31/12/2020)	Commitment rate (%)	Total eligible EMFF expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the Managing Authority (EUR)	Absorption rate (%)	Number of operations
< 100	435 096 188	352 694 590	81.1	192 241 633	44.2	6 311
100 – 300	1 702 241 029	1 359 686 488	79.9	840 817 761	49.4	17 974
> 300	3 549 353 935	2 364 041 779	66.6	1 334 036 543	37.6	44 127
Total	5 686 691 152	4 076 422 857	71.7	2 367 095 937	41.6	68 412

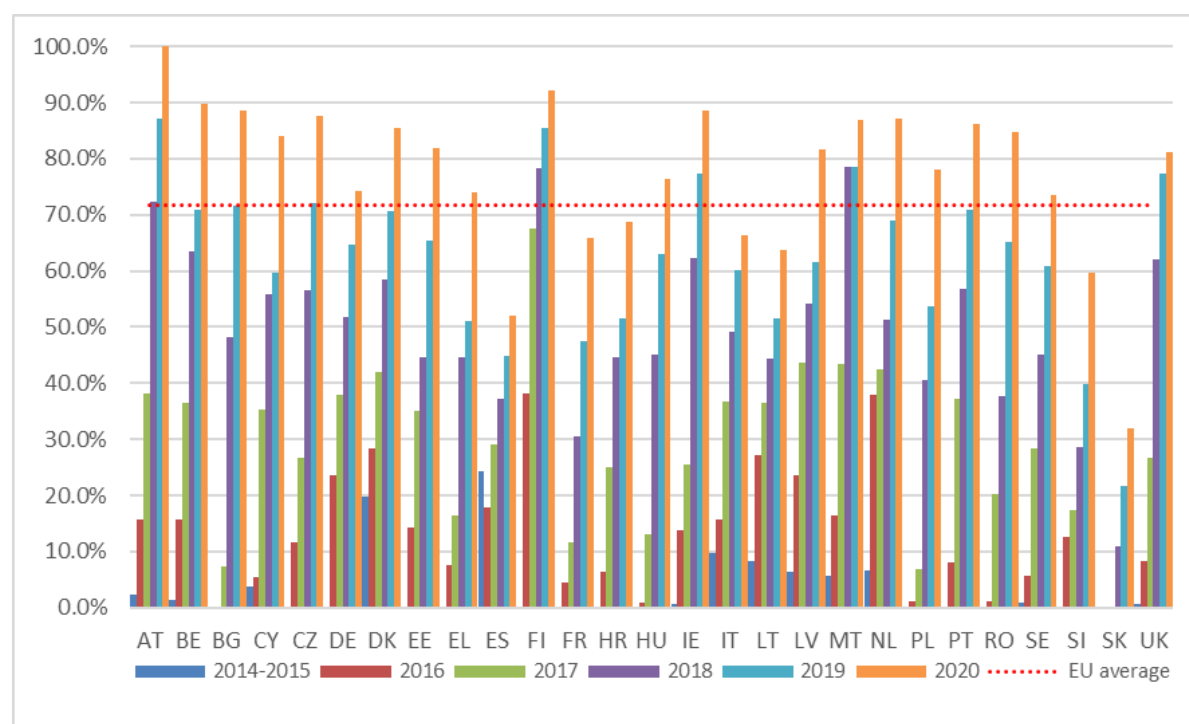
Source: Infosys 2020

⁸ Data provided in the AIR compared to data reported in Infosys are not always coherent. For some MSs the discrepancies are significant. In Annex 2 are two tables that relate to EMFF implementation per MS: one is based on Infosys data and the other is based on the AIR. Analysis in this section is based on Infosys data.

⁹ Over-commitments are practiced by some MSs at the end of the programming period in order to achieve maximum absorption of the available funding, in case some approved operations are cancelled or fail to deliver.

Figure 4¹⁰ shows the time series of EMFF implementations for each MS. The EMFF commitment rates were calculated by dividing the total EMFF allocation available by the total EMFF amount already committed at the end of each year.

Figure 4: EMFF implementation per MS – EMFF committed (2014-2020)



Source: Infosys 2020

Table 4 shows that total EMFF commitments at the EU level reached their maximum of EUR 1 072.4 million in 2018. The value of commitments in 2019 was EUR 690.8 million, and in 2020 it was EUR 796.7 million. Results for individual MSs varied significantly in 2020. AT’s commitments exceeded total EMFF allocation. During 2020, SI increased its commitments by 49.9%, SK by 46.6%, PL by 45.7% (EUR 130.1 million), EL by 45.1% and CY by 40.9%. On the contrary, UK and FI increased their commitments by less than 10%. ES made new commitments totalling EUR 79.7 million, which is a 16% increase compared to the end of 2019. FR signed grant agreements worth EUR 107.9 million, or 38.6% more than at the end of 2019.

Table 4: EMFF implementation per Member State per year (2014-2020)¹¹

MS	Total EMFF committed by Managing Authority (EUR) (Infosys, 31/12/2020)						OP allocation
	2014-2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total	
AT	1 091 820.37	1 571 999.77	2 377 794.10	1 027 064.83	1 030 699.61	7 099 378.68	6 965 000.00
BE	6 559 707.14	8 714 343.07	11 272 678.57	3 087 364.19	7 814 759.49	37 448 852.46	41 746 051.00
BG	–	6 020 313.43	32 956 838.63	18 849 839.45	13 802 773.29	71 629 764.80	80 823 727.00

¹⁰ Figure 4 and Table 5: EMFF implementation per MS (2014-2020) are based on data provided in Infosys reports as of 31/12/2020 (Infosys field 12 – “EMFF support”, grouped by Infosys field 13 “Date of approval”). The data may not always match the corresponding figures reported at the end of previous years; discrepancies are often explained by changes to the amounts committed and/or exchange rate fluctuations.

¹¹ Infosys data on annual EMFF funding committed are calculated by date of approval of each operation (Infosys field 13 “Date of approval”). Annual time series of EMFF funding committed are subject to MS-introduced modifications related to earlier reporting periods (for example, correction of errors and changes in approval dates). As a result, time series presented in EMFF reports may change each year.

CY	2 181 203.96	11 860 043.97	8 096 359.21	1 569 257.10	9 684 263.37	33 391 127.61	39 715 209.00
CZ	3 610 868.76	4 674 493.99	9 337 213.94	4 792 768.99	4 825 648.23	27 240 993.91	31 108 015.00
DE	51 633 314.91	31 781 345.39	30 510 506.70	27 899 446.84	21 229 044.80	163 053 658.64	219 596 276.00
DK	59 223 783.87	28 192 747.89	34 370 400.07	25 526 424.42	31 001 684.44	178 315 040.70	208 355 420.00
EE	14 504 799.33	20 873 129.52	9 724 223.50	20 922 386.54	16 586 796.73	82 611 335.62	100 970 418.00
EL	29 171 859.39	34 445 541.57	109 421 655.38	25 318 354.10	89 542 745.60	287 900 156.04	388 777 914.00
ES	199 560 461.53	123 245 713.22	90 417 869.07	86 343 771.95	79 700 169.32	579 267 985.09	1 111 628 369.00
FI	28 315 346.64	22 019 826.55	7 997 155.70	5 204 246.79	5 047 397.82	68 583 973.50	74 393 168.00
FR	26 159 593.88	42 451 646.48	110 805 214.89	100 376 025.84	107 864 925.94	387 657 407.03	587 980 173.00
HR	16 071 734.63	47 217 290.63	49 539 807.99	17 236 209.58	43 794 565.08	173 859 607.92	252 643 138.00
HU	348 868.23	4 668 927.27	12 266 305.32	6 959 855.13	5 112 374.66	29 356 330.61	38 412 223.00
IE	20 255 444.76	17 277 885.85	54 380 405.63	22 169 410.82	16 710 342.95	130 793 490.01	147 601 979.00
IT	84 336 858.26	112 580 473.51	66 877 041.32	59 659 494.29	32 784 492.03	356 238 359.41	537 262 559.00
LT	17 298 550.62	5 912 563.57	4 939 696.65	4 483 407.38	7 838 099.20	40 472 317.42	63 432 222.00
LV	33 030 382.45	27 867 102.09	14 947 412.82	10 281 846.23	28 132 425.09	114 259 168.68	139 833 742.00
MT	3 708 827.81	6 116 259.89	7 920 421.63	50 810.30	1 865 613.62	19 661 933.25	22 627 422.00
NL	38 452 803.31	4 669 169.61	8 899 352.29	18 059 298.28	18 396 419.61	88 477 043.10	101 523 244.00
PL	5 748 832.82	30 151 005.92	179 504 302.85	69 380 984.55	130 128 630.50	414 913 756.64	531 219 456.00
PT	31 533 305.14	114 568 828.20	76 451 044.60	55 263 541.22	60 247 396.04	338 064 115.19	392 485 464.00
RO	1 791 215.94	32 392 240.52	29 197 519.87	46 438 937.58	32 723 004.27	142 542 918.18	168 421 371.00
SE	6 826 303.50	27 174 071.21	20 309 422.12	18 706 828.06	15 412 606.33	88 429 231.22	120 156 004.00
SI	2 912 720.77	1 096 585.37	2 536 969.15	2 581 359.78	4 554 218.61	13 681 853.68	22 920 126.00
SK	–	27 743.19	1 399 356.07	1 389 543.33	1 311 421.79	4 128 064.38	12 953 025.00
UK	20 062 632.60	44 609 623.61	85 960 349.74	37 192 088.65	9 520 299.09	197 344 993.70	243 139 437.00
Total	704 391 240.63	812 180 915.28	1 072 417 317.81	690 770 566.23	796 662 817.52	4 076 422 857.46	5 686 691 152.00

Source: Infosys 2020

3.2.4 EMFF implementation per measure

Data provided in the AIR compared to data reported in Infosys are not always consistent.¹² For the EMFF funding committed and spent, however, most of the differences could be judged as negligible at the level of general observations.¹³ To allow comparison, Annex 3 includes two tables related to EMFF implementation per measure: one is based on Infosys data and the other is based on the AIR. Analysis in this section is based on Infosys data.

At the end of 2020, MSs made commitments to all the measures (Table 5) except Article 35 (Mutual funds for adverse climatic events and environmental incidents), for which there were no commitments at all.

Implementation per article varies considerably; both absolutely – in terms of the EMFF funding committed and declared by beneficiaries – and in relative terms when compared to the planned allocation. In absolute terms, the article with the highest uptake remains data

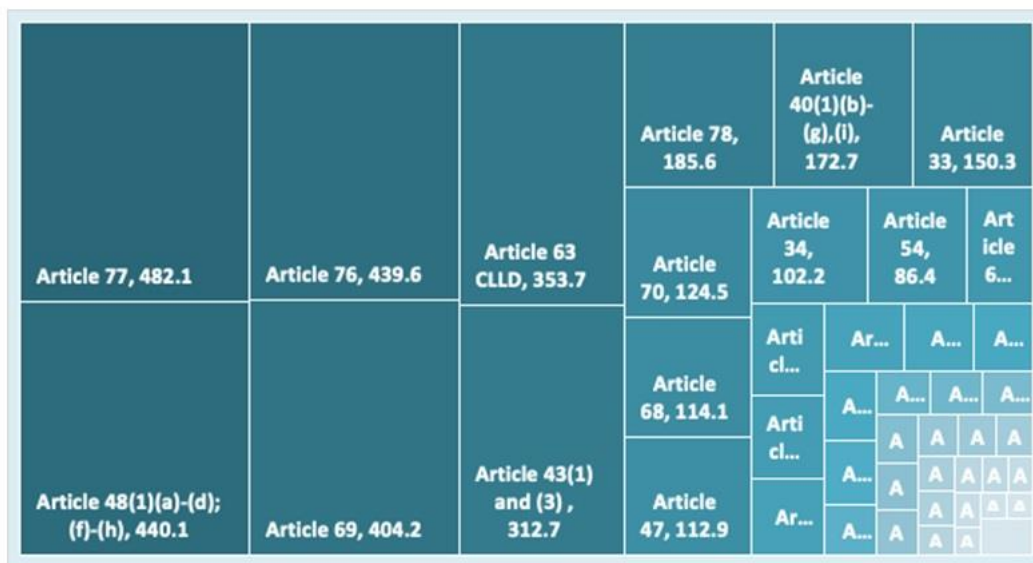
¹² Please see section 2.1 for explanations regarding discrepancies between Infosys and AIR.

¹³ The only exception is reporting of operations under Article 40(1)(a). In Infosys a total of 242 operations are reported, but in AIR the figure is 411. EMFF committed in Infosys EUR 12.2 million, in AIR EUR 20.8 million. EMFF spent EUR 6.1 million in Infosys and EUR 7.4 million in AIR. Most of these differences are due to additional operations included in ES and IT AIRs compared to Infosys reports.

collection (Article 77, with EUR 433.9 million committed, representing 87.1% of the total planned EMFF allocation).

Strong demand from the aquaculture sector led to EUR 440.1 million (or 76.3% of the total planned EMFF allocation for this measure) in commitments under Article 48(1)(a-d,f-g) (Productive investments in aquaculture). This is followed by EUR 439.6 million (or 80.1 % of planned EMFF allocation) committed under Article 76 (Control and enforcement). Support for processing of fisheries and aquaculture products (Article 69) comes next, with more than three-quarters, or EUR 404.2 million, of the planned EMFF amount already committed.

Figure 5: EMFF committed per Article (EUR million)



Source: Infosys 2020

Following somewhat slower implementation during the first years, CLLD activities have gained momentum: MSs have committed EUR 353.7 million or 69.1% of the total EMFF allocation planned for CLLD.

Investment in fishing ports and landing sites (Article 43(1,3)) also had a good uptake, with EUR 312.7 million in commitments (79.5% of total planned allocation).

Figure 5 demonstrates the presence of significant concentration of EMFF commitments to relatively few articles. Commitments under six articles (Article 77, Article 48(1)(a-d,f-g), Article 76, Article 69, Article 63 and Article 43(1,3)) make up nearly 60% of the total commitments.

Measures attracting the least commitment relate to conversion to eco-management, audit schemes and organic aquaculture (Article 53) and to trainees on board SSCF vessels (Article 29(3)).

The highest number of operations (23 239) has been implemented under Article 33 (Temporary cessation). This number nearly doubled during 2020 (12 496 was the number of operations in December 2019). However, in monetary terms the commitment is moderate: EUR 150.3 million or 3.7% of total EMFF committed. 5 340 of these temporary cessation operations in 2020 were reported as related to coronavirus. Planned allocations were significantly reduced for Article 34 and increased for Article 33.

In terms of number of operations, temporary cessation is followed by the implementation of local development strategies (Article 63), productive investments in aquaculture (Article 48 (1)(a-d; f-h), compensation regimes (Article 70) and health and safety (Article 32).

Table 5 demonstrates how EMFF commitments under each measure developed year by year. Progress of a measure per year can be expressed as a percentage of the total planned EMFF allocation to this measure. For example, in the case of Article 26, EUR 14.2 million or 20.8% of the total planned amount was committed in 2020. For Article 28 (partnership between fishers and scientists) 22.6% of all commitments were in 2020 – more than any other year. Similarly, 63.2% of all compensations related to temporary cessations (Article 33) were also provided in 2020, but nearly all compensations related to permanent cessation (Article 34) were committed in 2017.¹⁴ 2018 was a year rich in commitments under Article 41(1)(3) (Fishing ports), Article 48(1)(a-d;f-h) (Productive investments in aquaculture) and Article 48(1)(e,i,j) (Productive investments in aquaculture – resource efficiency) with 31.9%, 26.9% and 26.2% respectively of the total planned amounts committed. Nearly half of all planned EMFF funding was also committed in 2018 under Article 54 (Aquaculture providing environmental services). Exactly half of available funding was committed in 2020 under Article 55 (Public health measures) in relation to COVID-19 pandemic mitigation.

Table 5: EMFF implementation per measure 2014-2020

EMFF Article	Total EMFF allocation AIR (31/12/2020) EUR	Total EMFF committed by Managing Authority (EUR) (Infosys, 31/12/2020)				
		2014-2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Article 26	57 247 843	2 470 615	8 069 391	9 836 327	6 613 330	14 159 944
Article 27	9 168 537	2 992 012	326 398	318 674	1 402 482	146 835
Article 28	51 895 371	8 431 129	9 175 704	8 001 492	6 354 177	12 762 149
Article 29(1)(2)	24 538 306	3 709 071	1 392 317	4 123 059	3 492 547	1 637 412
Article 29(3)	6 216 536			15 693	6 040	921
Article 30	27 637 203	30 732	2 440 471	1 447 564	1 828 372	1 332 825
Article 31	15 051 104	383 365	689 597	3 062 968	2 041 650	1 187 397
Article 32	57 299 884	2 985 131	4 447 184	10 037 455	9 157 160	8 729 595
Article 33	233 524 588	7 883 726	16 197 194	17 588 672	16 729 728	91 929 220
Article 34	89 558 208	8 645 242	92 596 032	273 255	685 030	
Article 35	642 946					
Article 36	8 922 749	2 595 697	574 451	8 360	2 656 062	1 518 332
Article 37	35 626 816	7 193 088	6 040 143	3 579 250	6 066 148	2 733 545
Article 38	31 762 228	5 687 559	5 073 709	2 922 661	5 540 299	837 414
Article 39	50 754 844	5 092 628	2 371 442	9 778 911	7 439 819	5 747 743
Article 40(1)(a)	49 408 427	170 473	5 323 415	364 535	6 587 042	5 151 221
Article 40(1)(b-g);(i)	205 839 555	48 340 887	24 094 495	31 077 121	36 053 329	33 106 028
Article 40(1)(h)	10 805 289	852 345	445 276	489 510	705 055	1 112 053
Article 41(1)(a-c)	23 401 627	379 366	1 313 466	1 964 926	3 033 361	3 178 699
Article 41(2)	11 116 524	50 207	296 902	818 114	559 837	629 729

¹⁴ According to Article 34 (4) of the EMFF Regulation, support for the permanent cessation of fishing activities may be granted until 31 December 2017.

Article 42	80 310 028	3 716 554	9 084 046	13 408 052	9 403 965	14 995 320
Article 43(1) and (3)	379 709 694	18 675 520	47 791 340	125 403 774	52 233 167	68 631 656
Article 43(2)	32 094 890	5 388 286	7 496 555	2 155 377	1 282 456	1 736 995
Article 47	153 216 991	6 156 104	34 427 713	26 469 905	16 205 950	29 674 693
Article 48(1)(a-d;f-h)	586 716 546	22 361 857	61 945 053	155 015 375	97 099 121	103 700 460
Article 48(1)(e;i;j)	62 712 017	2 064 364	7 030 362	18 033 156	11 088 978	4 076 504
Article 48(1)(k)	33 405 411		564 116	879 677	1 471 253	1 785 904
Article 49	21 970 133	501 930	3 753 375	1 290 998	2 843 704	1 521 215
Article 50	15 966 676	1 221 033	731 958	1 540 867	2 135 121	849 351
Article 51	29 277 013	317 117	563 721	3 935 339	3 144 516	4 704 424
Article 52	17 998 314	165 611	838 089	2 929 229	4 923 217	2 885 225
Article 53	3 347 533				9 000	
Article 54	100 234 234	14 250 564	14 298 167	49 139 740	3 950 897	4 786 404
Article 55	57 661 017				2 727	8 285 724
Article 56	30 206 587	28 714	1 937 065	6 537 186	4 295 862	2 461 393
Article 57	11 977 750		1 086 521		1 778 546	1 090 885
Article 62(1)(a)	5 629 897	3 074 423	1 472 468	747 961	34 719	12 500
Article 63 CLLD	516 342 082	23 803 883	77 707 065	93 989 590	76 155 586	82 000 786
Article 64	25 719 840	417 903	963 010	1 535 669	925 148	1 478 482
Article 66	115 025 414	11 684 484	4 157 209	20 289 656	10 981 925	11 013 808
Article 67	36 791 825	2 668 308	6 047 005	713 421	321 569	4 845 006
Article 68	167 335 472	22 243 898	20 421 602	18 547 097	30 398 573	22 489 614
Article 69	567 197 665	26 141 932	94 116 596	105 787 348	73 614 449	104 575 622
Article 70	192 500 000	33 162 017	50 711 615	12 050 163	14 952 451	13 620 112
Article 76	543 607 331	115 139 647	53 347 598	163 802 276	58 747 139	48 566 692
Article 77	550 286 898	222 114 282	88 163 924	77 620 912	56 215 039	37 961 236
Article 78	286 529 073	53 271 964	28 807 749	51 359 052	27 566 649	24 622 468
Article 80(1)(a)	19 490 226		4 645 746	6 579 574	3 671 617	2 091 056
Article 80(1)(b)	16 877 915	1 312 500	1 005 540	3 339 602	2 777 814	3 015 231
Article 80(1)(c)	36 522 291	6 615 073	8 198 118	3 607 775	5 587 940	3 282 986
Total	5 697 079 346	704 391 241	812 180 915	1 072 417 318	690 770 566	796 662 818

Source: Infosys/AIR 2020

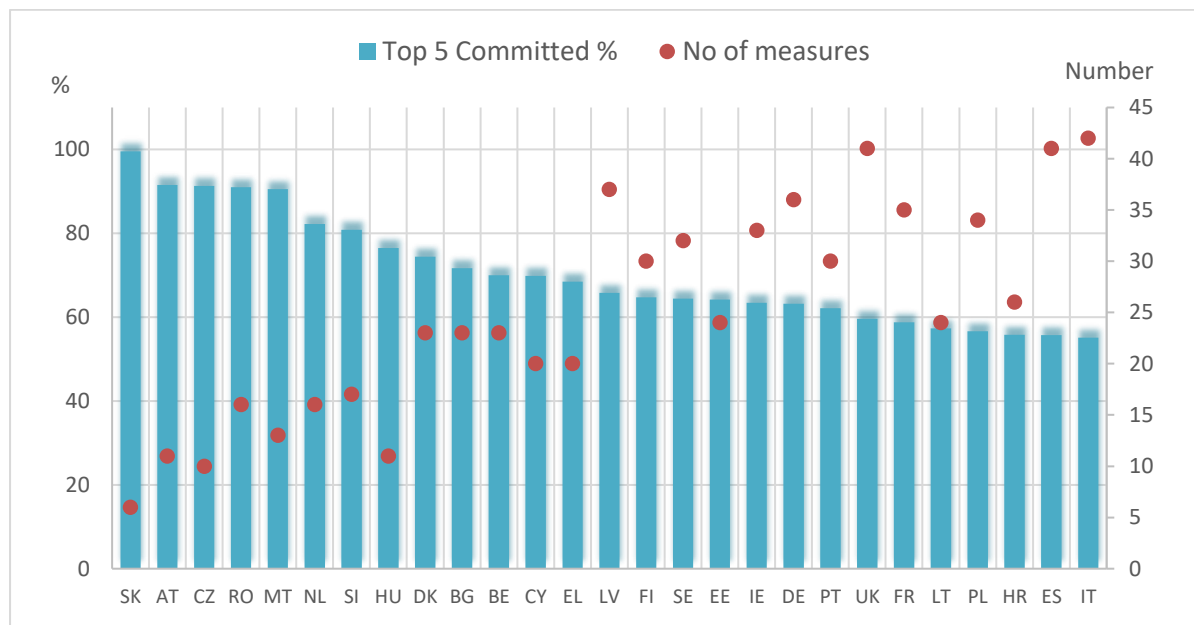
3.2.4.1 Measures by EMFF funding committed per MS

The most popular measures, gauged by the funding committed, vary significantly amongst MSs. These variations relate to multiple factors, including geographical location, total OP allocation available, the priorities set in the OPs, and the progress of implementation. The concentration of implementation is also particularly varied (Figure 6). For example, the share of the top five measures as a percentage of total commitments ranges from 55.1% in IT to 99.5% in SK, with an EU median of 65.8%. In MSs whose OP implementation is relatively advanced, the top five measures make up a smaller percentage of total commitments.

A negative correlation can be observed (Figure 6) between the total number of measures included in the operational programme and the extent to which commitments concentrate on the top five measures. The higher the number of measures, the less the support is concentrated. In general, concentration correlates to the total amount of funding available – the bigger the programme, the less concentration.

Annex 4 includes a table showing the top five measures by EMFF funding committed for each MS.

Figure 6: Level of OP diversification (commitments to top five measures as a percentage of total EMFF funding committed, and total number of measures in the OP)



Source: Infosys 2020

3.2.4.2 Types of operations per selected articles

The EMFF is the only ESI Fund to provide reporting at the level of operations. This allows FAME to compile data related to EMFF contributions to various specific topics. Infosys also provides the opportunity to analyse EMFF support for specific measures by the type of operation or investment (Infosys data fields 20 and 21). Such detailed statistics have proved helpful in preparing the answers to various data requests and for tailoring certain policy decisions.

In this section we analyse the following selected measures according to their type of operation or type of investment:

- Limiting the impact of fishing on the marine environment (Article 38);
- Protection and restoration of marine biodiversity (Article 40(1)(b-g,i));
- Replacement or modernisation of main or ancillary engines (Article 41(2));
- Productive investments in aquaculture (Article 48);
- Aquaculture providing environmental services (Article 54);
- Implementation of local development strategies (Article 63);
- Marketing measures (Article 68);
- Processing of fisheries and aquaculture products (Article 69);
- Control and enforcement (Article 76);

- Promotion of protection of marine environment and the sustainable use of marine and coastal resources (Article 80(1)(b)).

A complete breakdown is shown in Annex 5.

In total, EUR 20.1 million, or 1 364 operations, were implemented in relation to Article 38: Limiting the impact of fishing on the marine environment and adapting fishing to the protection of species. More than half of all the committed EMFF funding was devoted to gear selectivity – EUR 10.4 million or 748 operations. The next most popular type of operation was to reduce discards or to deal with unwanted catches – EUR 4.6 million for 263 operations.

Nearly EUR 173 million in 2 446 operations was committed to Article 40(1)(b-g,i): Protection and restoration of marine biodiversity – contribution to a better management or conservation, construction, installation or modernisation of static or movable facilities. There are seven types of operations under this Article (Annex 5). Around half (1 244 operations) of all operations relate to other actions enhancing biodiversity (EUR 64.6 million committed). Another popular type is management of resources, with 867 operations and EUR 57.7 million in commitments. These two types of operations comprise 71% of all EMFF committed funding under this Article.

There are three types of operations under Article 41(2): Energy efficiency and mitigation of climate change – Replacement or modernisation of main or ancillary engines. More than two-thirds (EUR 1.7 million for 427 operations) of the total commitment was allocated to engine replacement; the remainder was for studies and engine modernisation.

Article 48(1)(a-d,f-h): Productive investments in aquaculture is one of the most advanced measures, with EUR 440.1 million of EMFF funding committed. About 59% (EUR 258.3 million) of these commitments were classified as productive investments. Modernisation was the second most popular type of operation, with EUR 131.3 million in commitments. The remaining 11% of commitments were spread amongst five other types of operations (quality of products, restoration, diversification, complementary activities, and animal health).

Of the EUR 29.7 million committed to operations related to Article 48(1)(e,i,j): Productive investments in aquaculture – resource efficiency, 60% or EUR 25.4 million targeted the development of closed recirculation systems.

In total, 1 749 operations with EUR 86.4 million in commitments are implemented under Article 54: Aquaculture providing environmental services. This article has three types of operations. The largest proportion of the EMFF committed budget relates to aquaculture operations including conservation and improvement of environment and biodiversity – EUR 54.0 million in 1 388 operations.

Article 63: Implementation of local development strategies is, overall, one of the best performing measures, with EUR 353.7 million in EMFF commitments. Among the types of operations, in the lead is “adding value” with EUR 92.3 million in commitments (26% of total commitments under Article 63). “Adding value” is followed by “running costs and animation”, “diversification”, “socio-cultural”, “environmental” and “governance”.

The total EMFF funding committed to Article 68: Marketing measures was EUR 114.1 million for 1 749 operations. Two types of operations were chosen more often than the others: “communication and promotional campaigns” (605 grants with EUR 35.7 million

EMFF committed), and “finding new markets and improving marketing conditions” (678 operations with an EMFF commitment of EUR 38.5 million). To support the creation of producer organisations, associations and inter-branch organisations, 17 operations with an EMFF commitment of EUR 1.0 million were implemented.

Processing of fisheries and aquaculture products (Article 69) was also amongst the most popular measures implemented, with a total EMFF funding of EUR 404.2 million committed for 2 359 operations. The following types of operations attracted most of the funding: “new or improved products, processes or management systems” with EUR 250.8 million in commitments (61% of total) in 1 043 operations (62% of total); “improved safety, hygiene, health and working conditions” (EUR 81.2 million, 501 operation); and “energy saving or reducing the impact on the environment” (EUR 39.3 million, 333 operations). On the other hand, beneficiaries were least attracted by “the processing of catches not for human consumption” (EUR 8.6 million, 15 operations).

The third most popular EMFF measure was related to “control and enforcement” (Article 76) with a total of EUR 439.6 million of EMFF funding committed. Amongst the wide range of types of investment, the top four were purchase, installation and development of technology; purchase of other control means; operational costs; and modernisation and purchase of patrol vessels, aircraft and helicopters. These types of investment together attracted 79% of total commitments.

Under Article 80(1)(b): Promotion of protection of marine environment and the sustainable use of marine and coastal resources EUR 11.5 million was committed. Of this figure, EUR 7.9 million relates to marine protected areas and EUR 3.6 million to Natura 2000. In total 72 operations were implemented.

3.2.5 Average EMFF support

Variations amongst UPs are notable, with the average EMFF support per operation ranging from EUR 26 790 to EUR 909 851 (

Table 6). Of the total of 40 266 operations under UP1, 23 239 operations related to temporary cessation (Article 33) and 2 616 to health and safety investments (Article 32). Budget per operation for such operations is usually low. On the other hand, operations supported under UP3 relate to data collection (Article 77) and control and enforcement (Article 76), where projects tend to be large and are covered by relatively few grant agreements.

Looking at individual UPs, the highest average amount of EMFF funding committed per operation is EUR 0.9 million in UP3. Measures for data collection and for control and enforcement are usually implemented by state-governed institutions, so UP3 grant agreements often cover a wide range of tasks and long time periods of implementation. For instance, the largest amount committed to a single operation under this UP is EUR 42.9 million and relates to control and enforcement.

UP3 is followed by UP6, whose average EMFF commitment amounts to EUR 242 307.

Table 6: Average and maximum EMFF committed to an operation per Union Priority

UP	Number of operations	Average EMFF committed per operation (EUR) (Infosys, 31/12/2020)	Maximal EMFF committed per operation (EUR) (Infosys, 31/12/2020)
UP1	40 266	26 790	32 925 875
UP2	8 562	88 166	4 875 000
UP3	1 013	909 851	42 961 386
UP4	8 666	42 040	5 061 983
UP5	8 176	87 540	34 800 000
UP6	230	242 307	3 688 025
TA	1 499	123 834	6 322 528

Source: Infosys 2020

The average amount of EMFF support across all UPs and technical assistance (TA) is EUR 59 586.

The average size of EMFF commitment per operation for UP1, UP2, UP4 and UP5 does not exceed EUR 100 000. However, MSs have implemented several large operations among these UPs. The highest commitment for one operation in UP1 is close to EUR 33 million, for support provided under Article 41(1)(3) (Fishing ports). For UP5 it is EUR 34.8 million, for an operation implemented under Article 70 (Compensation regime).

3.2.5.1 Average EMFF support by Member State

This section presents information on the average and maximal size of a single operation in each MS (

Table 7). The average size of an operation may depend on several factors. These include the type of measures where MSs have advanced the most; in data collection and control and enforcement, for instance, the average size of operation is expected to be higher than under other measures. Other factors may include the size of the EMFF budget (MSs with larger budgets may have larger operations) and the progress of EMFF implementation (MSs with fewer operations may have distorted averages).

The average amount of funding per operation varies widely amongst MSs, ranging from EUR 30 034 in CZ to EUR 322 327 in MT. When calculating averages, however, we need to take into account the effect of extremes. In a number of MSs the largest operations have EMFF funding of several million euros, and several operations exceed EUR 20 million.

The MSs with the highest average amounts are MT, RO, NL, BG and HU. Those with the lowest average funding per operation are AT, CY, IT, CZ and FI.

Table 7: Average and maximum EMFF funding committed to an operation per Member State

MS	Total EMFF committed by Managing Authority (EUR) (Infosys, 31/12/2020)	Number of operations	Average EMFF committed per operation (EUR) (Infosys 31/12/2020)	Maximal EMFF committed per operation (EUR) (Infosys 31/12/2020)
AT	7 099 378.68	211	33 646.34	495 000.00
BE	37 448 852.46	281	133 269.94	5 335 835.91
BG	71 629 764.80	453	158 123.10	3 066 857.04
CY	33 391 127.61	1 071	31 177.52	5 204 905.88
CZ	27 240 993.91	907	30 034.17	456 784.86
DE	163 053 658.64	2 959	55 104.31	23 079 682.46
DK	178 315 040.70	2 172	82 097.16	13 430 081.15
EE	82 611 335.62	1 392	59 347.22	4 500 000.00
EL	287 900 156.04	2 338	123 139.50	20 344 287.92
ES	579 267 985.09	11 590	49 979.98	42 961 386.35
FI	68 583 973.50	2 372	28 913.99	14 071 479.82
FR	387 657 407.03	4 182	92 763.20	9 215 808.00
HR	173 859 607.92	3 198	54 365.11	13 535 387.00
HU	29 356 330.61	199	147 519.25	2 238 898.67
IE	130 793 490.01	2 738	47 769.72	17 465 331.20
IT	356 238 359.41	11 527	30 904.69	31 633 884.00
LT	40 472 317.42	578	70 021.31	3 544 047.80
LV	114 259 168.68	910	125 559.53	3 517 670.25
MT	19 661 933.25	61	322 326.77	3 094 974.60
NL	88 477 043.10	520	170 148.16	12 800 000.00
PL	414 913 756.64	9 136	45 415.25	32 925 875.19
PT	338 064 115.19	5 354	63 142.35	7 370 312.60
RO	142 542 918.18	500	285 085.84	5 843 501.07
SE	88 429 231.22	897	98 583.31	4 175 493.56
SI	13 681 853.68	143	95 677.30	1 800 000.00
SK	4 128 064.38	35	117 944.70	626 217.21
UK	197 344 993.70	2 688	73 417.04	11 963 710.08
EU	4 076 422 857.46	68 412	59 588.98	42 961 386.35

Source: Infosys 2020

3.2.5.2 Average EMFF support by measure implemented

This section presents information on the average and maximal size of EMFF commitment to individual operations, broken down by measure (Table 8).

The average values range from EUR 2 002 for protection and restoration of marine biodiversity (Article 40(1)(h)) to EUR 2 095 980 for data collection (Article 77). The second-largest average operation size is for control and enforcement, and the third-largest is for integrating maritime surveillance (Article 80(1)(a)). For these last two measures, the average EMFF allocation per operation exceeds EUR 500 000.

The average size of EMFF allocation to one operation supporting systems of allocation of fishing opportunities (Article 36) is EUR 432 524.

Support for fishing ports and shelters to facilitate compliance with the landing obligation is another measure that is apparently implemented via larger-scale projects, since the average operation size is EUR 334 438.

Table 8: Size of operations by measures implemented

EMFF Article	Total EMFF committed by Managing Authority (EUR) (Infosys, 31/12/2020)	Number of operations	Average EMFF committed per operation (EUR) (Infosys 31/12/2020)	Maximal EMFF committed per operation (EUR) (Infosys 31/12/2020)
Article 26	41 149 608.21	288	142 880.58	1 605 000.00
Article 27	5 186 399.80	51	101 694.11	1 229 007.32
Article 28	44 724 650.54	167	267 812.28	4 374 759.75
Article 29(1)(2)	14 354 406.13	680	21 109.42	769 385.80
Article 29(3)	22 653.97	8	2 831.75	15 693.45
Article 30	7 079 963.20	247	28 663.82	160 061.49
Article 31	7 364 977.55	249	29 578.22	56 250.00
Article 32	35 356 525.33	2 616	13 515.49	457 034.63
Article 33	150 328 540.70	23 239	6 468.80	378 695.27
Article 34	102 199 558.90	1 702	60 046.74	509 948.67
Article 36	7 352 901.81	17	432 523.64	1 643 446.75
Article 37	25 612 174.62	290	88 317.84	1 563 517.33
Article 38	20 061 641.20	1 364	14 707.95	327 000.00
Article 39	30 430 543.85	167	182 218.83	1 046 977.50
Article 40(1)(a)	17 596 686.35	341	51 603.19	1 737 692.93
Article 40(1)(b-g; i)	172 671 860.40	2 446	70 593.57	18 918 412.52
Article 40(1)(h)	3 604 238.93	1 800	2 002.35	157 418.80
Article 41(1)(a-c)	9 869 818.53	750	13 159.76	342 348.08
Article 41(2)	2 354 788.90	534	4 409.72	36 480.00
Article 42	50 607 937.02	2 213	22 868.48	2 250 000.00
Article 43(1) and (3)	312 735 457.90	1 043	299 842.24	32 925 875.19
Article 43(2)	18 059 667.91	54	334 438.29	3 115 549.49
Article 47	112 934 364.25	470	240 798.22	3 517 670.25
Article 48(1)(a-d; f-h)	440 121 866.21	4 988	88 236.14	4 875 000.00
Article 48(1)(e; i; j)	42 293 364.26	217	194 900.30	2 251 214.66
Article 48(1)(k)	4 700 950.51	155	30 328.71	348 610.21
Article 49	9 911 223.07	98	101 134.93	2 208 222.51
Article 50	6 478 330.49	133	48 709.25	841 410.00
Article 51	12 665 118.61	63	201 033.63	1 500 000.00
Article 52	11 741 370.30	78	150 530.39	533 607.82
Article 53	9 000.00	1	9 000.00	9 000.00
Article 54	86 425 772.55	1 749	49 414.39	1 670 676.00
Article 55	8 288 451.15	353	23 480.03	1 273 167.66
Article 56	15 260 221.36	184	82 935.99	2 889 107.75

EMFF Article	Total EMFF committed by Managing Authority (EUR) (Infosys, 31/12/2020)	Number of operations	Average EMFF committed per operation (EUR) (Infosys 31/12/2020)	Maximal EMFF committed per operation (EUR) (Infosys 31/12/2020)
Article 57	3 955 952.79	73	54 191.13	340 853.88
Article 62(1)(a)	5 342 070.37	254	21 031.77	321 401.31
Article 63 CLLD	353 656 911.24	8 107	43 623.65	5 061 982.87
Article 64	5 320 212.65	305	17 443.32	202 508.54
Article 66	58 127 082.10	473	122 890.24	4 606 114.30
Article 67	14 595 307.38	58	251 643.23	5 698 562.46
Article 68	114 100 783.40	1 749	65 275.05	4 937 500.00
Article 69	404 235 947.57	2 359	171 431.70	5 384 217.57
Article 70	124 496 358.01	3 537	35 198.29	34 800 000.00
Article 76	439 603 352.02	783	561 434.68	40 929 522.78
Article 77	482 075 392.78	230	2 095 979.97	42 961 386.35
Article 78	185 627 881.71	1 499	123 834.48	6 322 528.00
Article 80(1)(a)	16 987 992.44	33	514 787.65	2 999 999.66
Article 80(1)(b)	11 450 686.41	72	159 037.31	900 000.00
Article 80(1)(c)	27 291 892.07	125	218 335.14	3 688 025.45
Total	4 076 422 857.46	68 412	59 588.98	42 961 386.35

Source: Infosys 2020

3.2.6 EMFF contribution to CFP objectives

Regulation (EU) No. 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council sets several objectives of the Common Fisheries Policy. To estimate the EMFF contribution to each of these objectives, FAME applied a methodology to link the EMFF articles to the objectives (see Table 9 below and Annex 1).

Table 9: EMFF contribution to CFP objectives

CFP objective	Total EMFF committed by Managing Authority (EUR) (Infosys, 31/12/2020)	Total eligible EMFF expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the Managing Authority (EUR)	Number of operations
CFP Article 2(2, 3)	694 549 904	374 471 081	6 180
CFP Article 2(4)	482 075 393	378 606 018	230
CFP Article 2(5 a, b)	86 584 305	55 197 476	3 301
CFP Article 2(5 c)	1 199 020 806	580 582 535	14 354
CFP Article 2(5 d)	259 881 001	198 598 375	24 958
CFP Article 2(5 e)	754 785 986	365 161 949	8 562
CFP Article 2(5 f)	188 825 251	157 971 366	6 899
CFP Article 2(5 g)	120 236 023	86 338 980	1 525
CFP Article 2(5 h)	49 105 736	29 484 802	674
Total¹⁵	3 835 064 405	2 226 412 583	66 683

Source: Infosys 2020

¹⁵ The EMFF operations not included in Table 7 relate to IMP objectives under shared management (Table 8) and to technical assistance.

- CFP objective: **Exploitation of living marine biological resources restores and maintains populations of harvested species above levels which can produce the maximum sustainable yield; Fisheries activities avoid the degradation of the marine environment (CFP Article 2(2,3)).** MSs have selected 6 180 operations (7 036 operations in AIR)¹⁶ with a total EMFF funding of EUR 695 million (EUR 697 million in AIR). The money spent amounted to EUR 374 million (EUR 366 million in AIR).
- CFP objective: **Collection of scientific data (CFP Article 2(4)).** At the end of 2020, MSs selected 230 operations (208 operations in AIR) with a total budget of EUR 482 million (EUR 495 million in AIR), of which EUR 379 million (EUR 383 million in AIR) was declared by beneficiaries.
- CFP objective: **Gradually eliminate discards, by avoiding and reducing unwanted catches, and by gradually ensuring that catches are landed; where necessary, make the best use of unwanted catches (CFP Article 2(5)(a,b)).** At the end of 2020, MSs selected 3 301 operations (2 261 operations in AIR) with a total EMFF funding of EUR 87 million (EUR 66 million in AIR), and spent EUR 55 million (EUR 41 million in AIR).
- CFP objective: **Provide conditions for economically viable and competitive fishing capture and processing industry and land-based fishing-related activity (CFP Article 2(5)(c)).** MSs selected 14 354 operations (14 353 operations in AIR) with a total EMFF budget of EUR 1 199 million (EUR 1 205 million in AIR), and spent EUR 581 million (EUR 611 million in AIR).
- CFP objective: **Adjust the fishing capacity of the fleets according to fishing opportunities (CFP Article 2(5)(d)).** MSs selected 24 958 operations (23 899 operations in AIR) with a total EMFF allocation of EUR 260 million (EUR 262 million in AIR), and spent EUR 199 million (EUR 210 million in AIR).
- CFP objective: **Promote the development of sustainable aquaculture activities (CFP Article 2(5)(e)).** MSs selected 8 562 operations (8 051 operations in AIR) with a total budget of EUR 755 million (EUR 730 million in AIR), and spent EUR 365 million (EUR 373 million in AIR).
- CFP objective: **Contribute to a fair standard of living for those who depend on fishing activities (CFP Article 2(5)(f)).** MSs selected 6 899 operations (6 633 operations in AIR) with a total budget of EUR 189 million (EUR 190 million in AIR), and spent EUR 158 million (EUR 158 million in AIR).
- CFP objective: **Contribute to an efficient and transparent internal market for fisheries and aquaculture (CFP Article 2(5)(g)).** MSs selected 1 525 operations (2 176 operations in AIR) with a total EMFF allocation of EUR 120 million (EUR 178 million in AIR), and spent EUR 86 million (EUR 122 million in AIR).
- CFP objective: **Take into account the interests of both consumers and producers (CFP Article 2(5)(h)).** MSs selected 674 operations with a total EMFF allocation of EUR 49 million, and spent EUR 29 million.

¹⁶ For several CFP objectives, AIR values differ from Infosys values. In order to calculate Infosys values all operations are filtered by the codes of operation implementation data and only operations relevant to a specific CFP objective are taken into account.

3.2.7 EMFF contribution to IMP objectives under shared management

Regulation (EU) No. 1255/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council stipulates several general and operational objectives for further development of an Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP).

To estimate EMFF contributions to the relevant objectives, FAME applied a methodology linking EMFF articles to the objectives (see Table 10 and Annex 1). The eligible operations for the IMP measures financed by the EMFF under shared management are listed in EMFF Article 80 (contribute to achieving the objectives of the IMS, protect the marine environment and improve knowledge of the state of the marine environment). During 2020 the number of operations increased for all three IMP objectives.

- Ten MSs selected 72 operations with a total EMFF allocation of EUR 11.5 million, or 67.8% of the total planned EMFF allocation, under the IMP objective: **Promote the protection of the marine environment, in particular its biodiversity, and the sustainable use of marine and coastal resources (IMP Article 2(c))**. Beneficiaries have declared to MAs EUR 4.3 million (25.6%). Four MSs (UK, IE, SE and NL) have a 78% share of all the commitments to this objective.
- Twelve MSs selected 33 operations with a total budget of EUR 17.0 million, or 87.2% of the total planned EMFF allocation, related to the IMP objective: **Development of the Common Information Sharing Environment for the Union maritime domain, in line with the principles of the Integrated Maritime Surveillance (IMP Article 3(2)(a))**. EL and PT have committed the most – EUR 4.5 million and EUR 4.0 million respectively. Beneficiaries have declared to MAs EUR 4.4 million (22.8%).
- **Development of a comprehensive and publicly accessible high quality marine data and knowledge base (IMP Article 3(2)(c))** is the most popular amongst the IMP objectives. 19 MSs assigned to this objective 125 operations with a total budget of EUR 27.2 million, or 74.7% of the total planned EMFF allocation. ES alone committed EUR 5.2 million for 18 operations.

Table 10: EMFF contribution to IMP objectives

IMP objective	Total EMFF allocation (EUR) (AIR, 31/12/2020)	Total EMFF committed by Managing Authority (EUR) (Infosys, 31/12/2020)	Commitment rate (%)	Total eligible EMFF expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the Managing Authority (EUR)	Absorption rate (%)	Number of operations
IMP 2(c)	16 877 915	11 450 686	67.8	4 316 979	25.6	72
IMP 3(2)(a)	19 490 226	16 987 992	87.2	4 446 228	22.8	33
IMP 3(2)(c)	36 522 291	27 291 892	74.7	14 757 985	40.4	125
Total	72 890 432	55 730 571	76.5	23 521 192	32.3	230

Source: Infosys/AIR 2020

3.2.8 EMFF contribution to the Europe 2020 Thematic Objectives

Common Provisions Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013 sets 11 thematic objectives for the ESI Funds and Common Strategic Framework. The relevant objectives for the EMFF are TO3, TO4, TO6 and TO8

To estimate the EMFF contribution to these TOs, each EMFF Article was linked to a TO according to the methodology provided in Annex 1 of this report.

- MSs selected 46 333 operations with a total budget of EUR 1 976 million (EUR 1 973 million in AIR), or 68.6% of planned EMFF allocation, for TO3: **Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)**, under which fall 69% of all operations and 71% of the total committed amount.
- MSs selected 1 439 operations with a total budget of EUR 16.9 million (EUR 16.6 million in AIR) for TO4: **Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors**. This TO has the lowest number of operations and committed amounts compared to other TOs. This is also true in relative terms, the 24.9% commitment rate placing it last among all the TOs.
- MSs selected 9 654 operations with a total budget of EUR 1 512 million (EUR 1 507 million in AIR), or 81.1% of the planned EMFF allocation, for TO6: **Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency**.
- MSs selected 9 487 operations with a total budget of EUR 385 million (EUR 383 million in AIR), or 64.81% of the planned EMFF allocation, to TO8: **Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility**.

Table 11: EMFF contribution to the Europe 2020 Thematic Objectives

EU 2020 TO	Total EMFF allocation (EUR) (AIR, 31/12/2020)	Total EMFF committed by Managing Authority (EUR) (Infosys, 31/12/2020)	Commitment rate (%)	Total eligible EMFF expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the Managing Authority (EUR)	Absorption rate (%)	Number of operations
TO3	2 881 890 200	1 975 907 227	68.6	1 086 589 140	37.7	46 333
TO4	67 923 562	16 925 558	24.9	10 341 904	15.2	1 439
TO6	1 866 323 173	1 512 787 606	81.1	976 135 427	52.3	9 654
TO8	594 413 338	385 174 585	64.8	176 867 303	29.8	9 487

Source: Infosys/AIR 2020

3.2.9 Contribution to the EMFF objectives, Article 5

Article 5 of the EMFF Regulation ((EU) No. 508/2014) sets four EMFF objectives. In order to establish the EMFF contribution to each objective, links were established between the Article 5 objectives and the Union Priorities (Table 12). UP1, UP2 and UP5 contribute to promoting competitive, environmentally sustainable, economically viable and socially responsible fisheries and aquaculture. UP3 contributes to fostering the implementation of the CFP, and UP4 to promoting a balanced and inclusive territorial development of fisheries and

aquaculture areas. UP6 contributes to fostering the development and implementation of the Union's IMP in a manner complementary to cohesion policy and to the CFP.

Table 12: EMFF contribution to the EMFF objectives

Article EC 508/2014	Total EMFF allocation (EUR) (AIR, 31/12/2020)	Total EMFF committed by Managing Authority (EUR) (Infosys, 31/12/2020)	Commitment rate (%)	Total eligible EMFF expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the Managing Authority (EUR)	Absorption rate (%)	Number of operations
Article 5(a) EC 508/2014	3 696 073 793	2 549 066 466	69.0	1 436 581 302	38.9	57 004
Article 5(b) EC 508/2014	1 093 894 229	921 678 745	84.3	626 593 764	57.3	1 013
Article 5(c) EC 508/2014	547 691 820	364 319 194	66.5	163 237 517	29.8	8 666
Article 5(d) EC 508/2014	72 890 432	55 730 571	76.5	23 521 192	32.3	230

Source: Infosys/AIR 2020

- MSs selected 57 004 operations with a total budget of EUR 2 549 million (EUR 2 534 million in AIR), or 69.0% of the total planned EMFF allocation, to the objective: **Promoting competitive, environmentally sustainable, economically viable and socially responsible fisheries and aquaculture (EMFF Article 5(a))**. This corresponds to 85% of all the selected operations and to 66% of the total EMFF amount committed.
- MSs selected 1 013 operations with a total budget of EUR 922 million (EUR 926 million in AIR), or 84.3% of the total planned EMFF allocation, to the objective: **Fostering the implementation of the CFP (EMFF Article 5(b))**.
- MSs selected 8 666 operations with a total budget of EUR 364 million (EUR 362 million in AIR), or 66.5% of the total planned EMFF allocation, to the objective: **Promoting a balanced and inclusive territorial development of fisheries and aquaculture areas (EMFF Article 5(c))**.
- MSs selected 230 operations with a total budget of EUR 56 million (EUR 58 million in AIR), or 76.5% of the total planned EMFF allocation, to the objective: **Fostering the development and implementation of the Union's IMP in a manner complementary to cohesion policy and to the CFP (EMFF Article 5(d))**.

3.2.10 EMFF support for climate change objectives

The EMFF supports operations related to climate change and energy efficiency in accordance with the headline target of the Europe 2020 strategy.

Table 13: EMFF contribution to climate change of operations selected for support

MS	Total EMFF allocation (EUR) (AIR 31/12/2020)	Total EMFF committed by Managing Authority (EUR) (Infosys, 31/12/2020)	Climate change amount of total EMFF committed by Managing Authority (EUR) (AIR, 31/12/2020)	Climate change / EMFF allocation (%)	Climate change / EMFF committed (%)
AT	6 965 000	7 061 986	900	0.0	0.0
BE	41 746 051	37 211 333	8 204 727	19.7	22.0
BG	80 823 727	53 998 175	7 353 660	9.1	13.6
CY	39 715 209	33 352 188	7 923 485	20.0	23.8
CZ	31 108 015	26 737 010	716 758	2.3	2.7
DE	219 596 276	158 745 836	43 826 543	20.0	27.6
DK	208 355 420	176 488 515	25 343 009	12.2	14.4
EE	100 970 418	86 180 687	11 984 913	11.9	13.9
EL	1 089 301 383	570 904 311	100 588 454	9.2	17.6
ES	74 393 168	69 682 957	19 469 524	26.2	27.9
FI	587 980 173	387 673 551	38 667 074	6.6	10.0
FR	381 688 668	288 964 318	55 974 673	14.7	19.4
HR	252 643 138	180 382 231	31 666 365	12.5	17.6
HU	38 412 223	26 975 113	5 230 634	13.6	19.4
IE	147 601 979	130 245 206	9 817 379	6.7	7.5
IT	537 262 559	369 852 174	87 037 583	16.2	23.5
LT	63 432 222	39 439 255	3 301 282	5.2	8.4
LV	139 833 742	114 168 367	16 226 342	11.6	14.2
MT	22 627 422	19 903 181	3 940 172	17.4	19.8
NL	101 523 244	88 422 213	11 345 115	11.2	12.8
PL	531 219 456	390 638 603	89 854 769	16.9	23.0
PT	392 485 464	350 701 838	64 382 177	16.4	18.4
RO	168 421 371	128 988 330	22 579 008	13.4	17.5
SE	120 156 004	97 874 291	22 754 401	18.9	23.2
SI	22 227 139	13 171 133	2 698 844	12.1	20.5
SK	11 812 818	3 944 314	8 304	0.1	0.2
UK	284 777 057	238 867 193	43 812 984	15.4	18.3
Total	5 697 079 346	4 090 574 310	734 709 077	12.9	18.0

Source: AIR 2020 reports.

Overall, the EMFF contribution to climate change objectives by the end of 2020 was EUR 735 million, or 18% of the total EMFF funding committed to date. The corresponding number for total EMFF funding spent was EUR 439 million or 18% of total EMFF spent. The coefficients for calculating amounts of support for climate change objectives are provided in Annex III of the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No. 1232/2014.

3.2.11 EMFF contribution to specific topics

The structure of the AIR data provides limited possibilities to report on EMFF contributions to various specific topics, so the analysis provided in this section therefore relies on Infosys data. The EMFF is the only ESI Fund that ensures reporting at the level of operations. Because of such unique Infosys datasets, it is possible to provide a detailed analysis of EMFF contributions to various specific topics. Several topics deserve specific attention due to their political significance, in particular: operations involving vessels, outermost regions, innovation, landing obligation, energy efficiency, climate change, Natura 2000, biodiversity, marine litter, and mitigation measures for the coronavirus crisis.

3.2.11.1 Operations involving vessels

Of a total EMFF commitment of EUR 4.1 billion, EUR 671.9 million (16.5%) was dedicated to operations linked to an FFR vessel number. EMFF spending on vessel-specific operations amounted to 21.1% of the total EMFF spending. During 2020 EMFF commitment and spending on these operations more than doubled.

As of the end of 2020 the EMFF supported 13 123 unique vessels.

Infosys contains the so-called Fishing Fleet Register (FFR) number only when a vessel is involved in an operation. In that case it can be referred back to the FFR to identify to which vessel class it belongs. The following vessel classes were defined:

- SSCF vessels defined according to Article 3 of the Regulation EU 508/2014¹⁷
- other vessels under 12 m
- vessels between 12–24 m
- vessels above 24 m.

Article 3(14) of Regulation (EU) No. 508/2014 (the EMFF Regulation) defines “small-scale coastal fishing” (SSCF) as “fishing carried out by fishing vessels of an overall length of less than 12 metres and not using towed fishing gear as listed in Table 3 of Annex I to Commission Regulation (EC) No. 26/2004”.¹⁸

The EMFF Regulation recognises the importance of SSCF in the environmental and social context of coastal communities, and stipulates that operations related to small-scale coastal fisheries may benefit from higher aid intensity (+30 percentage points as defined in Annex I of the Regulation). While SSCF may benefit from this preferential treatment, the EMFF reporting streams (AIR and Infosys) do not contain detailed reporting provisions on SSCF.

¹⁷ Regulation (EU) No. 508/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 May 2014 on the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and repealing Council Regulations (EC) No. 2328/2003, (EC) No. 861/2006, (EC) No. 1198/2006 and (EC) No. 791/2007 and Regulation (EU) No. 1255/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

¹⁸ Commission Regulation (EC) No. 26/2004 of 30 December 2003 on the Community fishing fleet register (OJ L 5, 9.1.2004, p. 25).

Table 14: General overview of all vessel-related operations (EU total)

Vessel size	Total EMFF committed by Managing Authority (EUR) (Infosys, 31/12/2019)	% of total	Total eligible EMFF expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the Managing Authority (EUR)	% of total	Number of operations	% of total	Number of vessels	% of total
SSCF¹⁹	178 347 883.61	26.5	123 569 169.73	24.7	13 580	38.0	5 349	40.8
Other vessels under 12m	14 467 260.15	2.2	10 143 162.92	2.0	1 888	5.3	1 035	7.9
Vessels between 12–24m	233 187 800.93	34.7	175 799 860.98	35.2	15 367	43.0	4 973	37.9
Vessels above 24	227 023 172.88	33.8	185 873 915.90	37.2	4 484	12.5	1 424	10.9
Unspecified	18 893 939.68	2.8	4 621 532.89	0.9	437	1.2	342	2.6
Total	671 920 057.25	100.0	500 007 642.42	100.0	35 756	100.0	13 123	100.0

Source: Infosys 2020

Average EMFF commitment per supported vessel amounted to about EUR 51 200, while the average EMFF spending was EUR 38 100. Average EMFF commitment per supported SSCF vessel amounted to about EUR 33 300, while the average EMFF spending was EUR 23 100. The EMFF supported 35 756 operations, of which 13 580 (38.0%) were for SSCF vessels. This segment received 25% of the EMFF spending dedicated to specific vessels (EUR 124 million out of EUR 500 million) (

¹⁹ SSCF vessels defined according to Article 3 of the EU 508/2014 Regulation (EMFF Regulation).

Table 14).

FAME presented a detailed analysis of SSCF in the scope of the ancillary task “FAME SU: AT01.2 SSCF periodic reports, sample report 2, August 2020”.

A short summary of information supplied in the AIRs related to SSCF is provided below:

- Prioritisation of the SSCF sector is secured in the guidelines for applicants on two levels: (1) higher aid intensity (FR) and (2) prioritisation in the ranking when projects are assessed (BG, HR, LT).
- BG, CY, ES and IT noted that the quantity of upcoming and approved projects was rather poor.
- ES noted that this measure is difficult to implement, taking into account that the balance between the SSCF segment’s fishing capacity and its fishing opportunities may change from year to year.²⁰ ES undertook a revision of the procedure for preparing the fleet report by introducing more detailed fleet segmentation by fishing regions. As a result, there may be changes in the economic, technical and biological indicators that determine whether or not an SSCF fleet is balanced. ES also mentioned that low interest from potential beneficiaries could partly be attributed to the need to meet the conditions stipulated in Article 10 of the EMFF Regulation (Admissibility of applications).
- IT reported that the measure is not attractive due to the complexity of procedures and the low aid intensity.
- RO excluded Article 41(2) measures from its OP because there was no demand.
- DE noted that, as in previous years, no applications were submitted by the SSCF fleet for support under Article 41(2). As long as fish stocks (in this case – cod and herring in the western Baltic Sea) are not within safe biological limits, support under the EMFF Regulation is not permitted.
- IE has supported eight projects since 2017. The scheme was suspended in June 2020 as its budget was exhausted.

3.2.11.2 Landing obligation

The landing obligation (LO) is established under the “fisheries management” pillar of the Common Fisheries Policy.²¹ Article 15 of the CFP sets out the obligation to retain all species subject to catch limits or minimum sizes²² caught either in European Union (EU) waters or by Union fishing vessels outside EU waters without prejudice to international obligations. It was implemented in phases:

- 2015 – the landing obligation began to cover small and large pelagic species, industrial fisheries and the main fisheries in the Baltic.
- 2016 – it was extended to demersal fisheries for the North Sea and the Atlantic.

²⁰ Support for the replacement or modernisation of main or ancillary engines may only be granted in respect of vessels belonging to a fleet segment for which the report on fishing capacity has shown a balance with the fishing opportunities available to that segment.

²¹ The other three pillars being international policy, market and trade policy, and funding of the policy.

²² As defined in Annex III to Regulation (EC) No. 1967 /2006.

- 2019 – full implementation, i.e. land all species subject to catch limits and, in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, to minimum conservation reference sizes (MCRS).

The EMFF (EU Regulation 508/2014) has general and specific measures designed to support the implementation of the LO. The EMFF introduced, among other measures, a focus on increased gear selectivity, with gear technology development and sea trials continuing the work started under the EFF in 2007-2013.

Actions to support the LO include for example:

- improved selectivity of fishing gear to minimise unwanted catches,
- specific on-board equipment, and/or
- adaptation of landing sites to handle and commercialise unwanted catches.

However, there is no explicit LO earmarking at the level of individual operations. In May 2018 FAME completed a report on the implementation of LO-relevant measures under the EFF and EMFF. The approach to identify relevant operations was based on:

- the relevance of the measure under which the operation was implemented;
- a combination of relevant Infosys implementation data and/or result indicators such as a “change in unwanted catches”;
- validation of the above through an interview with the MS authorities.

While this approach proved fruitful, it was also too demanding to be repeated annually. For this reason, FAME developed two new ways to identify EMFF contributions to the LO implementation:

- A broad approach based on the measure alone (with the exception of Article 68: Marketing measures, where a combination of measure and operation implementation data is applied). The broad approach is easier to apply but might also include operations that are marginally relevant.
- A narrow approach combining the measure with Infosys operation implementation data. This is harder to apply, but more precise. However, it should be assumed that not all operations selected by the narrow approach contribute directly to the LO.

One or other of these two complementary approaches is chosen based on the information required.

Table 15: EMFF contribution to landing obligation (broad approach)

EMFF Article	Total EMFF committed by Managing Authority (EUR) (Infosys, 31/12/2020)	Total eligible EMFF expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the Managing Authority (EUR)	Number of operations
Article 37	25 612 175	18 209 012	290
Article 38	20 061 641	15 216 609	1 364
Article 39	30 430 544	9 170 776	167
Article 42	50 607 937	29 742 442	2 213
Article 43(2)	18 059 668	13 051 006	54
Article 68 code 118	2 886 107	1 082 633	23
Total	147 658 071	86 472 477	4 111

Source: Infosys 2020

The broad approach takes into account all operations related to the following articles:

- Article 37: Support for the design and implementation of conservation measures;
- Article 38: Limiting the impact of fishing on the marine environment and adapting fishing to the protection of species (+ Article 44(1)(c) Inland fishing);
- Article 39: Innovation linked to the conservation of marine biological resources (+ Article 44(1)(c) Inland fishing);
- Article 42: Added value, product quality and use of unwanted catches (+ Article 44(1)(e) Inland fishing);
- Article 43(2): Fishing ports, landing sites, auction halls and shelters – investments to facilitate compliance with the obligation to land all catches.

The only exception is operations implemented under Article 68: Marketing measures. Here, only operations with Infosys code 118 (Find new markets and improve marketing) are counted.

According to the broad approach (Table 15), at the end of 2020 MSs had selected 4 111 operations with a total EMFF funding of EUR 147.7 million for the landing obligation. A year ago, the respective numbers stood at 2 957 operations and EUR 116.6 million. In terms of numbers of operations, most were implemented under Article 42 (2 213 operations) and Article 38 (1 364 operations). However, the funding committed to supporting the LO was distributed more evenly amongst the articles. It means that average EMFF support per operation varied significantly: from EUR 334 438 for Article 68 (Marketing measures) to EUR 14 708 for Article 38 (Limiting the impact of fishing).

Table 16: EMFF contribution to landing obligation (AIR – broad approach)

EMFF Article	Total EMFF committed by Managing Authority (EUR) (Infosys, 31/12/2020)	Total eligible EMFF expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the Managing Authority (EUR)	Number of operations
Article 37	26 175 795	18 470 071	290
Article 38	19 132 301	14 200 194	1 357
Article 39	30 682 932	8 973 143	161
Article 42	49 997 558	29 490 035	2 214
Article 43(2)	15 537 837	11 945 376	47
Total	141 526 423	83 078 819	4 069

Source: AIR 2020 reports.

A slightly modified approach to the AIR data, with Article 68 (marketing measures) excluded from the calculations, gives the results shown in Table 16.

Table 17: EMFF contribution to landing obligation (narrow approach)

EMFF Article	Total EMFF committed by Managing Authority (EUR) (Infosys, 31/12/2020)	Total eligible EMFF expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the Managing Authority (EUR)	Number of operations
Article 37 RI 1.4	6 004 612	4 356 423	133
Article 38 codes 35,36, RI	8 139 610	5 498 416	452

1.4			
Article 39 RI 1.4	16 766 444	5 935 267	100
Article 42	50 607 937	29 742 442	2 213
Article 43(2)	18 059 668	13 051 006	54
Article 68 code 118	2 886 107	1 082 633	23
Total	102 464 378	59 666 188	2 975

Source: Infosys 2020

The narrow approach takes into account operations under the same articles described above. However, operations are also selected by means of Infosys codes according to their relevance to the LO. Operations under Article 37 and Article 39 are taken into account provided they are linked to result indicator 1.4: Change in unwanted catches. Operations under Article 38 are counted provided the following conditions are met: they have Infosys codes 35 (selectivity of gear) or 36 (reduce discards or deal with unwanted catches) and they are linked to RI 1(4): Change in unwanted catches.

According to the narrow approach (Table 17), at the end of 2020 MSs selected 2 975 operations for the LO with a total EMFF funding of EUR 102.5 million. Under Article 37, 133 operations out of 290 were attributed to the LO. For Article 38, the LO figure was 452 out of 1 364 operations. For Article 39, 100 out of 167 operations were clearly connected to the LO.

In 2017 FAME undertook an Ancillary Task (AT) to explore mainly how the EMFF, and to a lesser extent EFF and other (EU and national) funding, had been used to date by MSs to support the implementation of the LO. In 2021, FAME did a follow-up to this AT. Conclusions drawn are provided below:

- Measuring the EMFF's contribution to LO implementation

By the end of 2020 EMFF commitments under LO-relevant articles (as determined by the broad approach developed by FAME) amounted to EUR 147.7 million, with EUR 86.5 million spent. Article 39 (innovation) shows the largest disparity between commitments and spending.

The broad approach adopted, which specifies certain LO-relevant measures, represents a cost-effective approach to identifying the extent of EMFF contributions to LO implementation. The inclusion of operations that are not directly relevant results in an overestimate, while operations outside of these measures related to the LO results in an underestimate. With the data available it is not possible to determine the extent to which these variations balance out. This uncertainty supports the new approach under the EMFAF of flagging the LO relevance of projects as part of EMFAF monitoring. However, this will still be subject to MAs' differing interpretations of LO relevance.

The results indicators are not consistently applied or reported by MSs, preventing the aggregation of those indicators such as "reduction in unwanted catch". It is also apparent that the use of EMFF support in relation to the LO takes in more than just technical measures through which it is possible to quantify reductions in unwanted catches. The use of EMFF in support of LO implementation is more nuanced, highlighting the importance of qualitative information.

What could be concluded with the qualitative information collated through this report is that LO-relevant funds committed and spent relate to operations on (i) gear selectivity and technical measures, (ii) capital investments in handling facilities, and (iii) support for efforts in control, enforcement and data collection.

Earmarking LO-relevant operations and evaluating specific impacts (provided that result indicators are properly used) is easier for the first category (selective gear and technical measures), since each operation is linked to a specific vessel, a specific type of operation is selected (for example gear selectivity), and the related result indicator (for example change in unwanted catches (tonnes)) supports plausibility checking.

For the second category (investments in handling facilities) earmarking is less straightforward, since MAs might pursue multiple objectives when for example placing an operation under EMFF Article 43 “Fishing ports, landing sites, auction halls and shelters”. This is despite the fact that the regulation clearly states that support aims to “...to facilitate compliance with the obligation to land all catches in accordance with Article 15 of Regulation (EU) No. 1380/2013”.

Finally, operations related to control, enforcement and data collection can be considered generally relevant to the LO. However, quantifying that relevance is impossible without fieldwork, while allocating the entire – usually multi-million and multi-annual – operation to the LO leads to over-reporting.

This situation must be acknowledged when evaluating EMFF support for LO implementation, and field research must be included in the form of case studies and participative methods. The last point was also illustrated during this AT when, to gain a more comprehensive understanding of LO implementation and to put EMFF support in context, the EMFF MAs often sought additional input from departmental colleagues in their MSs. This was facilitated by sharing the questions in advance of the interviews.

- Member States’ use of the EMFF to support LO implementation

The impact of the LO differed between MSs because some have derogations (e.g. Croatia), while others do not have substantial fisheries for demersal quota species. Consequently, the spend on LO-relevant measures differed depending on its significance to the MS in question. An exception is found with Germany where the relatively high spend was on eel recovery measures rather than LO-related operations.

All MSs that needed to address the impacts of implementing the LO did so using several LO-relevant measures available to them, recognising the need to adopt a range of mitigation strategies: technical, regulatory and market-based.

For MSs experiencing significant impacts from the LO, the MAs stated that EMFF support certainly aided its implementation. The funding allowed the sector to be more proactive in avoiding negative impacts rather than reacting to those impacts.

Support has often been for research to ensure that regulatory levers such as the exemptions on *de minimis* or high survivability could be applied. Support has also been used for IT system upgrades to facilitate more effective quota use, and to a lesser extent for technical measures to directly reduce unwanted catches.

The EMFF supported improved quota management systems to better ensure that fisheries could continue to operate with available quotas. The phased nature of LO implementation

helped in this regard, as MSs had more time to develop systems for the most problematic mixed demersal fisheries.

Changes during the EMFF programming period, such as TAC changes for specific species in the Baltic, put more focus on the LO as efforts became more urgent to enable fishing to continue without choke situations occurring.

Many of the efforts to minimise LO impacts were regulatory in nature. For instance, EMFF funding supported research that created the evidence base needed to justify exemptions, e.g. for high survivability, and improvements in quota management systems.

There are many examples of gear innovation projects and trials, but in many instances the uptake by fleets has been less than may have been expected. This is due to the fact that the regulatory measures taken have effectively mitigated much of the impact on fleets.

For most MSs the amounts of catches landed below the MCRS have been less than anticipated. As a result, the scale of land-side investment supported by the EMFF was less than initially planned for.

- Future needs

Without EMFF support, the socioeconomic impact on the sector would have been much greater for those MSs that have found the LO to have a significant impact on their fishing.

In most of those 16 MSs, no other national or regional funding was identified that supported LO implementation.

For the EMFAF the general expectation among MAs in terms of LO-related support is for more of the same. Innovation continues to be a priority. However, there is also a growing emphasis on control and enforcement.

3.2.11.3 Innovation

The EMFF supports investment in innovation to increase the competitiveness and economic performance of fishing activities and aquaculture, and to conserve marine biological resources.

Table 18: EMFF contribution to innovation

EMFF Article	Total EMFF allocation (EUR) (AIR, 31/12/2020)	Total EMFF committed by Managing Authority (EUR) (Infosys, 31/12/2020)	Commitment rate (%)	Total eligible EMFF expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the Managing Authority (EUR)	Absorption rate (%)	Number of operations
Article 26	57 247 843	40 678 030	71.1	12 322 851	21.5	288
Article 28	51 895 371	44 724 651	86.2	13 753 600	26.5	167
Article 39	50 754 844	30 408 751	59.9	9 170 776	18.1	167
Article 47	153 216 991	110 873 868	72.4	32 292 135	21.1	470
Total	313 115 048	226 685 300	72.4	67 539 362	21.6	1 092

Source: Infosys/AIR 2020

Operations related to **innovation** were selected by all 27 MSs: in total 1 092 operations with a total EMFF budget of EUR 226.7 million, or 72.4% of the total planned EMFF allocation to innovation (Table 18). Nearly half of all the commitments to innovation related to aquaculture (Article 47). Amongst the MSs, FR committed the most (EUR 35.9 million), followed by PT (EUR 31.0 million), and NL (EUR 22.7 million). The average size of EMFF commitment to an innovation operation was EUR 210 118. The average size of EMFF commitment to an innovation operation under Article 26 “Innovation” was EUR 142 881, but under Article 28 “Partnerships between fishermen and scientists” it was EUR 267 812.

3.2.11.4 Natura 2000

The EMFF supports operations to protect and restore marine biodiversity and ecosystems in the framework of sustainable fishing activities. The EMFF contains, under shared management, a series of measures directly or potentially supporting the Natura 2000 network (Table 19). Directly related measures are Article 40(1)(b-g,i) (Protection and restoration of marine biodiversity – Natura 2000 sites), Article 40(1)(h) (Protection and restoration of marine biodiversity – schemes for compensation of damage to catches caused by mammals and birds), Article 54 (Aquaculture providing environmental services) and Article 80(1)(b) (Promotion of the protection of marine environment, and the sustainable use of marine and coastal resources).

In 6 067 operations, the MSs together committed EUR 274.2 million to these measures, or 82.1% of the total planned allocation. ES committed the biggest amount: EUR 51.7 million to Article 40(1)(b-g,i) alone. DK and FI have the highest number of operations (1 125 and 1 057 respectively). Of the total EMFF budget committed to the articles directly related to Natura 2000, Article 40(1)(b-g,i) and Article 54 jointly account for 94.5%.

Articles directly related to the implementation of the Natura 2000 network are further analysed according to their type of operation in section 3.2.4.2 of this report.

Table 19: EMFF contribution to Natura 2000 (directly related EMFF measures)

EMFF Article	Total EMFF allocation (EUR) (AIR, 31/12/2020)	Total EMFF committed by Managing Authority (EUR) (Infosys, 31/12/2020)	Commitment rate (%)	Total eligible EMFF expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the Managing Authority (EUR)	Absorption rate (%)	Number of operations
Article 40(1)(b)-(g);(i)	205 839 555	172 671 860	83.9	80 366 687	39.0	2 446
Article 40(1)(h)	10 805 289	3 604 239	33.4	2 917 285	27.0	1 800
Article 54	100 234 234	86 425 773	86.2	76 558 578	76.4	1 749
Article 80(1)(b)	16 877 915	11 450 686	67.8	4 316 979	25.6	72
Total	333 756 993	274 152 558	82.1	164 159 528	49.2	6 067

Source: Infosys/AIR 2020

Potentially supporting measures are Article 28 (Partnerships between fishermen and scientists), Article 38 (Limiting the impact of fishing on the marine environment and adapting fishing to the protection of species), Article 39 (Innovation linked to the conservation of marine biological resources), Article 40 (1)(a) (Protection and restoration of marine biodiversity – collection of lost fishing gear and marine litter) and Article 80 (1)(c) (Improving the knowledge on the state of the marine environment).

Table 20 lists the EMFF measures that potentially support the implementation of the Natura 2000 network.

Table 20: EMFF contribution to Natura 2000 (potentially contributing EMFF measures)

EMFF Article	Total EMFF allocation (EUR) (AIR, 31/12/2020)	Total EMFF committed by Managing Authority (EUR) (Infosys, 31/12/2020)	Commitment rate (%)	Total eligible EMFF expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the Managing Authority (EUR)	Absorption rate (%)	Number of operations
Article 28	51 895 371	44 724 651	86.2	13 753 600	26.5	167
Article 38	31 762 228	20 061 641	63.2	15 216 609	47.9	1 364
Article 39	50 754 844	30 430 544	60.0	9 170 776	18.1	167
Article 40(1)(a)	49 408 427	17 596 686	35.6	11 924 362	24.1	341
Article 80(1)(c)	36 522 291	27 291 892	74.7	14 757 985	40.4	125
Total	220 343 160	140 105 414	63.6	64 823 330	29.4	2 164

Source: Infosys 2020

In total, EUR 414 million of the EMFF funding is committed and EUR 229 million spent under measures directly or potentially supporting the Natura 2000 network.

3.2.11.5 Biodiversity

A wide range of EMFF measures potentially contribute to protection and restoration of biodiversity (Table 21). Taking this range of measures into account, MSs committed EUR 1 637 million of the EMFF funding over a total of 36 636 operations.

Table 21: EMFF contribution to biodiversity

EMFF Article	Total EMFF allocation (EUR) (AIR, 31/12/2020)	Total EMFF committed by Managing Authority (EUR) (Infosys, 31/12/2020)	Commitment rate (%)	Total eligible EMFF expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the Managing Authority (EUR)	Absorption rate (%)	Number of operations
Article 33	233 524 588	150 328 541	64.4	119 883 108	51.3	23 239
Article 34	89 558 208	102 199 559	114.1	75 384 206	84.2	1 702
Article 36	8 922 749	7 352 902	82.4	3 331 061	37.3	17
Article 37	35 626 816	25 612 175	71.9	18 209 012	51.1	290
Article 38	31 762 228	20 061 641	63.2	15 216 609	47.9	1 364
Article 39	50 754 844	30 430 544	60.0	9 170 776	18.1	167
Article 40(1)(a)	49 408 427	17 596 686	35.6	11 924 362	24.1	341
Article 40(1)(b)-(g),(i)	205 839 555	172 671 860	83.9	80 366 687	39.0	2 446
Article 40(1)(h)	10 805 289	3 604 239	33.4	2 917 285	27.0	1 800
Article 42	80 310 028	50 607 937	63.0	29 742 442	37.0	2 213
Article 49	21 970 133	9 911 223	45.1	4 147 329	18.9	98
Article 54	100 234 234	86 425 773	86.2	76 558 578	76.4	1 749
Article 76	543 607 331	439 603 352	80.9	247 987 746	45.6	783
Article 77	550 286 898	482 075 393	87.6	378 606 018	68.8	230

Article 80(1)(b)	16 877 915	11 450 686	67.8	4 316 979	25.6	72
Article 80(1)(c)	36 522 291	27 291 892	74.7	14 757 985	40.4	125
Total	2 066 011 532	1 637 224 403	79.2	1 092 520 181	52.9	36 636

Source: Infosys 2020

3.2.11.6 Outermost regions

To maintain the economic viability of operators in the outermost regions, the EMFF provides support to offset additional costs for the fishing, farming, processing and marketing of certain fishery and aquaculture products. To yield an overview of the EMFF contribution to the outermost regions, all operations implemented by ES, FR and PT with the relevant Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics (NUTS) codes were selected.

ES, FR and PT supported 4 043 operations in the outermost regions with a total EMFF budget of EUR 164.3 million (

Table 22).

Most of these were from PT: 3 100 operations with a total EMFF contribution of EUR 75.0 million. PT was followed by FR with EUR 76.1 million committed to 777 operations. The average EMFF contribution to an operation in the outermost regions was: FR – EUR 97 941, ES – EUR 79 435, PT – EUR 24 188. Réunion (FR) implemented 127 operations with an average EMFF commitment per operation of EUR 321 458.

Table 22: EMFF contribution to the outermost regions

MS/Outermost region	NUTS code	Total EMFF committed by Managing Authority (EUR) (Infosys, 31/12/2020)	Total eligible EMFF expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the Managing Authority (EUR)	Number of operations
ES		13 186 261.32	8 168 060.70	166
Gran Canaria	ES705	8 738 310.86	6 367 568.04	102
Tenerife	ES709	4 447 950.46	1 800 492.66	64
FR		76 100 523.48	60 441 400.47	777
Guadeloupe ²³	FRA10	2 506 834.36	1 815 618.37	58
Martinique	FRA20	4 916 728.57	3 017 389.73	129
French Guiana	FRA30	21 905 271.25	18 322 761.45	137
La Réunion	FRA40	40 825 144.68	33 078 230.19	127
Mayotte	FRA50	5 946 544.62	4 207 400.73	326
PT		74 982 262.01	54 822 166.28	3 100
Azores	PT200	51 664 344.35	37 754 236.23	2 708
Madeira	PT300	23 317 917.65	17 067 930.05	392
Total		164 269 046.81	123 431 627.45	4 043

Source: Infosys 2020

3.2.11.7 Mitigation of the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic had a direct impact on EU fisheries and aquaculture. According to a study by the PECH Committee²⁴ the reduction of sales volume in aquaculture is estimated at 17%, with a reduction of 18% in total income. As a positive side effect, direct sales, online sales and home deliveries have increased, possibly marking a structural change in the sector. The study concluded that the vast majority of disruptions due to COVID-19 in the sector took place at the onset of the pandemic, followed by a recovery in the second half of 2020. The research concludes that recovery was due to the resilience of the operators in combination with mitigation measures enacted by the EU and national governments.

The European Parliament and the Council have proposed a set of ambitious measures under the EMFF to support EU fisheries and aquaculture in tackling the impact of the pandemic. The package includes support for the temporary cessation of fishing activities due to the COVID-19 pandemic, support to aquaculture farmers for the suspension of production and additional costs, and support to producer organisations for the storage of fishery and aquaculture products.

To enable tracking of the uptake of these measures, Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1027 introduced a new field into Infosys: Field 25 “Mitigation of the COVID-19 outbreak”. Overall, EUR 108.7 million of EMFF funding was committed to mitigating the

²³ The French overseas community of Saint-Martin does not have its own NUTS code and is included under Guadeloupe (FRA10).

²⁴ Pititto A, Rainone D, Sannino V, Chever T, Herry L, Parant S, Souidi S, Ballesteros M, Chapela R, Santiago J L, 2021, Research for PECH Committee – Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on EU fisheries and aquaculture, European Parliament, Policy Department for Structural and Cohesion Policies, Brussels.

impact of coronavirus, in 5 913 operations (Table 23). These commitments correspond to around 13% of the EMFF commitments made in 2020 and to 2.7% of total EMFF commitments at the end of 2020.

74.0% (EUR 80.5 million) of the EMFF coronavirus support was allocated via the temporary cessation of fishing activities (Article 33). Support under Article 69 (Processing of fisheries and aquaculture products) was provided via 163 operations with a total EMFF commitment of EUR 16.3 million. Coronavirus support also activated operations under Article 55 (Public health measures). There were no Article 55 operations implemented as of 31 December 2019, yet in 2020 MSs committed EUR 6.7 million in 315 operations. This ranks Article 55 as the third amongst the coronavirus-related measures by uptake.

At MS level Poland committed EUR 46.8 million to two measures (Article 33 and Article 69), which corresponds to 43.1% of the country's total EMFF commitment to coronavirus support. Poland was followed by France with EUR 17.4 million in commitments (all under Article 33). Both Poland and France also had the highest number of operations (1 291 and 1 126 respectively).

Table 23: EMFF contribution COVID-19 pandemic support measures

EMFF Article/ MS	Total EMFF committed by Managing Authority (EUR) (Infosys, 31/12/2020)	EMFF committed per Article of total %	Total eligible EMFF expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the Managing Authority (EUR)	EMFF spent per Article of total	Number of operations	Number of operations per Article of total %
Article 28	308 810.56	0.3	12 204.81	0.0	5	0.1
ES	308 810.56	0.3	12 204.81	0.0	5	0.1
Article 32	261 495.38	0.2	20 156.30	0.0	50	0.8
ES	2 945.48	0.0	–	–	10	0.2
PT	92 456.98	0.1	20 156.30	0.0	21	0.4
UK	166 092.93	0.2	–	–	19	0.3
Article 33	80 455 190.48	74.0	52 587 413.45	68.3	5 340	90.3
BE	365 062.50	0.3	360 000.00	0.5	41	0.7
BG	681 105.43	0.6	680 000.00	0.9	71	1.2
CY	421 312.50	0.4	381 731.73	0.5	282	4.8
DE	1 830 975.00	1.7	1 809 975.00	2.4	324	5.5
EL	14 315 929.34	13.2	2 104 440.60	2.7	689	11.7
ES	117 534.00	0.1	87 064.50	0.1	187	3.2
FR	17 395 962.73	16.0	10 115 721.28	13.1	1 126	19.0
HR	1 662 262.05	1.5	1 522 452.66	2.0	285	4.8
IE	100 850.00	0.1	93 875.00	0.1	94	1.6
LV	978 027.18	0.9	978 027.18	1.3	92	1.6
NL	3 682 800.00	3.4	2 865 500.00	3.7	269	4.5
PL	32 799 775.73	30.2	26 578 224.57	34.5	1 203	20.3
PT	4 827 318.69	4.4	4 110 265.34	5.3	559	9.5
SE	342 612.46	0.3	378 618.00	0.5	54	0.9
UK	933 662.89	0.9	521 517.59	0.7	64	1.1
Article 43(1) and (3)	616 524.89	0.6	311 880.34	0.4	24	0.4
ES	49 389.39	0.0	–	–	16	0.3

EMFF Article/ MS	Total EMFF committed by Managing Authority (EUR) (Infosys, 31/12/2020)	EMFF committed per Article of total %	Total eligible EMFF expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the Managing Authority (EUR)	EMFF spent per Article of total	Number of operations	Number of operations per Article of total %
PT	553 026.53	0.5	311 880.34	0.4	5	0.1
UK	14 108.97	0.0	–	–	3	0.1
Article 47	141 564.44	0.1	49.59	0.0	2	0.0
ES	141 564.44	0.1	49.59	0.0	2	0.0
Article 48(1)(a-d;f-h)	21 025.02	0.0	-	–	2	0.0
PT	21 025.02	0.0	-	–	2	0.0
Article 55	6 696 955.68	6.2	5 343 414.70	6.9	315	5.3
BG	877 938.44	0.8	356 152.00	0.5	66	1.1
CY	1 575 000.00	1.4	886 941.62	1.2	14	0.2
EE	198 114.22	0.2	198 114.22	0.3	7	0.1
ES	1 360 991.83	1.3	1 360 991.83	1.8	15	0.3
IE	584 587.86	0.5	501 149.50	0.7	138	2.3
LT	872 829.75	0.8	872 829.75	1.1	37	0.6
LV	49 666.79	0.0	49 666.79	0.1	3	0.1
NL	1 015 475.49	0.9	1 011 600.75	1.3	19	0.3
UK	162 351.30	0.1	105 968.24	0.1	16	0.3
Article 66	624 621.47	0.6	622 083.88	0.8	7	0.1
ES	624 621.47	0.6	622 083.88	0.8	7	0.1
Article 67	3 189 677.25	2.9	3 189 677.25	4.1	1	0.0
ES	3 189 677.25	2.9	3 189 677.25	4.1	1	0.0
Article 68	67 835.08	0.1	13 512.68	0.0	4	0.1
ES	67 835.08	0.1	13 512.68	0.0	4	0.1
Article 69	16 280 082.19	15.0	14 885 131.93	19.3	163	2.8
BG	613 176.19	0.6	306 397.00	0.4	20	0.3
EE	562 455.74	0.5	562 455.74	0.7	12	0.2
ES	63 533.96	0.1	–	–	7	0.1
LV	583 654.25	0.5	583 654.25	0.8	4	0.1
PL	13 989 356.23	12.9	13 386 359.19	17.4	88	1.5
PT	467 905.82	0.4	46 265.75	0.1	32	0.5
Total	108 663 782.45	100.0	76 985 524.92	100.0	5 913	100.0

Source: Infosys 2020

3.2.12 EMFF common result indicators, status quo

Like all the other European Structural and Investment Funds (ESI Funds), the EMFF takes a reinforced result-oriented approach. To achieve this, a Common Monitoring and Evaluation System (CMES) for the EMFF has been introduced, comprising context, result and output indicators, as well as a reinforced intervention logic, milestones and target values.

Data on EMFF result indicators is available from both Infosys reports and AIRs. Both reporting streams have their benefits and constraints. However, Infosys has one significant

advantage: reporting is done at the level of a single operation. That provides the opportunity to implement several measures for data quality control. As a consequence, in this section FAME provides analysis of EMFF result indicators based on Infosys reports (Annex 6). Result indicators reported in the AIRs are presented in Annex 7.

EMFF result indicators are unusual among the ESI Funds in measuring the gross direct effects of EMFF interventions at the beneficiary level. Such granularity demands diligence and precision in collecting and inserting data into Infosys at the level of individual operations. On the positive side, it offers programme managers, evaluators and policymakers wide-ranging potential to identify promptly what works and at what cost.

The period 2014-2020 was the first time that common result indicators were used on this scale (EFF 2007-2013 did not use common result indicators). Experience showed that this was a challenging task, especially when aggregating the values of result indicators at MS or EU level, due to a number of formal errors and plausibility issues.²⁵

To improve RI data quality, the current version of the FAME Infosys validation tool has a total of 20 specific queries – one for each RI – plus one general query applying to all RIs (assessing the gap between ex-ante and ex-post values). Specific queries for single RIs compare costs and achievements. The logic implies that it takes a certain amount of investment to create one unit of result. Queries are designed to flag outliers using benchmarks established at the EU level. Plausibility issues flagged by the validation tool are reported to the MS in question. However, it is often challenging for the MA and/or intermediate body (IB) to rectify the situation, as this may require the reported values to be verified with each beneficiary.

The number of plausibility issues decreases each reporting year. However, the errors and plausibility issues that remain can reduce the accuracy of the interpretation of RI data when making detailed analysis.

The entire list of the EMFF common result indicators is found in Annex 6 (Infosys data) and Annex 7 (AIR data).

In this report FAME provides the following analysis related to RIs:

- comparison of reported ex-ante and ex-post values of result indicators;
- description of RI use per UP and SO.

The first step in the analysis is to compare the ex-ante and ex-post RI values. We looked at the relation between the RI values forecast by beneficiaries before the implementation of the operation (ex-ante) and the results actually achieved (ex-post). FAME selected all Infosys entries with values in both ex-ante and ex-post fields and compared the absolute deviation between them (Table 24).

It can be observed that RI data reported in Infosys include a number of entries with a large difference between ex-ante and ex-post values. It can be assumed that at least some of the reported RI values are implausible, in cases where the ex-post value exceeds the ex-ante value by more than 200%. Most of these errors are considered to be of the formal type, such

²⁵ Some examples of formal errors are: use of the national currency where EUR is required; values reported in EUR where “thousand EUR” is required; values reported in kg where tonnes are required; duplication of RI values; missing values; wrong or missing codes (implementation data or result indicator codes); multiple use of codes where only one entry is required, etc.

as using the national currency where EUR is required, reporting in EUR where “thousand EUR” is required, or reporting in kg where tonnes are required. A part of these differences may also relate to imprudent planning, unforeseen events during the implementation, or small numbers (for example, ex-ante: one FTE maintained; ex-post: three FTE maintained).

In 828 occurrences, over-performance of up to twice the ex-ante value is reported. 1 018 cases report over-performance of less than 200%, most of which could be considered plausible.

Table 24: RI values: Ex-post values as a percentage of ex-ante values

Ex-post values as percentage of ex-ante values	Number of occurrences
More than 200% (possibly a reporting error)	828
From 100% to 200% (overperformance)	1 018
100% (ex-post and ex-ante values are the same)	13 512
Less than 100% (underperformance)	3 304
Ex-ante and ex-post values are zero (maintained status quo; compulsory common RI not applicable to the operation)	86 320
Ex-ante value is non-zero, ex-post value is zero (possibly results are not yet reported)	7 318
Ex-ante value is zero, ex-post value is non-zero) (possibly unexpected results were achieved)	3 141
Total	115 441

Source: Infosys 2020

The relatively high number (13 512) of occurrences where ex-post and ex-ante RI values are exactly the same should be viewed with caution. It means that ex-ante forecasts of results to be delivered were extremely precise. In cases where a supported project falls into a wider entrepreneurship activity there may be some degree of subjectivity on which part of the achievement is directly related to the EMFF support.

Underperformance is observed in 3 304 cases.

The biggest group of observations (86 320 in total) relate to cases where both ex-ante and ex-post RI values are zero. In the case of an indicator measuring, for example, work-related injuries and accidents, this may simply mean preserving the status quo. In other cases it may indicate that preserving the current employment or volume of production was the best that could be achieved in a negative economic environment. It may also indicate that the applicability of an RI to a particular measure is limited.

In 7 318 occurrences, an ex-ante value other than zero is reported and the ex-post value is zero. This can be explained at least partially by assuming that not all operations have yet collected RI data after implementation.

In 3 141 cases the ex-ante value is zero and a non-zero ex-post value is reported. Such a case can be either a mistake, or an admission by the beneficiaries that they achieved unexpected results following the implementation.

The second step of RI analysis concentrates on selected RIs for which the data reported have the least issues related to their plausibility. The analysis is based on the table of EMFF common result indicators provided in Annex 4.

- **UP1 result indicators**

RI 1(4)(a,b) “Change in unwanted catches” as well as RI 1(6) “Change in the % of unbalanced fleets” likely have issues with reporting of negative and positive values. The data quality is also influenced by an additional layer of complexity related to the calculation of percentages. Several RIs under SO4 (Change in the value of production; Change in net profits) seem to suffer from frequent errors; common error types are wrong reporting units. Another RI, “Change in the volume of production”, reports 61.4 million tonnes, which corresponds to 108% of the target value. Other SO4 RIs – Employment created and Employment maintained – report fulfilment of targets at 45% and 130% respectively. However, there are often cases where the values reported go beyond the direct impact of EMFF support.

Three RIs reported under SO5 and representing such measures as innovation, partnership between fishermen and scientists, and energy efficiency, report only limited achievement of targets regarding volume (11%) and net profits (12%). For the RI “Change in the value of production” there are obvious reporting errors (presumably because of incorrect reporting units) – here a value of EUR 212 million is reported, corresponding to 847% of the target value.

For measures under SO6 (training, networking, and trainees on board SSCF vessels) the RI measuring employment maintained reports 71% of targets as already achieved, while achievement of targets for employment created is comparable at 76%.

- **UP2 result indicators**

Under SO1 for measures related to innovation and advisory services, two RIs (Change in volume and value of production and Change in net profit) report values corresponding to just 1–3% of their targets.

Under SO2 (measures: “Productive investments in aquaculture” and “Support to new aquaculture farmers”) the reported change in the volume of aquaculture production thanks to EMFF support was 181.2 million tonnes, corresponding to 63% of the target value. The other two RIs (change in value of aquaculture production and change in net profit) under this SO are most likely erroneous (presumably due to wrong reporting units). Employment created and employment maintained are at 38% and 44% of their respective target values.

RIs under SO3 (covering measures related to energy and resource efficiency, increasing potential of aquaculture sites as well as eco-management and organic aquaculture) show strong growth in organic aquaculture (425% of the target value), but this value is likely erroneous. The RI for recirculation systems reports moderate (40%) achievement of the target. However, targets for employment indicators are fulfilled only at the 7% level.

Under SO4 (aquaculture farms providing environmental services, public and animal health measures and aquaculture stock insurance) the RIs for volume and value report low achievement. For the RI “Aquaculture farms providing environmental services”, on the other hand, 53% of the target value is reported.

Under SO5 (the only article under this SO that relates to promoting human capital and networking) there are two RIs: employment created and employment maintained. It seems that operations implemented under this SO had limited impact on employment indicators,

with 13 new jobs created (3% of the target value) and 631 job maintained (30% of the target value).

- **UP3 result indicators**

UP3 has two SOs and related RIs: 3(b)(1) “Increase in the percentage of fulfilment of data calls” and 3(a)(1) “Number of serious infringements detected”. Note that reporting on these indicators involve additional complexity, as they require supplementary data to be calculated and cannot always be provided by individual beneficiaries.

- **UP4 result indicators**

UP4 has only one SO, with measures related to local development strategies. According to the reported values, 1 641 jobs were created (58% of the target value), 7 843 jobs were maintained (93% of the target), and 458 businesses were created (82% of the target).

- **UP5 result indicators**

UP5 has two SOs: one relates to improvement of market organisation and the other to investments in processing and marketing. Both SOs have the same RIs, which are designed to demonstrate the change in volume and value of first sales, both within and outside producer organisations. Compared to other RIs, the values of the UP5 RIs have more exposure to external factors such as price volatility. Reporting on these RIs is therefore challenging, and the values are often erroneous. Most of the errors are due to the wrong measurement units, but it can be assumed that there are further distortions because the RIs include results that go beyond the direct impact of EMFF-supported operations. As a result, the reported values of these RIs should be approached with vigilance.

- **UP6 result indicators**

UP6 is the smallest UP in terms of EMFF allocation and it has only one SO: “Development and implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy”. As with the UP3 indicators, reporting on UP6 indicators involves additional complexity, as it requires supplementary data to be calculated and cannot always be answered by individual beneficiaries. The data quality is also influenced by an additional layer of complexity related to the calculation of percentages. As a result, caution is advised when looking at the reported values of RI 6(1) “Increase in the Common Information Sharing Environment (CISE) for the surveillance of the EU maritime domain”, RI 6(2)(a) “Change in the coverage of Natura 2000 areas designated under the Birds and Habitats directives” and RI 6(2)(b) “Change in the coverage of other spatial protection measures under Article 13(4) of the Directive 2008/56/EC”.

3.2.13 EMFF programme-specific result indicators

EMFF intervention logic defines rigid links between measures, specific objectives and result indicators. Most MSs have therefore found it necessary to introduce programme-specific RIs into their OPs to fill gaps perceived to exist when measuring results only with common result indicators, even though the names of the programme-specific RIs are often similar to those of common RIs. The most common programme-specific RIs relate to employment.

Data related to programme-specific indicators cannot be aggregated at the EU level. These data are therefore reported in the AIRs, whereas Infosys reporting captures only common RIs.

In total, 17 MSs provided at least a target value for 112 different programme-specific RIs in their AIRs. ES listed the highest number of programme-specific indicators (20), followed by PL (16) and HU (12).

The use of programme-specific RIs is not necessarily a better way to measure the performance of a programme: for 44 of the 112 programme-specific RIs, for instance, the reported cumulative value was zero. For 29 programme-specific RIs the target value was either achieved or over-achieved (with at least some of those over-achievements suggesting issues of erroneous metrics).

The complete table of all EMFF programme-specific RIs can be found in Annex 9.

4 Issues affecting the performance of the programme and corrective measures taken (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013)

4.1 Issues affecting performance

The purpose of this section is to summarise issues highlighted by MSs in AIR section 4.2.

In contrast to previous years, most 2020 AIRs mentioned one common issue affecting performance: the coronavirus crisis. Besides having multiple negative effects, the crisis appears also to have led to some positive outcomes. In particular, continued progress in the absorption of EMFF funding was partially due to the COVID-19 mitigation measures provided by the European Parliament and the Council in the form of several compensation schemes.²⁶ Overall, EUR 108.7 million in EMFF funding (or around 13% of the total 2020 commitment) was committed in 5 913 operations to mitigate the impact of coronavirus (Table 23). In addition, the development of “e-based” solutions progressed as steps were taken to reduce administrative burdens. Moreover, the pandemic did not affect all MSs in the same way. In Ireland, for example, according to the information provided in the AIR the pandemic had minimal impact on investment and EMFF funding, since demand for grants was strong across the range of support schemes.

Most MSs in their 2020 AIRs referred to challenges due to coronavirus. In particular, they underlined the fact that the pandemic led to delays in the implementation of projects that had already been approved, as well as causing operations to be scaled back, delayed or even withdrawn. Beneficiaries had to deal with a drop in landing values; challenges importing and exporting goods and raw materials; changing attitudes of banks towards financing the fisheries sector; higher costs due to restrictive measures; reduced turnover; and changed sales channels. In addition, delays in construction work and limited availability of raw materials were contributing factors. Several types of activities were directly impacted by sanitary restrictions, notably in-person events such as seminars, training sessions and trade fairs.

Besides the impact of COVID-19, several other hindering factors were also mentioned. In particular, implementation of OPs was affected by the complexity of national legislation; by Brexit; by reorganisation of national administrations; by the ban on fishing for cod in the eastern Baltic Sea; and by the exhaustion of available funding. Introduction of EU policies like Farm to Fork, Blue Economy and Good Environmental Standards was also mentioned as adding complexity to EMFF implementation.

A non-exhaustive list of issues mentioned by MSs is:

Coronavirus-related issues:

- delays to several research projects (NL);
- falling demand, prices and sales volume (NL, PL);
- closure of tourism and catering businesses (LV);
- slower implementation of some projects due to late delivery of supplies, particularly those which relied on foreign production; and due to the postponement of physical/personal contact components such as seminars etc. (MT);

²⁶ Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1027 of 14 July 2020 on amending Implementing Regulations (EU) No. 771/2014, (EU) No. 1242/2014 and (EU) No. 1243/2014 as regards the implementation and monitoring of specific measures to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak in the fishery and aquaculture sector

- challenges for applicants to submit the requested documentation on time; this related primarily to difficulties in getting quotations from foreign suppliers operating on a reduced working schedule (MT, SI).

Other issues:

- dependence on the implementation of significant investment projects over which MAs had no control (BE, CY);
- complexity of monitoring output and result indicators (BE);
- complicated application process for beneficiaries due to complex public procurement procedures (BG, EL, PT);
- need to obtain private funding for project implementation (BG, RO);
- insufficient interaction between producers and processors (BG);
- restriction of fishing days due to environmental conditions in the Black Sea (BG);
- late start of the programme implementation (CZ);
- delays due to the multi-fund nature of CLLD, with the need to involve many other stakeholders in parallel (EL);
- administrative reorganisations (PL);
- low interest of local public authorities in fishing port infrastructure, taking into account the fact that only modernisation of existing infrastructure (and not the creation of new ports) is eligible (RO);
- cod fishing moratorium in the Baltic Sea affecting investment needs of the companies concerned as well as reducing attractiveness of innovation projects for gear development (SE, LV, LT);
- national emergency measure: a ban on fishing herring, sprat and flounder in two subdivisions of the Baltic Sea (LV);
- the overall costs of projects and investments have increased compared to the expected costs from the previous programme period (SE);
- long processing times for project applications and payment requests (SE);
- lack of EMFF funding for some measures and lack of national co-financing for other measures (SE, DE, IE);
- exit from EU (UK);
- different procedures applied by the different IBs (Regions) hinder operational coordination between FLAGs (IT);
- fragmented structure of EMFF measures defined by the EU regulation limits prompt action by the MA to address current challenges in the sector (LV);
- breakdown of EMFF funding into six separate “envelopes”, with redistribution not allowed, prevents full use of the available EMFF support; for example, the sector’s needs for “Storage aid” are higher than the allocated funding, while funding for “Control and enforcement” significantly exceeds needs (LV);
- many common result indicators are not relevant, do not demonstrate the true contribution of the OP, and should take a value of zero, since they cannot be obtained or measured in the way defined by guidelines developed at EU level (LV);
- no demand for operations under EMFF Article 53 (conversion to organic aquaculture) due to the unattractive funding conditions: support is only granted for the actual conversion period, which is relatively short, especially in trout production, while in contrast there is a five-year commitment period (DE);
- insufficient administrative capacity and high turnover of MA and IB employees (SK);
- projects are not economically viable (SK);

- insufficient number of professional evaluators and qualified experts (SK).

4.2 Corrective measures taken

The purpose of this section is to summarise issues highlighted by MSs in AIR section 4.2

To tackle issues affecting performance MSs applied a wide array of solutions. The most common solutions were to modify operational programmes and re-allocate funding within the programmes; introduce compensation measures to mitigate the impact of COVID-19; extend project implementation deadlines; modify project selection criteria; and switch to web-based solutions for administering OP implementation. MSs also continued to invest in simplified administration and focused on absorbing all the EMFF funding available.

A non-exhaustive list of corrective measures applied by MSs is:

- new measures to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 (ES, PL, EE, CY, LV);
- extended deadlines for submission of applications and delivery of results (EL, ES, PL, DK, PT, HU, HR);
- closer examination of applications in order to avoid later withdrawals (ES);
- digitalising the processes used to instruct and communicate with beneficiaries (FR, PL, MT);
- faster payments to strengthen the liquidity of companies; payment requests can now be submitted before beneficiaries have paid invoices from their suppliers (PT);
- intensified methodological support for CLLD (BG, CY);
- increasing awareness among potential applicants (BG, CZ);
- administrative adaptations and simplifications (CZ, PL, PT, SI) ;
- improved tracking and execution of payment requests (FR, NL, RO);
- higher ceiling for bank loan guarantees to facilitate access to funding (RO);
- outsourcing the implementation of investment measures (RO);
- facilitating simple investments in aquaculture equipment (RO);
- introduction of retroactive planning related to calls for proposals (IT);
- amendments to national laws and regulations (LV);
- reallocation of budget from another federal state to close a funding gap (DE);
- reallocation of funds between FLAGs (DE);
- hiring new MA staff and providing training to staff (SK, HR);
- hiring an external advisor for permits and consents required for applications (SI).

5 Information on serious infringements and remedy actions (Article 114(2) of Regulation (EU) No. 508/2014)

OP implementations are at the mature stage, with more than 70% of the total EMFF funding already committed and more than 40% declared by beneficiaries. However, the number of MSs reporting that they have detected serious infringements remains low, as does the number of individual infringements. We can conclude that MSs have established well-functioning detection and reporting systems to protect the system from ineligible beneficiaries.

Information presented in this AIR section varies significantly between MSs in terms of the level of detail provided. Examples of measures taken to detect infringements as described in section 5 of the AIR are presented below.

BG reports that all detecting and reporting systems are in place and in full compliance with national regulations. BG has created a separate manual of procedures and nominated two experts to combat irregularities and fraud; in addition, there are established reporting lines to specialised structures that combat irregularities. Each applicant under the UPI measures is checked in relation to IUU fishing irregularities.

In **CZ** beneficiaries must provide a declaration of honour that they have not committed serious infringements. Various measures have been introduced to prevent and identify infringements or fraud, including guidelines on fraud prevention and annual reports on fraud assessment.

The **ES** MA introduced an action protocol and a requirement for potential beneficiaries to present a signed statement ensuring that the requirements of Article 10 of the EMFF Regulation are fulfilled. Before approving operations, IBs have to verify these declarations by various means. If necessary, operators have to give IBs their written permission for the use of personal information up to five years from the payment date.

For serious infringements the IB consults a national register of serious infractions and other relevant sources of information. Vessels are checked in the IUU database. For environmental crimes the Central Register of Vessels Convicted will be consulted. For cases of criminal fraud, the National Subsidies Database (BDNS) is also consulted. Out of 14 429 aid applicants in 2020 only 118 had a serious infringement, which represents 0.82% of all applications. In 2020, all EMFF funding was withdrawn from nine applications, totalling EUR 444 801.53, on grounds of infringement.

FI noted that a previously pending infringement case that was appealed in an administrative court had been resolved in 2020. The administrative court confirmed that the applicant was guilty of serious misconduct. During the programming period, seven decisions were made establishing that previous suspicions of serious violations were unjustified.

FR verifies beneficiaries at two levels. First, the MA checks the declaration of conformity provided by each beneficiary. Second, specific checks are made for fishing offences (Article 10 of the EMFF Regulation), environmental infringements, and fraud committed within the framework of the EEF or the EMFF. In 2020, two cases were detected in relation to Article 10.

PL administers fines for violations of sea fishing regulations. An electronic register of serious infringements has been created and this information is published. In 2020, one serious violation of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) was found.

SE administrative authorities check that the applicant or beneficiary has not been convicted of fraud or environmental crime (the latter only for aquaculture applications) and is not subject to a claim for repayment of EMFF aid. They also check for an association with vessels involved in illegal fishing within the last two years, and – for vessel owners and fishing licence holders – whether the applicant has received a decision on a serious infringement during the previous 12 months.

DK implemented a new protocol in 2020 for eligibility checking of new applications. This includes an IT system that automatically checks all new cases and can be used to review existing projects. In 2020 the MA reviewed projects from June 2016 to June 2019 and allocated points in 66 cases of infringements.

LV established the Latvian Fisheries Integrated Control and Information System (LFICIS) to ensure the application of Regulation (EC) No.1224/2009. LFICIS includes information on fishing inspections carried out, infringements found and penalties imposed.

In **DE**, comprehensive fraud prevention measures are anchored in the management and control systems. The preventive measures include both on-site and administrative checks on applicants prior to approval and during project implementation. Procedures are regularly reviewed and optimised. The security and fraud prevention standards applied are at the highest level and the IT systems are regularly audited and certified.

In **IE**, the Sea Fisheries Protection Authority maintains a National Register of Infringements (NRI) containing the information required under Article 10(1)(a) of the EMFF Regulation. The NRI allows each application to be checked by an IB for admissibility under Article 10. Separately, as required by Article 10(5), applicants are required to declare that none of the criteria specified in Article 10(1) apply to them, or if they do, to specify details of their infringements, convictions etc.

6 Information on the actions taken to ensure the publication of beneficiaries (Article 114(2) of Regulation (EU) No. 508/2014)

All MSs reported having made the list of supported beneficiaries available on a dedicated website.

Other information describing wider publicity measures provided in this AIR section includes:

- **BG** says it provides information on beneficiaries in real time via the ISUN 2020 e-system. BG also noted that ten large-scale informational campaigns were organised with fisheries associations and representatives of fisheries and the aquaculture sector. Information on upcoming calls for proposals is distributed on the website of the Ministry and on a unified information portal used for all ESI Funds.
- **EL** also provides the list of projects as a spreadsheet and in CSV format, allowing the data to be easily classified, searched, exported and compared.
- **FI** maintains a comprehensive list of actions for the current and previous programming periods on its publication platform, and updates this monthly.
- The **PL** MA in 2020 carried out activities that allow it to update a wide variety of stakeholders – including potential beneficiaries, professional organisations, economic and social partners, organisations promoting gender equality, environmental groups and other interested non-governmental organisations – about the opportunities offered by the programme and the rules for applicants. The list of operations implemented under the OP are published on the website of the MA.
- **IT** has a dedicated site in both Italian and English where information regarding beneficiaries is published. Information on OPs can be found on a variety of social media channels (Instagram, Twitter, Facebook and YouTube).
- **MT** states that information on available open calls for applications can additionally be accessed on mobile devices via a dedicated app.
- **IE** mentions that information and publicity actions in 2020 were severely curtailed by the pandemic. All major events that were to be the focus of Information and publicity actions were cancelled.

Several MSs (AT, CZ, FR, IE, PL, SI) noted restrictions in GDPR or national legislation on publishing the names of physical persons.

7 Activities in relation to the evaluation plan and synthesis of the evaluations (Article 114(2)) of Regulation (EU) No. 508/2014, Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) NO 1303/2013)

CFP Article 50(2) stipulates that the AIR should provide a synthesis of the findings of all evaluations of the OP that have become available during the previous financial year.

It has to be noted that information presented in this AIR section varies significantly amongst the MSs in terms of the level of detail provided. Several MSs provided information on evaluations completed before 2020 and evaluations planned for 2021 and later. Several activities described in this AIR section can be attributed more to monitoring than to evaluation. In some cases audit activities are also reported.

There follows a non-exhaustive compilation of evaluation findings and recommendations for selected MSs:

- **AT**

The interim evaluation included the obligatory topics of assessing the values of the result indicators and output indicators, and progress towards the objectives of the programme. Based on the results of the interim evaluation, the third amendment of the OP was approved in 2019.

In addition, the Monitoring Committee checks the programme on an ongoing basis with regard to the development of key output and result indicators. The committee concluded that the result indicators used in the OP are progressing favourably and making a significant contribution to the main objective of the Austrian strategy, which is to increase production.

- **CZ**

CZ completed its interim evaluation in March 2019. The main recommendations already implemented or in progress are to: continue implementation of the OP communication strategy with an emphasis on the results of procedural evaluation; emphasise links between innovation activities and promotional campaigns; support the transfer of knowledge in aquaculture through events such as professional conferences; and reduce the administrative complexity of managing projects under the measure “Aquaculture providing environmental services”.

Several recommendations will be implemented in the new programming period 2021-2027: reduce administrative complexity and simplify forms; reorganise information for applicants and beneficiaries, and present it clearly in one place; create an efficient and permanent electronic system for collecting aquaculture data; strengthen support for projects aimed at innovation and modernisation in aquaculture enterprises and processing companies.

In preparation for the new programming period the CZ MA made an ex-ante assessment of the use of financial instruments in aquaculture. Taking into account the recommended funding amounts and the nature of potential projects, the use of financial instruments in aquaculture will not be a priority for the CZ MA. The project also included the development of SEA for the revised Multi-Annual National Strategic Plan for aquaculture and for the new OP Fisheries 2021-2027.

- **CY**

CY carried out several evaluations. The first process evaluation took place in 2018. It was followed by an evaluation of effectiveness and efficiency of the OP implementation at the level of Specific Objectives in 2019. In 2020, an evaluation of CLLD implementation concluded that it is important to involve local communities in strategy development in order to represent the interests of all stakeholders in the action plan. When it came to implementation, however, a mindset inherited from previous programming periods favoured traditional-style public infrastructure projects to the detriment of other approaches, notably soft actions aimed at the private sector. CY envisages another two evaluations in 2021: a second process evaluation and an evaluation of impact assessment at the level of UPs.

- **DE**

An interim evaluation of the OP was prepared in 2018 by external consultants and its results were briefly summarised in the AIR 2019.

The AIR also included two examples of evaluations of single operations under Article 54 (Aquaculture providing environmental services). The two operations in Saxony were monitored to check their effectiveness in terms of specific nature conservation objectives and the quality of implementation, in particular the requirements of Natura 2000, conservation of biodiversity and efficient use of funding. The main part of the studies can only take place at the end of the minimum five-year commitment period, after which their results will flow directly into optimising the measures addressing environmental services in the new funding period. Another evaluation dealt with the multi-fund approach applied in Saxony for the funding of FLAGs, with EAFRD as the lead fund. In a first opinion poll, the FLAGs highlighted their positive experience with the multi-fund approach.

- **DK**

DK refers to internal and external evaluations in relation to its calls for proposals. The DK AIR also mentions an evaluation completed in 2018, with a list of ten recommendations presented to the monitoring committee in 2019. Given the late stage of EMFF programme implementation, however, these recommendations will only be considered for the preparation and implementation of the 2021-2027 programme.

- **EE**

As part of its preparations for the new period, in 2020 the EE MA launched an ex-ante evaluation of the programme and a strategic environmental assessment. In the second half of 2021 an evaluation of the effectiveness and impact of the EMFF 2014-2020 OP will be launched in those UPs where budgets have been mostly used and most projects have been completed.

- **EL**

An external consultant evaluated the EL OP in relation to its performance framework, effectiveness and the efficiency. Launching calls for proposals and assessing project applications were judged to have been carried out more effectively than the processing of payment applications. The milestones of 2018 were achieved, but to facilitate reaching the 2023 targets it was suggested that funding should be re-allocated between UPs.

- **ES**

ES listed several relevant actions from its plan to improve OP implementation: contracting out work to external services specialising in EU regulations; optimising the verification, certification and audit process; and reducing the number of IBs from 37 to 27. Actions will also simplify the administrative burden (review of the regulatory base; SCO for indirect costs and personnel expenses; electronic processing for legal entities; advance payments; wider use of open calls; more human resources) with the aim of improving communications between the MA, IBs and beneficiaries. Also envisaged are improving employees' technical skills and reinforcing specialised knowledge; modifying the OP; improving the design of the result indicators; and adjusting deadlines and schedules.

- **FI**

The effectiveness of the FI OP is assessed by a team of experts at the Natural Resources Institute. The evaluation is carried out as an ongoing exercise in cooperation with fisheries managers, entrepreneurs and other stakeholders. The evaluation provides information on the current state of the fisheries sector.

An evaluation of LAGs in the fisheries sector was completed in 2020. The study found that LAGs added value through cross-sectoral cooperation and by diversifying the funding of fisheries projects. There is room for improvement in communication and group awareness.

The evaluators have been closely involved in the preparation of the new programming period, for instance in giving feedback on a new draft action programme and preparing the environmental impact assessment.

In addition, the evaluation team has been involved in generating information for the preparation of the Domestic Fish Promotion Programme. This programme is the guiding strategy for FI's whole fisheries management for 2021-2035 and will also influence the objectives of the new EMFAF programme.

The assessment team also studied the impact of coronavirus in the fisheries sector.

- **FR**

An assessment carried out at the end of 2018 was mainly devoted to analysing the programme in advance of a performance review. This analysis has led to the strategic reorientation necessary for the end of this programming period. The assessment included three main stages and blocks of activities: evaluating procedures; evaluating the performance of the programme in terms of efficiency and the efficiency of the measures implemented; and recommending OP modifications to adapt the intervention strategy to the mid-term programming needs. Likewise, more sustained support for EMFF actors was recommended in order to better optimise the end of programming, particularly for project leaders in relation to assistance with payment requests. A strengthening of the FLAG network to exchange good practices was also suggested.

- **HR**

A mid-term evaluation was conducted in 2019. This produced two main recommendations: first, to improve the monitoring of employment and net profit indicators, especially in the aquaculture sector, in such a way that achievement of the indicators can be directly linked to

support from the EMFF OP; and second, to further improve the landing control system and increase the percentage of controlled landings.

Recommendations also aimed to encourage additional networking of producers through producer organisations and creation of new Producer Organisations and interbranch organisations; to monitor and measure the concrete benefits that members get from their associations; and to encourage other forms of association and cooperation between entities in fisheries and aquaculture, for example through clusters or other interest groupings of economic entities large and small.

The evaluation suggested a subsidy for collecting marine litter (especially by trawlers). It advised paying more attention to measures and indicators related to environmental protection (UP2) and employment and territorial cohesion (UP4). The recommendations also included active communication with commercial banks to encourage adequate financial support for OP EMFF beneficiaries. Other proposals were to communicate with scientific research institutions to design research, development and innovation projects; and to organise workshops presenting examples of good practice in innovation projects by other EU member states comparable to Croatia.

Regarding CLLD evaluation the evaluation concluded that it is necessary to provide additional training to FLAGs on strategic planning, networking and creating partnerships, and project preparation and implementation, with reference to broader topics related to “blue growth” – the socio-economic development of local coastal communities. It suggested ongoing support to FLAGs in telling them about the importance of CLLD and the opportunities it offers to local community stakeholders; helping FLAGs to promote the OP in local communities; introducing an independent ex-ante evaluation of FLAGs to improve their quality and facilitate their adoption by the MA; and further encouraging cooperation and knowledge exchange among FLAGs and with other member states comparable to Croatia.

Several observations related to horizontal principles: holding information workshops to further promote horizontal principles and show users how to include these in their projects, as well as giving examples of Croatian good practice to other similar MSs. In addition, the evaluation suggested an obligation to include horizontal principles in procurement procedures for EMFF beneficiaries, for instance in green public procurement. It recommended using technical assistance more intensively in preparing for the future programming period, by funding baseline studies and assessments that will enable an even more ambitious approach to the use of EU funds and improvement of national development policy in this sector.

In 2021, HR plans to evaluate UP4 implementation with a focus on preparing and implementing CLLD strategies.

- **HU**

In HU, evaluations of the implementation of the programme were carried out by external experts functionally independent of the responsible authorities. The preparation of the 2020 assessment was greatly hampered by the COVID-19 pandemic as it was not possible to conduct the planned interviews with beneficiaries.

Within the framework of evaluating the performance measurement indicators and milestones for 2014-2020, examination of the individual indicators was completed and the achievability of the indicators and their related target values in 2023 was assessed. Based on an audit by

Hungary's Directorate General for Audit of European Funds, the MA developed an indicator definition list in 2020 and made it available to potential applicants.

- **IE**

The following evaluations have been undertaken to date in IE: Review of the FLAG Programme 2012-15 (February 2016); Cost Benefit Analysis of the Proposed Decommissioning Scheme (July 2016); Ex-Ante Assessment of the Use of Financial Instruments (June 2017); Evaluation of Lobster V-Notching Scheme (2018); Evaluation of Sustainable Fisheries Scheme (2019).

In 2020 Ireland carried out two evaluations addressing effectiveness and process respectively. The Effectiveness Evaluation focused on how well the EMFF programme was being implemented, with the key question being how effective EMFF measures have been in achieving the Specific Objectives and the targets set in the OP. This was carried out by evaluating each scheme against key evaluation questions. The Process Evaluation focused on the delivery mechanism of the EMFF OP 2014-2020. This evaluation assessed management structures and implementation methods, and evaluated the effectiveness and efficiency of the management and delivery system.

For the current programme, the main recommendations proposed in the final report were to continue to keep commitments under review and to reallocate funds from schemes that are unlikely to spend their full allocation to those where demand exists; clearly designated responsibilities should be put in place to capture data to determine RIs.

For the future programme, the main recommendations were: to streamline the number of interventions in the interests of efficiency, clarity, clear targeting (to increase uptake) to areas of need, minimising any potential for overlap; to improve programme management efficiency regarding the IT system; and to process more grants online. The MA should clearly detail and communicate the purpose for which technical assistance should be used; the MA should provide training at the outset of the programme; a new centralised communication strategy to promote awareness of the EMFAF in a coherent and consistent manner should be agreed and rolled out. Support should also be put in place to build capacity in some sectors where there is an ongoing need (economic drivers to support growth and competitiveness), or where uptake to date has been low. Such support should be within the scope of the regulations, for example covering networking, knowledge transfer and dissemination, to raise awareness and provide pathways to other beneficial interventions.

- **IT**

IT provided information on three evaluation documents: an update to the conditions of assessment; an evaluation that is currently ongoing; and an in-depth study titled "Gap analysis of the OP EMFF 2014-2020".

The paragraphs below summarise the main evidence that has emerged so far in the context of the ongoing evaluation of the OP. The analysis and implementation data confirm that the strategy identified by the OP and the expected interventions and results meet the needs identified through the SWOT analysis. Italy has an extensive EMFF programme, not only with reference to the number of measures activated, but also and above all in the territorial and sectoral context. The interventions apply to both fishing and aquaculture, both inland and at sea; they are almost always oriented towards environmental sustainability with no difference being an investment or a compensation measures. Continuous attention should be

given to funding commitments, but most importantly to the progress of interventions and the subsequent payments to beneficiaries. It was concluded that compared to productive investments in aquaculture, investments relating to increased energy efficiency and renewable energy proved less appealing to the beneficiaries.

The evaluation recommended that appropriate strategies are put in place to encourage fishers, aquaculturists and their associations to invest in these fields, not least because that can encourage young people to enter or remain in the sector.

Support for innovation activities appears to be crucial. Fishing must be able to innovate, pursuing objectives linked to enhancement of products and the sustainable management of fishing operations. Innovation is also needed in the roles and reputations of the fishers themselves, who should be seen as providers of environmental services to the community.

Support for innovation is essential to the aquaculture sector. First comes the need to characterise aquaculture from a nutritional and environmental point of view, to overcome the belief of many consumers that farmed fish are of lesser quality or sustainability than wild fish. Second is the support needed for research on technologically advanced production systems, which require significant initial investments. A third vector is the need for interaction between operators and scientists for the conservation and restoration of extensive aquaculture systems to ensure the maintenance of environment that is often unique and also threatened.

It was also noted that the absence of a shared and technically robust system for calculating income compensation to aquaculture producers has blocked the possibility of activating the corresponding measures in the OP.

The evaluation recommended creating conditions under which interventions can support supply chain processes that promote local products. This could involve introducing and strengthening selection criteria favouring those beneficiaries and processors who work only or mainly with local products.

Another observation related to monitoring of the OP implementation, taking into account that the information comes from 20 implementing bodies. To ensure high quality the evaluation recommended strengthening the checking and interpretation of the existing data rather than increasing the frequency of data collection. It is particularly important to have an efficient data management system right from the start of the 2021-2027 programme.

- **LV**

LV gave details of a study on updating the compensation methodology for environmental measures in aquaculture under the 2021-2027 programme. As a result, both the environmental requirements for aquaculture enterprises and the methodology used to calculate support rates were updated.

LV also assessed the role of fisheries in the circular economy and the bioeconomy, including opportunities for fisheries that use the principles of the circular economy to act as a resource for the bioeconomy. Recommendations for evaluation indicators related to both economies were also analysed.

LV also completed the EMFAF Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the new 2021-2027 programming period. It was concluded that implementing the programme will have a generally positive impact on the environment.

- **LT**

LT mentions ongoing evaluations carried out by the MA and intermediate body with regard to the achievement of indicators set in the OP. Another type of internal evaluation is quarterly reports setting out financial progress, achievement of indicators and any problems. An external OP evaluation was carried out in 2019.

- **MT**

MT carried out evaluations in line with the plan adopted in March 2016. The interim evaluation for Malta's OP was conducted by a third-party consulting firm, with the MA assuming a coordination role. A summary of the outcomes and recommendations was presented in the AIR 2019.

- **NL**

NL provided information on the annual EMFF evaluation meeting held in 2021. This meeting examined to what extent the Aquaculture Innovation Scheme implemented under Article 47 of the EMFF Regulation has contributed to the policy objectives for this measure. Based on the results of completed projects it was concluded that all the projects aim to improve sustainability and efficiency. These factors go hand in hand, since improved sustainability will often lead to higher returns. It was also concluded that lack of a clear definition of sustainability complicates the classification of projects.

- **PL**

PL noted that the evaluation confirmed the good performance of the management system, which efficiently handles applications and monitors OP implementation. However, the length of the application procedure was identified as a problem.

For the future, the evaluation suggested introducing financial instruments to increase the activity of beneficiaries by combining grants with repayable instruments. In addition, the use of simplified costs was recommended, as well as increasing the number of employees in institutions responsible for OP implementation and information activities.

- **PT**

The EMFF OP assessment plan is included in the Global Assessment Plan for Portugal. The following ongoing assessments were listed: evaluation of the implementation of the Pacts for Development and Territorial Cohesion and of CLLD; assessment of the contribution of PT 2020 to the Europe 2020 Strategy and the National Programme of Reforms; evaluation of the implementation of measures on adaptation to climate change; and the Portugal 2020 Macroeconomic Impact Assessment, which covers all five ESI funds.

- **RO**

RO provided information on the meeting of its working group to evaluate the implementation of the OP. This working group looked at the achievement of performance, result and financial indicators; trends in environmental indicators; and irregularities. RO listed several other issues where there is a room for improvement: delays in processing payments and reimbursing expenses; long periods between approval and signing of the contract; and short deadlines for the submission of technical projects.

- **SE**

SE published one evaluation in 2020: “The effects of support for selective gear and predator proof gear”. The evaluation analyses the effects of grants for selective and predator-safe tools through the Fisheries Programme 2007-2013 and the Marine and Fisheries Programmes 2014-2020. The analysis finds that the aid has probably had a certain positive effect in the crayfish fishery by reducing unwanted catches. However, no effects were found on selective shrimp trawling. The analysis finds that compared to aid in creating incentives to use selective tools in both crayfish and shrimp fishing, changes in legislation and regulations are likely to have played a greater role. The report also finds potential goal conflicts between EMFF performance indicators. Fuel efficiency and unwanted catches are both used as indicators in support for selective and predator-safe gear, yet research points to worsening of fuel efficiency in more selective fishing.

FAME provided a detailed overview of SE’s evaluations in the form of a case study in the previous EMFF implementation report covering the period 2014-2019.²⁷

- **SI**

The SI MA outsourced its ongoing evaluation of the EMFF OP to an external contractor to evaluate the level of achievement of the OP objectives, the performance and effectiveness and how the recommendations of the 2018 ongoing evaluation have been addressed.

As a result, the number of OP measures was reduced and the successful ones (especially CLLD) were further strengthened. On the basis of the mid-term evaluation the MA also re-allocated funding to measures where greater absorption capacity was observed.

- **UK**

In the UK the EMFF sponsorship body (DEFRA) conducted an evaluation of the implementation and early impact of the EMFF in 2019 (also referred to as the socio-economic evaluation of the EMFF). The report noted that the overall opinions of grant recipients were positive, but that the effectiveness of the delivery model at each UK Intermediate Body varies, partly because the situation faced by each is different.

There appears to be some geographical variation in the uptake of grants. South-west England has a considerable concentration of fishers and thus would be expected to have many grant applications. The existence of features to support grant uptake in this area (such as a credit union or an active facilitator service) means that awareness appears to be high and many fishers seek access to funding. In other areas such as the east of England there appear to be fewer grants. Whilst this could reflect the overall lower numbers of fishers, it could also indicate a lack of awareness of the programme. During the course of the fieldwork a large number of grant recipients commented that future access to grant schemes like the EMFF will be crucial to the long-term stability of UK fishing industries and the supporting infrastructure.

Other vital elements of successful programme implementation are: support to enable applicants to access schemes; funding to help applicants meet the upfront costs of their investments before receiving grants retrospectively; assistance with meeting requirements for match funding; sharing of ideas and best practice between FLAGs; review of eligibility

²⁷ European Commission – Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Unit D.3 (2020): FAME SU, EMFF implementation report 2019, Brussels. <http://www.bsec-bsvkc.org/Documents/Library/6d5093cbadc74f67bf14c125f5ae078b.pdf>

criteria to classify what types of investments are eligible, and particularly what type of investments would lead to an increase in fishing effort – improved guidance could help to minimise misunderstandings and frustrations; and avoiding gaps in funding between the EMFF and future scheme.

An evaluation of the environmental benefits delivered through the EMFF in England was commissioned by DEFRA and published in November 2019. In summary, the evaluation found that projects funded under the EMFF have been delivering environmental benefits and/or are likely to do so in the future. This includes reducing incidental mortality of commercial and non-commercial fish stocks, improving and connecting habitats, developing skills and knowledge (human capital), broadening participation in environmental decision-making (human and social capital), and improving energy efficiency. The evaluation also concluded that the EMFF result indicators were not that useful in selecting environmental projects due to their focus on flows (in natural capital terms), which downplays potential contributions to reducing pressures and enhancing assists.

Future evaluations of the EMFF will include an evaluation of EMFF results, expected to take place in 2022, and an evaluation of the UK FLAGs.

8 Citizen's summary (Article 50(9) of Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013)

Along with their AIRs, all MSs also submitted a citizens' summary – a short overview of the state of play of their OP implementation.

It is assumed that the Managing Authorities will publish their citizens' summaries following approval of the AIRs by DG MARE.

9 Report on the implementation of financial instruments (Article 46(1) of Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013)

In cases where an MA has decided to use financial instruments, it must send the Commission a specific report covering their operations as an annex to the AIR, using the template included in the implementing act adopted pursuant to Article 46(3) of Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013.

According to the information provided in the AIRs, only Estonia currently implements financial instruments within the framework of the EMFF under UP2 and UP5.

Under UP2, Estonia established investment loan fund for aquaculture production in the total amount of EUR 4 320 000 (including management fees). By the end of 2020 five payments had been made totalling EUR 2 020 419.32 (including management fees). The situation caused by COVID-19 necessitated an amendment to the OP, with part of the funds re-allocated to mitigate the impact of COVID-19. As a result, the total fund including management fees is now EUR 2 160 000.

Under UP5, EE has two types of financial instruments:

- A growth loan fund of EUR 3 456 000 (including management fees) for micro- and small enterprises in fish processing. As of the end of 2020, ten loan agreements have been concluded and five payments made, for a total of EUR 1 626 574.37.
- A long-term investment loan fund of EUR 4 320 000 (including management fees) for enterprises starting or dealing with fish processing. As of the end of 2020, seven loan agreements have been concluded and seven payments made, for a total of EUR 4 056 151.50.

Several other MSs provided information related to financial instruments in AIR sections 2 (Overview of the implementation of the OP) and 8 (Activities in relation to the evaluation plan):

- **BG's** MA plans to use simplified costs and financial instruments for a wide range of operations in the 2021-2027 period. A contract for an "Analysis and research of the possibilities regarding the implementation of the financial instruments in the next programming period" has already been concluded.
- **EL** noted that it had decided there is no need to activate financial instruments.
- **IE** completed ex-ante assessment of the use of financial instruments in June 2017. This study by Indecon International Economic Consultants was a joint exercise with the Rural Development Programme (RDP) Managing Authority and examined the case for market failures in relation to capital investments in aquaculture and seafood processing. It concluded that a financial instrument was warranted and should comprise a partial loan guarantee and an interest rate subsidy. However, it also advised that a financial instrument solely for the EMFF would not be viable, as it would be of insufficient scale to attract interest from the retail banks who would deliver it to customers. It therefore recommended a joint financial instrument for both the EMFF and the RDP. Following a public consultation on the ex-ante assessment, the Minister for Agriculture Food and the Marine directed that while a financial instrument would not be implemented for either programme over the 2014-20 period, the lessons learned from the ex-ante assessment would be considered in the design of

both programmes for the 2021-27 period, and that an update of the ex-ante assessment would be conducted at that time.

- **LT** completed an ex-ante evaluation of the use of financial instruments in 2018. Its conclusions envisaged that two measures would be the most appropriate for funding via a financial instrument: “Processing of fisheries and aquaculture products” and “Productive investments in aquaculture”. Taking into account the fact that the administration of financial instruments is quite complicated and expensive, it was suggested that an EMFF financial instrument should be combined with financial instruments implemented by other institutions. Unfortunately, due to the limited potential scope of financial instruments, there are currently no suitable mechanisms in place.
- **NL** noted that it has no developments in 2020 in financial instruments under the EMFF.
- **PL** considered introducing financial instruments for those activities that can demonstrate profitability, subject to ex-ante confirmation of the demand. A study initially confirmed some interest in financial instruments from market participants. Taking into account the fact that beneficiaries are used to subsidies, the study recommended that repayable instruments should be linked to grants – for instance, with repayable financing at the start of the project, followed by a subsidy to reimburse part of the expenditure as long as goals and indicators have been met. PL notes the need to avoid overlaps between financial instruments and subsidies in terms of geography, scope of support and type of beneficiary. Before this idea is implemented, the usefulness of financial instruments should be confirmed in areas or activities where they seem to be particularly justified (following the example of regional operational programmes).

Annex 1: EMFF contributions to policy objectives and specific topics

The EMFF Regulation ((EC) No. 508/2014) structures support by measures (EMFF articles). The EMFF intervention logic links EMFF articles to TOs, SOs and UPs.

To determine EMFF support for various policy objectives within the CFP, IMP and Europe 2020 strategy, and also for specific topics (for example SSCF, outermost regions, and innovation), links had to be established between the EMFF articles and these objectives and topics. These links are presented in the table below.

Polices	Objectives	EMFF Article 508/2014	UP
CFP objectives	CFP(2)2: Ensure that exploitation of living marine biological resources restores and maintains populations of harvested species above levels which can produce the maximum sustainable yield	37, 38 (partially), 39, 40(1)(a,b-g,h)	1
	CFP(2)3: Ensure that fisheries activities avoid the degradation of the marine environment	76	3
	CFP(2)4: Collection of scientific data	77 ²⁸	3
	CFP(2)5 a, b: Gradually eliminate discards, by avoiding and reducing unwanted catches, and by gradually ensuring that catches are landed; where necessary, make the best use of unwanted catches	38 (partially), 42, 43(2)	1
		68 (partially)	5
	CFP(2)5 c: Provide conditions for economically viable and competitive fishing capture and processing industry and land-based fishing-related activity	26, 27, 28, 30, 31, 35, 41(1)(a-c), 41(2), 43(1,3)	1
		62, 63, 64	4
		68 (partially), 69	5
	CFP(2)5 d: Adjust the fishing capacity of the fleets according to fishing opportunities	33, 34, 36	1
	CFP(2)5 e: Promote the development of sustainable aquaculture activities	47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57	2
	CFP(2)5 f: Contribute to a fair standard of living for those who depend on fishing activities	29, 32	1
		67, 70	5
CFP(2)5 g: Contribute to an efficient and transparent internal market for fisheries and aquaculture	66	5	
CFP(2)5 h: Take into account the interests of both consumers and producers	68 with Infosys codes 124-127 ²⁹	5	
IMP objectives	IMP 3.2.a: Development of the Common Information Sharing Environment for the Union maritime domain, in line with the principles of the Integrated Maritime Surveillance	80(1)(a)	6
	IMP 2.c: Promote the protection of the marine environment, in particular its biodiversity, and the sustainable use of marine and coastal resources	80(1)(b)	6

²⁸ EC 508/2014 Article 13(4): limited allocation possible.

²⁹ Infosys fields for types of operations: 124 – Transparency of production, 125 – Traceability and eco-labels, 126 – Standard contracts, 127 – Communication and promotional campaigns.

	IMP 3.2 c: Development of a comprehensive and publicly accessible high quality marine data and knowledge base	80(1)(c) ³⁰	6
EU 2020 objectives	TO3: Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)	26, 27, 28, 30, 31, 32, 33, 35, 40.1.h, 42, 43(1,3)	1
		47, 48(1)(a-d,f-h), 49, 51, 52, 55, 56, 57	2
		66, 67, 68, 69, 70	5
	TO4: Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	41(1)(a-c), 41(2)	1
		48(1)(k)	2
	TO6: Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency	34, 37, 38(1)(a), 40(1)(a,b-g,i), 43(2)	1
		48(1)(e,i,j), 53, 54	2
		77, 76	3
		80(1)	6
	TO8: Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility	29(1)(a,b), 29(2), 29(3)	1
50		2	
62(1)(a), 63, 64		4	
EC 508/2014 Article 5	508/2014 Article 5(a): Promoting competitive, environmentally sustainable, economically viable and socially responsible fisheries and aquaculture	UP1, 2, 5	1, 2, 5
	508/2014 Article 5(b): Fostering the implementation of the CFP	UP3	3
	508/2014 Article 5(c): Promoting a balanced and inclusive territorial development of fisheries and aquaculture areas	UP4	4
	508/2014 Article 5(d): Fostering the development and implementation of the Union's IMP in a manner complementary to cohesion policy and to the CFP	UP6	6
Specific topics	Small-scale coastal fisheries	26, 28, 29(1,2), 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 38, 39, 40(1)(a,b-g,h,i), 41(1)(a-c), 41(2), 42, 43(1), 43(3), 63, 69, 70, 76. All operations with fleet register number filtered by the size of vessel (<12m)	1,3,4,5
	Outermost regions	NUTS codes (outermost regions for ES, FR, PT)	
	Innovation	26, 28, 39, 47	1,2
	Landing obligation (narrow approach)	37, 38, 39, 68 – partially, based on Infosys codes relevant to LO 42, 43(2) – all operations	1,5

³⁰ EC 508/2014 Article 13(7): limited allocation possible.

	Landing obligation (broader approach)	37, 38, 39, 42, 43(2), 68 – partially, based on Infosys code relevant to LO	1,5
	Energy efficiency	41(1)(a-c), 41(2), 43(1,3), 48(1)(e,i,j), 48(1)(k), 53	1, 2
	Climate change adaptation	38(1)(c,d), 43(1,3), 43(2)	1
Horizontal principles	Gender equality and non-discrimination	29(1,2)	1
	Sustainability	26, 27, 29, 30, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41	1
		47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 57	2
		63	4
		68	5

Annex 2: EMFF implementation per Member State

EMFF implementation per Member State (Infosys)

MS	Total EMFF allocation (EUR) (OP, 2021)	Total EMFF committed by Managing Authority (EUR) (Infosys, 31/12/2020)	Commitment rate %	Total eligible EMFF expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the Managing Authority (EUR)	Absorption rate %	No of operations
AT	6 965 000	7 099 379	101.9	4 677 746	67.2	211
BE	41 746 051	37 448 852	89.7	19 111 527	45.8	281
BG	80 823 727	71 629 765	88.6	26 450 718	32.7	453
CY	39 715 209	33 391 128	84.1	15 920 533	40.1	1 071
CZ	31 108 015	27 240 994	87.6	14 649 706	47.1	907
DE	219 596 276	163 053 659	74.3	116 498 861	53.1	2 959
DK	208 355 420	178 315 041	85.6	104 304 139	50.1	2 172
EE	100 970 418	82 611 336	81.8	52 565 880	52.1	1 392
EL	388 777 914	287 900 156	74.1	88 665 539	22.8	2 338
ES	1 111 628 369	579 267 985	52.1	413 601 915	37.2	11 590
FI	74 393 168	68 583 974	92.2	52 516 079	70.6	2 372
FR	587 980 173	387 657 407	65.9	239 519 307	40.7	4 182
HR	252 643 138	173 859 608	68.8	98 300 837	38.9	3 198
HU	38 412 223	29 356 331	76.4	13 137 099	34.2	199
IE	147 601 979	130 793 490	88.6	113 006 310	76.6	2 738
IT	537 262 559	356 238 359	66.3	193 624 252	36.0	11 527
LT	63 432 222	40 472 317	63.8	25 027 277	39.5	578
LV	139 833 742	114 259 169	81.7	60 921 312	43.6	910
MT	22 627 422	19 661 933	86.9	13 483 706	59.6	61
NL	101 523 244	88 477 043	87.1	45 945 609	45.3	520
PL	531 219 456	414 913 757	78.1	223 123 987	42.0	9 136
PT	392 485 464	338 064 115	86.1	175 501 544	44.7	5 354
RO	168 421 371	142 542 918	84.6	45 809 330	27.2	500
SE	120 156 004	88 429 231	73.6	66 962 284	55.7	897
SI	22 920 126	13 681 854	59.7	6 153 119	26.8	143
SK	12 953 025	4 128 064	31.9	1 114 122	8.6	35
UK	243 139 437	197 344 994	81.2	136 503 199	56.1	2 688
Total	5 686 691 152	4 076 422 857	71.7	2 367 095 937	41.6	68 412

Source: Infosys 2020

EMFF implementation per Member State (AIR)

MS	Total EMFF allocation (EUR) (AIR, 2020)	Total EMFF committed by Managing Authority (EUR) (Infosys, 31/12/2020)	Commitment rate %	Total eligible EMFF expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the Managing Authority (EUR)	Absorption rate %	No of operations
AT	6 965 000	7 061 986	101.4	4 653 617	66.8	178
BE	41 746 051	37 211 333	89.1	18 938 617	45.4	282
BG	80 823 727	53 998 175	66.8	26 059 381	32.2	388
CY	39 715 209	33 352 188	84.0	15 965 494	40.2	1 096
CZ	31 108 015	26 737 010	85.9	14 430 441	46.4	907
DE	219 596 276	158 745 836	72.3	113 108 356	51.5	2 607
DK	208 355 420	176 488 515	84.7	101 432 526	48.7	2 161
EE	100 970 418	86 180 687	85.4	54 804 563	54.3	1 404
EL	1 089 301 383	570 904 311	52.4	405 978 517	37.3	12 022
ES	74 393 168	69 682 957	93.7	49 591 357	66.7	2 372
FI	587 980 173	387 673 551	65.9	240 678 959	40.9	4 239
FR	381 688 668	288 964 318	75.7	88 678 280	23.2	2 338
HR	252 643 138	180 382 231	71.4	100 002 064	39.6	1 286
HU	38 412 223	26 975 113	70.2	13 137 099	34.2	199
IE	147 601 979	130 245 206	88.2	113 022 475	76.6	2 738
IT	537 262 559	369 852 174	68.8	211 127 067	39.3	11 506
LT	63 432 222	39 439 255	62.2	24 167 427	38.1	543
LV	139 833 742	114 168 367	81.6	60 798 639	43.5	910
MT	22 627 422	19 903 181	88.0	11 175 045	49.4	35
NL	101 523 244	88 422 213	87.1	45 913 366	45.2	499
PL	531 219 456	390 638 603	73.5	222 172 029	41.8	9 136
PT	392 485 464	350 701 838	89.4	182 067 664	46.4	5 127
RO	168 421 371	128 988 330	76.6	67 734 521	40.2	464
SE	120 156 004	97 874 291	81.5	62 679 160	52.2	890
SI	22 227 139	13 171 133	59.3	6 201 212	27.9	135
SK	11 812 818	3 944 314	33.4	1 170 741	9.9	34
UK	284 777 057	238 867 193	83.9	160 086 129	56.2	2 909
Total	5 697 079 346	4 090 574 310	71.8	2 415 774 749	42.4	66 405

Source: AIR 2020 reports

Annex 3: EMFF implementation per measure

EMFF implementation per measure (Infosys)

EMFF Article	Total EMFF allocation (EUR) (AIR, 2020)	Total EMFF committed by Managing Authority (EUR) (Infosys, 31/12/2020)	Commitment rate %	Total eligible EMFF expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the Managing Authority (EUR)	Absorption rate %	No of operations
Article 26	57 247 843	41 149 608	71.9	12 566 210	22.0	288
Article 27	9 168 537	5 186 400	56.6	3 779 931	41.2	51
Article 28	51 895 371	44 724 651	86.2	13 753 600	26.5	167
Article 29(1)(2)	24 538 306	14 354 406	58.5	10 066 586	41.0	680
Article 29(3)	6 216 536	22 654	0.4	19 189	0.3	8
Article 30	27 637 203	7 079 963	25.6	3 085 519	11.2	247
Article 31	15 051 104	7 364 978	48.9	6 466 817	43.0	249
Article 32	57 299 884	35 356 525	61.7	23 971 909	41.8	2 616
Article 33	233 524 588	150 328 541	64.4	119 883 108	51.3	23 239
Article 34	89 558 208	102 199 559	114.1	75 384 206	84.2	1 702
Article 35	642 946		-		-	
Article 36	8 922 749	7 352 902	82.4	3 331 061	37.3	17
Article 37	35 626 816	25 612 175	71.9	18 209 012	51.1	290
Article 38	31 762 228	20 061 641	63.2	15 216 609	47.9	1 364
Article 39	50 754 844	30 430 544	60.0	9 170 776	18.1	167
Article 40(1)(a)	49 408 427	17 596 686	35.6	11 924 362	24.1	341
Article 40(1)(b-g,i)	205 839 555	172 671 860	83.9	80 366 687	39.0	2 446
Article 40(1)(h)	10 805 289	3 604 239	33.4	2 917 285	27.0	1 800
Article 41(1)(a)-(c)	23 401 627	9 869 819	42.2	6 778 568	29.0	750
Article 41(2)	11 116 524	2 354 789	21.2	1 764 004	15.9	534
Article 42	80 310 028	50 607 937	63.0	29 742 442	37.0	2 213
Article 43(1,3)	379 709 694	312 735 458	82.4	129 932 174	34.2	1 043
Article 43(2)	32 094 890	18 059 668	56.3	13 051 006	40.7	54
Article 47	153 216 991	112 934 364	73.7	33 272 785	21.7	470
Article 48(1)(a-d; f-h)	586 716 546	440 121 866	75.0	203 400 188	34.7	4 988
Article 48(1)(e),(i),(j)	62 712 017	42 293 364	67.4	18 977 423	30.3	217
Article 48(1)(k)	33 405 411	4 700 951	14.1	1 799 333	5.4	155
Article 49	21 970 133	9 911 223	45.1	4 147 329	18.9	98
Article 50	15 966 676	6 478 330	40.6	3 544 011	22.2	133
Article 51	29 277 013	12 665 119	43.3	3 830 752	13.1	63
Article 52	17 998 314	11 741 370	65.2	2 583 103	14.4	78
Article 53	3 347 533	9 000	0.3		-	1
Article 54	100 234 234	86 425 773	86.2	76 558 578	76.4	1 749
Article 55	57 661 017	8 288 451	14.4	5 573 325	9.7	353

Article 56	30 206 587	15 260 221	50.5	8 349 468	27.6	184
Article 57	11 977 750	3 955 953	33.0	3 125 655	26.1	73
Article 62(1)(a)	5 629 897	5 342 070	94.9	4 443 237	78.9	254
Article 63 CLLD	516 342 082	353 656 911	68.5	155 651 124	30.1	8 107
Article 64	25 719 840	5 320 213	20.7	3 143 156	12.2	305
Article 66	115 025 414	58 127 082	50.5	49 636 235	43.2	473
Article 67	36 791 825	14 595 307	39.7	12 945 471	35.2	58
Article 68	167 335 472	114 100 783	68.2	67 270 180	40.2	1 749
Article 69	567 197 665	404 235 948	71.3	239 218 196	42.2	2 359
Article 70	192 500 000	124 496 358	64.7	110 968 211	57.6	3 537
Article 76	543 607 331	439 603 352	80.9	247 987 746	45.6	783
Article 77	550 286 898	482 075 393	87.6	378 606 018	68.8	230
Article 78	286 529 073	185 627 882	64.8	117 162 162	40.9	1 499
Article 80(1)(a)	19 490 226	16 987 992	87.2	4 446 228	22.8	33
Article 80(1)(b)	16 877 915	11 450 686	67.8	4 316 979	25.6	72
Article 80(1)(c)	36 522 291	27 291 892	74.7	14 757 985	40.4	125
Total	5 697 079 346	4 076 422 857	71.6	2 367 095 937	41.5	68 412

Source: AIR/Infosys2020

EMFF implementation per measure (AIR)

EMFF Article	Total EMFF allocation (EUR) (AIR, 2020)	Total EMFF committed by Managing Authority (EUR) (AIR, 31/12/2020)	Commitment rate (%)	Total eligible EMFF expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the Managing Authority (EUR)	Absorption rate (%)	Number of operations
Article 26	57 247 843	40 773 173	71.2	12 750 020	22.3	275
Article 27	9 168 537	5 216 400	56.9	3 762 732	41.0	51
Article 28	51 895 371	44 758 264	86.2	13 685 976	26.4	163
Article 29(1)(2)	24 538 306	14 557 473	59.3	10 075 697	41.1	679
Article 29(3)	6 216 536	22 654	0.4	19 189	0.3	8
Article 30	27 637 203	6 763 356	24.5	3 075 630	11.1	247
Article 31	15 051 104	7 367 320	48.9	6 497 055	43.2	248
Article 32	57 299 884	35 054 010	61.2	24 412 118	42.6	2 593
Article 33	233 524 588	153 285 648	65.6	125 973 131	53.9	22 180
Article 34	89 558 208	101 693 396	113.6	80 955 698	90.4	1 702
Article 35	642 946	–	0.0	–	0.0	–
Article 36	8 922 749	7 440 167	83.4	3 329 394	37.3	17
Article 37	35 626 816	26 175 795	73.5	18 470 071	51.8	290
Article 38	31 762 228	19 132 301	60.2	14 200 194	44.7	1 357
Article 39	50 754 844	30 682 932	60.5	8 973 143	17.7	161
Article 40(1)(a)	49 408 427	28 990 024	58.7	15 785 607	31.9	473
Article 40(1)(b-g,i)	205 839 555	157 297 021	76.4	74 435 418	36.2	2 274
Article 40(1)(h)	10 805 289	3 613 298	33.4	2 972 972	27.5	1 798

Article 41(1)(a)-(c)	23 401 627	9 758 423	41.7	6 856 781	29.3	738
Article 41(2)	11 116 524	2 334 197	21.0	1 744 080	15.7	526
Article 42	80 310 028	49 997 558	62.3	29 490 035	36.7	2 214
Article 43(1,3)	379 709 694	308 862 684	81.3	130 219 178	34.3	1 027
Article 43(2)	32 094 890	15 537 837	48.4	11 945 376	37.2	47
Article 47	153 216 991	112 120 258	73.2	33 545 462	21.9	451
Article 48(1)(a-d; f-h)	586 716 546	419 713 239	71.5	211 686 905	36.1	4 914
Article 48(1)(e),(i),(j)	62 712 017	40 359 335	64.4	19 181 479	30.6	213
Article 48(1)(k)	33 405 411	4 462 996	13.4	1 789 995	5.4	150
Article 49	21 970 133	13 595 347	61.9	4 133 029	18.8	102
Article 50	15 966 676	6 501 440	40.7	3 534 851	22.1	132
Article 51	29 277 013	11 943 792	40.8	3 827 751	13.1	61
Article 52	17 998 314	10 584 900	58.8	2 669 114	14.8	72
Article 53	3 347 533	9 000	0.3		0.0	1
Article 54	100 234 234	84 224 585	84.0	77 444 164	77.3	1 382
Article 55	57 661 017	6 828 665	11.8	3 946 525	6.8	316
Article 56	30 206 587	15 932 486	52.7	8 012 279	26.5	184
Article 57	11 977 750	3 915 814	32.7	2 775 261	23.2	73
Article 62(1)(a)	5 629 897	5 264 458	93.5	5 056 766	89.8	253
Article 63 CLLD	516 342 082	351 905 761	68.2	169 765 256	32.9	8 090
Article 64	25 719 840	5 042 824	19.6	2 814 327	10.9	271
Article 66	115 025 414	57 821 775	50.3	49 702 668	43.2	406
Article 67	36 791 825	14 595 307	39.7	12 945 471	35.2	45
Article 68	167 335 472	120 082 615	71.8	72 127 652	43.1	1 770
Article 69	567 197 665	416 599 991	73.4	254 435 192	44.9	2 464
Article 70	192 500 000	125 578 752	65.2	110 968 211	57.6	3 308
Article 76	543 607 331	430 933 394	79.3	231 178 501	42.5	683
Article 77	550 286 898	494 922 294	89.9	383 160 299	69.6	208
Article 78	286 529 073	209 999 197	73.3	127 337 237	44.4	1 547
Article 80(1)(a)	19 490 226	16 547 283	84.9	4 776 701	24.5	31
Article 80(1)(b)	16 877 915	14 192 915	84.1	4 700 490	27.8	94
Article 80(1)(c)	36 522 291	27 581 955	75.5	14 629 670	40.1	116
Total	5 697 079 346	4 090 574 310	71.8	2 415 774 749	42.4	66 405

Source: AIR 2020 reports.

Annex 4: Top five measures per MS according to the EMFF amount committed

MS/Top 5 EMFF measures	Total EMFF committed by Managing Authority (EUR) (Infosys, 31/12/2019)	Total eligible EMFF expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the Managing Authority (EUR)	Number of operations
AT			
Article 48(1)(a) to (d) and (f) to (h)	3 655 057	2 321 190	134
Article 69	1 142 975	775 107	38
Article 77	780 289	628 121	6
Article 76	495 000	289 596	1
Article 48(1)(e) and (i) and (j)	425 750	258 815	6
Other	600 307	404 916	26
Total	7 099 379	4 677 746	211
TOP 5 measures total	6 499 071	4 272 830	185
TOP 5 / Total	91.5%	91.3%	87.7%
EMFF OP allocation	6 965 000		
Total number of measures	11		
BE			
Article 77	8 756 490	4 648 090	2
Article 76	5 798 098	2 263 392	3
Article 32	5 155 865	2 336 650	61
Article 40(1)(b) to (g) and (i)	3 803 967	2 002 689	12
Article 69	2 703 436	2 039 800	27
Other	11 230 996	5 820 906	176
Total	37 448 852	19 111 527	281
TOP 5 measures total	26 217 856	13 290 621	105
TOP 5 / Total	70.0%	69.5%	37.4%
EMFF OP allocation	41 746 051		
Total number of measures	23		
BG			
Article 63 CLLD	17 978 210	1 672 198	43
Article 43(1) and (3)	9 507 794	3 937 080	6
Article 69	8 979 613	4 852 727	52
Article 48(1)(a) to (d) and (f) to (h)	8 597 314	3 890 783	72
Article 52	6 308 751	982 530	26
Other	20 258 083	11 115 400	254
Total	71 629 765	26 450 718	453
TOP 5 measures total	51 371 682	15 335 318	199
TOP 5 / Total	71.7%	58.0%	43.9%
EMFF OP allocation	80 823 727		
Total number of measures	23		
CY			
Article 43(1) and (3)	6 016 270	1 767 423	8
Article 63 CLLD	5 004 871	1 702 600	30
Article 76	4 885 444	1 872 341	46

Article 77	3 872 695	2 922 140	2
Article 40(1)(b) to (g) and (i)	3 531 662	1 334 822	28
Other	10 080 186	6 321 206	957
Total	33 391 128	15 920 533	1 071
TOP 5 measures total	23 310 941	9 599 327	114
TOP 5 / Total	69.8%	60.3%	10.6%
EMFF OP allocation	39 715 209		
Total number of measures	20		
CZ			
Article 48(1)(a) to (d) and (f) to (h)	17 172 504	9 941 866	656
Article 48(1)(e) and (i) and (j)	3 134 107	2 314 663	30
Article 69	1 822 133	736 939	63
Article 68	1 428 095	214 043	50
Article 78	1 310 740	448 320	48
Other	2 373 414	993 875	60
Total	27 240 994	14 649 706	907
TOP 5 measures total	24 867 580	13 655 831	847
TOP 5 / Total	91.3%	93.2%	93.4%
EMFF OP allocation	31 108 015		
Total number of measures	10		
DE			
Article 77	37 195 778	31 676 392	2
Article 76	21 745 546	19 575 439	46
Article 48(1)(a) to (d) and (f) to (h)	16 380 200	9 793 350	591
Article 63 CLLD	14 061 118	8 263 355	139
Article 54	13 626 017	11 067 149	616
Other	60 045 000	36 123 175	1 565
Total	163 053 659	116 498 861	2 959
TOP 5 measures total	103 008 659	80 375 686	1 394
TOP 5 / Total	63.2%	69.0%	47.1%
EMFF OP allocation	219 596 276		
Total number of measures	36		
DK			
Article 40(1)(b) to (g) and (i)	43 297 839	15 847 561	1 125
Article 77	39 722 143	33 264 665	21
Article 76	30 862 973	14 880 946	137
Article 78	9 759 329	9 305 060	75
Article 48(1)(a) to (d) and (f) to (h)	8 998 753	6 715 424	38
Other	45 674 004	24 290 483	776
Total	178 315 041	104 304 139	2 172
TOP 5 measures total	132 641 037	80 013 656	1 396
TOP 5 / Total	74.4%	76.7%	64.3%
EMFF OP allocation	208 355 420		
Total number of measures	23		
EE			
Article 63 CLLD	17 705 519	12 361 954	852

Article 69	17 389 335	13 513 322	80
Article 77	6 298 758	4 599 109	5
Article 76	6 200 863	2 942 090	26
Article 78	5 475 228	3 556 599	18
Other	29 541 633	15 592 806	411
Total	82 611 336	52 565 880	1 392
TOP 5 measures total	53 069 703	36 973 074	981
TOP 5 / Total	64.2%	70.3%	70.5%
EMFF OP allocation	100 970 418		
Total number of measures	24		
EL			
Article 48(1)(a) to (d) and (f) to (h)	50 366 833	19 594 938	154
Article 43(1) and (3)	45 651 445	8 862 312	24
Article 76	44 924 484	964 028	8
Article 69	36 064 610	9 321 809	66
Article 77	20 344 288	14 028 591	1
Other	90 548 496	35 893 861	2 085
Total	287 900 156	88 665 539	2 338
TOP 5 measures total	197 351 660	52 771 677	253
TOP 5 / Total	68.5%	59.5%	10.8%
EMFF OP allocation	388 777 914		
Total number of measures	20		
ES			
Article 69	89 577 360	53 163 644	589
Article 63 CLLD	66 158 053	37 404 779	1 471
Article 77	59 858 877	58 722 397	22
Article 76	55 116 274	41 777 397	122
Article 40(1)(b) to (g) and (i)	51 658 117	32 762 135	572
Other	256 899 303	189 771 563	8 814
Total	579 267 985	413 601 915	11 590
TOP 5 measures total	322 368 682	223 830 352	2 776
TOP 5 / Total	55.7%	54.1%	24.0%
EMFF OP allocation	1 111 628 369		
Total number of measures	41		
FI			
Article 76	15 240 820	13 471 142	19
Article 77	14 071 480	14 071 480	1
Article 48(1)(a) to (d) and (f) to (h)	7 650 535	4 591 337	182
Article 63 CLLD	3 921 071	2 623 440	275
Article 43(1) and (3)	3 517 140	2 069 947	78
Other	24 182 927	15 688 734	1 817
Total	68 583 974	52 516 079	2 372
TOP 5 measures total	44 401 046	36 827 345	555
TOP 5 / Total	64.7%	70.1%	23.4%
EMFF OP allocation	74 393 168		
Total number of measures	30		

FR			
Article 77	77 156 295	50 060 154	44
Article 70	50 185 574	47 549 648	593
Article 48(1)(a) to (d) and (f) to (h)	43 810 214	30 125 181	894
Article 76	31 475 427	16 168 375	60
Article 69	25 172 391	17 479 025	159
Other	159 857 506	78 136 923	2 432
Total	387 657 407	239 519 307	4 182
TOP 5 measures total	227 799 901	161 382 384	1 750
TOP 5 / Total	58.8%	67.4%	41.8%
EMFF OP allocation	587 980 173		
Total number of measures	35		
HR			
Article 76	27 302 173	11 212 438	4
Article 63 CLLD	21 079 002	2 317 142	98
Article 69	18 930 203	13 976 831	59
Article 33	15 503 352	14 911 929	2 176
Article 48(1)(a) to (d) and (f) to (h)	14 170 809	10 473 921	72
Other	76 874 070	45 408 576	789
Total	173 859 608	98 300 837	3 198
TOP 5 measures total	96 985 538	52 892 261	2 409
TOP 5 / Total	55.8%	53.8%	75.3%
EMFF OP allocation	252 643 138		
Total number of measures	26		
HU			
Article 48(1)(a) to (d) and (f) to (h)	7 356 514	3 458 655	77
Article 69	5 284 413	1 302 266	12
Article 47	4 550 048	1 221 587	5
Article 52	2 721 391	159 762	8
Article 54	2 535 404	2 178 336	78
Other	6 908 560	4 816 494	19
Total	29 356 331	13 137 099	199
TOP 5 measures total	22 447 770	8 320 605	180
TOP 5 / Total	76.5%	63.3%	90.5%
EMFF OP allocation	38 412 223		
Total number of measures	11		
IE			
Article 77	32 557 058	32 558 492	2
Article 76	31 275 881	27 821 032	26
Article 43(1) and (3)	7 578 830	7 531 336	4
Article 69	5 827 355	4 938 195	110
Article 68	5 737 124	4 371 609	66
Other	47 817 242	35 785 647	2 530
Total	130 793 490	113 006 310	2 738
TOP 5 measures total	82 976 248	77 220 663	208
TOP 5 / Total	63.4%	68.3%	7.6%

EMFF OP allocation	147 601 979		
Total number of measures	33		
IT			
Article 34	52 194 529	27 465 477	351
Article 77	46 717 934	37 742 064	6
Article 69	38 376 060	22 640 655	292
Article 76	31 778 408	23 298 722	2
Article 48(1)(a) to (d) and (f) to (h)	27 182 759	13 513 544	385
Other	159 988 669	68 963 789	10 491
Total	356 238 359	193 624 252	11 527
TOP 5 measures total	196 249 691	124 660 463	1 036
TOP 5 / Total	55.1%	64.4%	9.0%
EMFF OP allocation	537 262 559		
Total number of measures	42		
LT			
Article 48(1)(a) to (d) and (f) to (h)	5 788 425	2 684 137	36
Article 54	4 881 893	4 192 529	18
Article 76	4 307 654	2 943 515	3
Article 69	4 256 105	3 001 378	19
Article 63 CLLD	3 968 426	1 748 855	65
Other	17 269 815	10 456 863	437
Total	40 472 317	25 027 277	578
TOP 5 measures total	23 202 503	14 570 414	141
TOP 5 / Total	57.3%	58.2%	24.4%
EMFF OP allocation	63 432 222		
Total number of measures	24		
LV			
Article 43(1) and (3)	21 324 886	10 472 902	32
Article 69	17 154 595	6 745 141	95
Article 48(1)(a) to (d) and (f) to (h)	14 659 050	4 081 389	44
Article 63 CLLD	12 836 163	6 744 749	235
Article 42	9 208 911	6 365 184	19
Other	39 075 564	26 511 947	485
Total	114 259 169	60 921 312	910
TOP 5 measures total	75 183 605	34 409 365	425
TOP 5 / Total	65.8%	56.5%	46.7%
EMFF OP allocation	139 833 742		
Total number of measures	37		
MT			
Article 43(1) and (3)	7 554 737	6 297 373	5
Article 77	3 968 470	2 415 725	3
Article 76	3 604 546	1 732 182	9
Article 80(1)(c)	1 368 750	1 200 000	1
Article 78	1 300 415	830 359	6
Other	1 865 015	1 008 066	37
Total	19 661 933	13 483 706	61

TOP 5 measures total	17 796 918	12 475 640	24
TOP 5 / Total	90.5%	92.5%	39.3%
EMFF OP allocation	22 627 422		
Total number of measures	13		
NL			
Article 77	25 600 000	10 056 900	2
Article 76	21 597 202	15 039 707	15
Article 28	15 801 987	4 760 580	23
Article 78	4 980 000	4 980 000	1
Article 47	4 729 482	1 474 442	15
Other	15 768 372	9 633 981	464
Total	88 477 043	45 945 609	520
TOP 5 measures total	72 708 671	36 311 629	56
TOP 5 / Total	82.2%	79.0%	10.8%
EMFF OP allocation	101 523 244		
Total number of measures	16		
PL			
Article 63 CLLD	58 496 694	34 950 236	2 037
Article 33	50 345 908	43 986 685	3 849
Article 43(1) and (3)	48 281 637	30 160	10
Article 48(1)(a) to (d) and (f) to (h)	41 425 312	15 474 516	425
Article 54	36 434 223	36 479 121	911
Other	179 929 982	92 203 269	1 904
Total	414 913 757	223 123 987	9 136
TOP 5 measures total	234 983 775	130 920 717	7 232
TOP 5 / Total	56.6%	58.7%	79.2%
EMFF OP allocation	531 219 456		
Total number of measures	34		
PT			
Article 69	65 193 809	37 030 776	112
Article 43(1) and (3)	46 133 503	25 511 716	109
Article 70	39 510 784	36 341 654	2 943
Article 48(1)(a) to (d) and (f) to (h)	38 050 427	15 297 851	91
Article 77	21 062 246	8 858 022	12
Other	128 113 346	52 461 526	2 087
Total	338 064 115	175 501 544	5 354
TOP 5 measures total	209 950 770	123 040 018	3 267
TOP 5 / Total	62.1%	70.1%	61.0%
EMFF OP allocation	392 485 464		
Total number of measures	30		
RO			
Article 48(1)(a) to (d) and (f) to (h)	60 989 369	7 520 933	110
Article 63 CLLD	30 529 099	3 511 219	250
Article 54	18 092 407	17 310 591	45
Article 78	11 502 439	7 884 038	10
Article 69	8 580 134	4 212 107	21

Other	12 849 471	5 370 443	64
Total	142 542 918	45 809 330	500
TOP 5 measures total	129 693 447	40 438 887	436
TOP 5 / Total	91.0%	88.3%	87.2%
EMFF OP allocation	168 421 371		
Total number of measures	16		
SE			
Article 76	21 702 205	20 800 778	98
Article 77	19 809 354	21 289 270	30
Article 63 CLLD	6 682 422	3 519 587	165
Article 40(1)(b) to (g) and (i)	5 519 214	1 635 870	23
Article 69	3 194 329	2 825 831	56
Other	31 521 707	16 890 948	525
Total	88 429 231	66 962 284	897
TOP 5 measures total	56 907 524	50 071 336	372
TOP 5 / Total	64.4%	74.8%	41.5%
EMFF OP allocation	120 156 004		
Total number of measures	32		
SI			
Article 63 CLLD	4 520 653	1 985 406	58
Article 78	1 984 730	1 096 305	7
Article 43(1) and (3)	1 800 000		1
Article 76	1 702 836	561 998	10
Article 77	1 041 059	1 041 058	5
Other	2 632 576	1 468 352	62
Total	13 681 854	6 153 119	143
TOP 5 measures total	11 049 277	4 684 768	81
TOP 5 / Total	80.8%	76.1%	56.6%
EMFF OP allocation	22 920 126		
Total number of measures	17		
SK			
Article 48(1)(a) to (d) and (f) to (h)	2 486 993	320 901	16
Article 68	643 227	586 608	2
Article 78	445 313	206 612	13
Article 48(1)(e) and (i) and (j)	417 367		2
Article 76	114 405		1
Other	20 760		1
Total	4 128 064	1 114 122	35
TOP 5 measures total	4 107 304	1 114 122	34
TOP 5 / Total	99.5%	100.0%	97.1%
EMFF OP allocation	12 953 025		
Total number of measures	6		
UK			
Article 77	36 082 285	30 297 704	30
Article 76	33 968 975	13 497 861	40
Article 43(1) and (3)	19 912 595	16 723 931	126

Article 69	16 742 445	13 231 839	148
Article 63 CLLD	10 815 723	7 759 773	377
Other	79 822 971	54 992 091	1 967
Total	197 344 994	136 503 199	2 688
TOP 5 measures total	117 522 023	81 511 108	721
TOP 5 / Total	59.6%	59.7%	26.8%
EMFF OP allocation	243 139 437		
Total number of measures	41		

Annex 5: Types of operations per selected article

Article 38: Limiting the impact of fishing on the marine environment and adapting fishing to the protection of species

Type of investment	Total EMFF committed by Managing Authority (EUR) (Infosys, 31/12/2020)	Total eligible EMFF expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the Managing Authority (EUR)	Number of operations
Selectivity of gear	10 442 964.55	7 771 986.74	748
Reduce discards or deal with unwanted catches	4 587 628.73	3 549 407.71	263
Protecting gears and catches from mammals and birds	3 247 201.33	2 598 697.80	262
Eliminating impacts on ecosystem and sea bed	1 766 062.59	1 285 160.44	90
Fish aggregating device in outermost regions	17 784.00	11 356.25	1
Total	20 061 641.20	15 216 608.94	1 364

Article 40(1)(b-g,i): Protection and restoration of marine biodiversity

Type of operation	Total EMFF committed by Managing Authority (EUR) (Infosys, 31/12/2020)	Total eligible EMFF expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the Managing Authority (EUR)	Number of operations
Other actions enhancing biodiversity	64 562 681.83	25 015 028.83	1 244
Management of resources	57 684 470.09	28 336 094.17	867
Management of MPAs	22 733 435.05	15 834 813.74	42
Investment in facilities	9 068 545.10	4 260 036.87	112
Management of Natura 2000	8 743 093.83	4 473 697.44	71
Management plans for Natura 2000 and SPA	6 776 195.95	1 285 323.30	60
Increasing awareness	3 103 438.55	1 161 692.48	50
Total	172 671 860.40	80 366 686.83	2 446

Article 41(2): Energy efficiency and mitigation of climate change

Type of operation	Total EMFF committed by Managing Authority (EUR) (Infosys, 31/12/2020)	Total eligible EMFF expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the Managing Authority (EUR)	Number of operations
Replacement of engine	1 686 131.38	1 197 252.99	427
Studies	583 147.93	495 274.70	65
Modernisation	85 509.58	71 476.23	42
Total	2 354 788.90	1 764 003.92	534

Article 48(1)(a-d,f-h): Productive investments in aquaculture

Type of investment	Total EMFF committed by Managing Authority (EUR) (Infosys, 31/12/2020)	Total eligible EMFF expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the Managing Authority (EUR)	Number of operations
Productive	258 331 399.01	115 428 410.39	2 187
Modernisation	131 331 382.86	61 403 377.81	2 048
Quality of products	20 639 518.41	13 289 480.85	324
Diversification	9 613 227.04	4 872 842.46	122
Complementary activities	9 027 409.92	2 337 917.81	74
Restoration	5 546 801.82	3 429 521.43	93
Animal health	5 354 105.61	2 571 146.51	138
Water usage and quality	278 021.54	67 490.90	2
Total	440 121 866.21	203 400 188.16	4 988

Article 48(1)(e,i,j): Productive investments in aquaculture – resource efficiency

Type of investment	Total EMFF committed by Managing Authority (EUR) (Infosys, 31/12/2020)	Total eligible EMFF expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the Managing Authority (EUR)	Number of operations
Closed systems	25 389 020.50	7 924 166.16	107
Environmental and resources	10 693 380.30	7 108 501.71	73
Water usage and quality	6 210 963.45	3 944 754.74	37
Total	42 293 364.25	18 977 422.61	217

Article 54: Aquaculture providing environmental services

Type of operation	Total EMFF committed by Managing Authority (EUR) (Infosys, 31/12/2020)	Total eligible EMFF expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the Managing Authority (EUR)	Number of operations
Aquaculture operations including conservation and improvement of environment and biodiversity	54 006 271.83	49 754 018.93	1 388
Aquaculture in Natura 2000 areas	31 551 531.29	26 006 354.44	340
Ex-situ conservation and reproduction	867 969.43	798 205.00	21
Total	86 425 772.55	76 558 578.37	1 749

Article 63: Implementation of local development strategies

Type of operation	Total EMFF committed by Managing Authority (EUR) (Infosys, 31/12/2020)	Total eligible EMFF expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the Managing Authority (EUR)	Number of operations
Adding value	92 272 856.02	40 676 531.40	2 194
Running costs and animation	77 549 634.82	26 533 260.48	419
Diversification	76 015 944.74	35 497 272.68	2 075
Socio-cultural	72 193 249.06	37 082 091.04	2 506
Environment	26 929 964.07	12 181 876.00	720
Governance	8 695 262.53	3 680 092.19	193
Total	353 656 911.24	155 651 123.79	8 107

Article 68: Marketing measures

Type of operation	Total EMFF committed by Managing Authority (EUR) (Infosys, 31/12/2020)	Total eligible EMFF expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the Managing Authority (EUR)	Number of operations
Communication and promotional campaigns	45 134 665.03	26 787 911.63	605
Find new markets and improve marketing conditions (focus on species with marketing potential)	38 258 901.83	25 417 441.07	678
Promoting quality and value-added (focus on direct marketing)	8 679 378.19	5 380 888.47	189
Promoting quality and value-added (focus on certification and promotion sustainable products)	8 528 664.23	3 406 248.24	87
Find new markets and improve marketing conditions (focus on products with low impact or organic products)	3 182 925.99	534 849.94	34
Find new markets and improve marketing conditions (focus on unwanted catches)	2 886 106.55	1 082 633.03	23
Promoting quality and value-added (focus on packaging)	1 521 417.13	961 460.87	21
Transparency of production	1 404 670.10	707 092.32	21
Traceability and eco-labels	1 336 538.43	1 045 738.54	37
Standard contracts	1 229 862.42	944 059.92	11
Create Producers Organisations, association or inter-branch organisations	1 021 567.49	824 421.83	17
Promoting quality and value-added (focus on quality schemes)	916 086.01	177 434.61	26
Total	114 100 783.40	67 270 180.47	1 749

Article 69: Processing of fisheries and aquaculture products

Type of operation	Total EMFF committed by Managing Authority (EUR) (Infosys, 31/12/2020)	Total eligible EMFF expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the Managing Authority (EUR)	Number of operations
New or improved products, processes or management system	250 791 084.50	142 872 169.06	1 384
Improve safety, hygiene, health, working conditions	81 212 574.21	45 805 365.96	501
Energy saving or reducing impact on the environment	39 282 626.66	23 932 778.17	333
processing of organic aquaculture products	12 589 391.74	9 126 576.64	76
Processing by-products	11 774 320.94	9 105 302.33	50
Processing catches not for human consumption	8 585 949.52	8 376 003.68	15
Total	404 235 947.57	239 218 195.84	2 359

Article 76: Control and enforcement

Type of operation	Total EMFF committed by Managing Authority (EUR) (Infosys, 31/12/2020)	Total eligible EMFF expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the Managing Authority (EUR)	Number of operations
Purchase, installation and development of technology	115 060 511.89	62 334 127.46	170
Purchase of other control means	77 791 553.71	44 279 866.98	127
Operational costs	77 666 700.27	59 407 542.64	50
Modernisation and purchase of patrol vessels, aircrafts and helicopters	76 840 333.81	16 521 656.24	68
Development, purchase and installation of the components to ensure data transmission	30 491 865.06	17 331 166.04	127
Implementation of programmes for exchanging and analysing data	23 437 218.70	20 860 695.11	22
Implementation of an action plan	16 842 796.88	13 040 242.76	17
Development, purchase and installation of the components necessary to ensure traceability	9 044 942.17	7 064 045.86	99
Development of innovative control and monitoring systems and pilot projects	6 384 233.41	3 835 996.74	41
Training and exchange programmes	3 670 492.69	2 384 681.28	32
Seminars and media tools	2 103 214.50	827 812.68	26
Cost/benefit analyses and assessments of audits	269 488.92	99 912.06	4
Total	439 603 352.01	247 987 745.85	783

Article 80(1)(b): Promotion of protection of marine environment and the sustainable use of marine and coastal resources

Type of operation	Total EMFF committed by Managing Authority (EUR) (Infosys, 31/12/2020)	Total eligible EMFF expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the Managing Authority (EUR)	Number of operations
MPA	7 858 650.86	3 422 212.79	44
Natura 2000	3 592 035.55	894 765.92	28
Total	11 450 686.41	4 316 978.71	72

Annex 6: EMFF common result indicators (Infosys data)**UP1 Result indicators**

SO	RI	RI description	RI unit	Target value (a)	RI ex-ante (b)	(c) =b/a	RI post factum (d)	(e) =d/a
1	1.4.a	Change in unwanted catches	tonnes	-15 703.44	18 787.67	-120%	3 415.69	-22%
1	1.4.b	Change in unwanted catches	%	-183.50	2 072.40	-1 129%	-841.47	459%
2	1.10.a	Change in the coverage of Natura 2000 areas designated under the Birds and Habitats directives	km ²	3 131.68	72 948.70	2 329%	12 358.94	395%
2	1.10.b	Change in the coverage of other spatial protection measures under Article 13(4) of the Directive 2008/56/EC	km ²	26 074.00	27 181.90	104%	10 101.00	39%
3	1.3	Change in net profits	thousand euros	8 892.32	73 632.86	828%	71 202.38	801%
3	1.6	Change in the % of unbalanced fleets	%	-100.67	2.79	-3%	6.70	-7%
4	1.1	Change in the value of production	thousand euros	99 755.14	17 210 652.37	17 253%	15 126 136.23	15 163%
4	1.2	Change in the volume of production	tonnes	57 040.78	159 494.19	280%	61 410.52	108%
4	1.3	Change in net profits	thousand euros	37 790.30	698 566.46	1 849%	424 457.52	1 123%
4	1.7	Employment created (FTE) in the fisheries sector or complementary activities	FTE	2 670.67	1 705.18	64%	1 209.32	45%
4	1.8	Employment maintained (FTE) in the fisheries sector or complementary activities	FTE	17 442.00	38 404.55	220%	22 608.03	130%
4	1.9.a	Change in the number of work-related injuries and accidents	number	-681.87	479.15	-70%	388.00	-57%
5	1.1	Change in the value of production	thousand euros	25 031.04	234 863.09	938%	212 036.26	847%
5	1.2	Change in the volume of production	tonnes	12 424.78	17 813.57	143%	1 362.85	11%
5	1.3	Change in net profits	thousand euros	28 030.89	37 994.53	136%	3 393.06	12%
6	1.7	Employment created (FTE) in the fisheries sector or complementary activities	FTE	1 258.00	1 604.00	128%	954.00	76%
6	1.8	Employment maintained (FTE) in the fisheries sector or complementary activities	FTE	4 972.00	4 381.00	88%	3 538.00	71%

6	1.9.a	Change in the number of work-related injuries and accidents	number	-381.00	153.00	-40%	-	%
---	-------	---	--------	---------	--------	------	---	---

UP2 Result indicators

SO	RI	RI description	RI unit	Target value (a)	RI ex-ante (b)	(c) =b/a	RI post factum (d)	(e) =d/a
1	2.1	Change in volume of aquaculture production	tonnes	146 878.90	29 695.60	20%	2 965.50	2%
1	2.2	Change in value of aquaculture production	thousand euros	391 979.38	372 954.43	95%	10 714.68	3%
1	2.3	Change in net profit	thousand euros	80 568.96	1 063 333.83	1 320%	997.00	1%
2	2.1	Change in volume of aquaculture production	tonnes	285 719.00	55 916 879.26	19 571%	181 227.99	63%
2	2.2	Change in value of aquaculture production	thousand euros	914 360.34	64 252 709.26	7 027%	15 824 339.38	1 731%
2	2.3	Change in net profit	thousand euros	129 854.77	4 032 428.62	3 105%	835 038.34	643%
2	2.8	Employment created	FTE	1 394.00	1 631.15	117%	529.62	38%
2	2.9	Employment maintained	FTE	7 359.00	5 744.07	78%	3 268.87	44%
3	2.4	Change in the volume of production organic aquaculture	tonnes	3 318.00	84 456.99	2 545%	14 091.00	425%
3	2.5	Change in the volume of production recirculation system	tonnes	14 526.15	3 630.22	25%	1 798.07	12%
3	2.6	Change in the volume of aquaculture production certified under voluntary sustainability schemes	tonnes	2 460.00	1 033.45	42%	700.37	28%
3	2.7	Aquaculture farms providing environmental services	number	31.00	9.00	29%	8.00	26%
3	2.8	Employment created	FTE	138.00	503.70	365%	10.00	7%
3	2.9	Employment maintained	FTE	3 013.00	247.00	8%	204.00	7%
4	2.1	Change in volume of aquaculture production	tonnes	91 326.00	791.90	1%	577.55	1%
4	2.2	Change in value of aquaculture production	thousand euros	192 864.00	569 457.02	295%	-6 705.78	-3%
4	2.4	Change in the volume of production organic aquaculture	tonnes	268.00	4.00	1%	4.00	1%
4	2.5	Change in the volume of production recirculation system	tonnes	-	-	%	-	%
4	2.6	Change in the volume of aquaculture production certified under voluntary sustainability schemes	tonnes	1 795.00	3.00	%	3.00	%
4	2.7	Aquaculture farms providing environmental services	number	362.00	358.00	99%	277.00	77%
5	2.8	Employment created	FTE	453.00	40.00	9%	13.00	3%
5	2.9	Employment maintained	FTE	2 123.00	755.40	36%	631.40	30%

UP3 Result indicators

SO	RI	RI description	RI unit	Target value (a)	RI ex-ante (b)	(c) =b/a	RI post factum (d)	(e) =d/a
1	3.B.1	Increase in the percentage of fulfilment of data calls	%	360.92	1 392.00	386%	711.06	197%
2	3.A.1	Number of serious infringements detected	number	1 290.00	3 813.00	296%	2 324.00	180%

UP4 Result indicators

SO	RI	RI description	RI unit	Target value (a)	RI ex-ante (b)	(c) =b/a	RI post factum (d)	(e) =d/a
1	4.1	Employment created (FTE)	FTE	2 836.00	4 573.32	161%	1 640.80	58%
1	4.2	Employment maintained (FTE)	FTE	8 444.20	14 540.91	172%	7 842.68	93%
1	4.3	Businesses created	number	561.00	2 156.50	384%	458.00	82%

UP5 Result indicators

SO	RI	RI description	RI unit	Target value (a)	RI ex-ante (b)	(c) =b/a	RI post factum (d)	(e) =d/a
1	5.1.a	Change in value of first sales in POs	thousand euros	527 360.36	15 663 076.80	2 970%	13 755 114.50	2 608%
1	5.1.b	Change in volume of first sales in POs	tonnes	108 384.65	2 597 145.53	2 396%	2 423 005.37	2 236%
1	5.1.c	Change in value of first sales in non-POs	thousand euros	129 502.60	14 215 293.40	10 977%	784 848.26	606%
1	5.1.d	Change in volume of first sales in non-POs	tonnes	37 625.00	137 270.72	365%	16 990.31	45%
2	5.1.a	Change in value of first sales in POs	thousand euros	47 261.56	9 157 601.22	19 376%	644 165.49	1 363%
2	5.1.b	Change in volume of first sales in POs	tonnes	27 375.65	80 686.04	295%	66 978.39	245%
2	5.1.c	Change in value of first sales in non-POs	thousand euros	240 266.12	55 001 666.82	22 892%	54 450 406.11	22 663%
2	5.1.d	Change in volume of first sales in non-POs	tonnes	109 475.10	791 107.32	723%	951 780.39	869%

UP6 result indicators

SO	RI	RI description	RI unit	Target value (a)	RI ex-ante (b)	(c) =b/a	RI post factum (d)	(e) =d/a
1	6.1	Increase in the Common Information Sharing Environment (CISE) for the surveillance of the EU maritime domain	%	534.00	1 958.20	367%	701.00	131%
1	6.2.a	Change in the coverage of Natura 2000 areas designated under the Birds and Habitats directives	km ²	25 300.00	18 247.20	72%	295.00	1%
1	6.2.b	Change in the coverage of other spatial protection measures under Article 13(4) of the Directive 2008/56/EC	km ²	132 300.00	523 006.52	395%	445 598.00	337%

Annex 7: EMFF common result indicators (AIR data)

<i>Common result indicator</i>	Measurement unit	RI target (ex-ante) value	RI cumulative (ex-post) value
UP 1			
Change in fuel efficiency of fish capture	litres fuel/tonnes landed catch	118 282	- 8 298 867
Change in net profits	thousand Euros	85 635	510 368
Change in the % of unbalanced fleets	%	- 43	102
Change in the % of work-related injuries and accidents in relation to total fishers	%	- 120	9
Change in the coverage of Natura 2000 areas designated under the Birds and Habitats directives	km2	31 632	1 437
Change in the coverage of other spatial protection measures under Art. 13.4 of the Directive 2008/56/EC	km2	291 074	643
Change in the number of work-related injuries and accidents	number	- 1 064	- 524
Change in the value of production	thousand Euros	147 803	7 046 898
Change in the volume of production	tonnes	102 473	26 071
Change in unwanted catches (%)	%	- 257	- 199
Change in unwanted catches (tonnes)	tonnes	- 25 797	3 918
Employment created (FTE) in the fisheries sector or complementary activities	FTE	4 176	1 180
Employment maintained (FTE) in the fisheries sector or complementary activities	FTE	22 473	17 985
UP 2			
Aquaculture farms providing environmental services	number	1 217	1 362
Change in net profit	thousand Euros	217 586	4 507 769
Change in the volume of aquaculture production certified under voluntary sustainability schemes	tonnes	4 255	1 298
Change in the volume of production organic aquaculture	tonnes	10 786	6 313
Change in the volume of production recirculation system	tonnes	18 707	3 822
Change in value of aquaculture production	thousand Euros	1 674 153	34 059 973
Change in volume of aquaculture production	tonnes	575 624	247 567
Employment created	FTE	2 668	600

Employment maintained	FTE	14 559	3 469
UP 3			
Increase in the percentage of fulfilment of data calls	%	714	714
Landings that have been the subject to physical control	%	343	166
Number of serious infringements detected	number	7 501	3 124
UP 4			
Businesses created	number	750	486
Employment created (FTE)	FTE	3 066	2 385
Employment maintained (FTE)	FTE	8 574	10 140
UP 5			
Change in value of first sales in non-POs	thousand Euros	396 519	1 679 603
Change in value of first sales in POs	thousand Euros	584 878	6 570 644
Change in volume of first sales in non-POs	tonnes	180 518	5 495 108
Change in volume of first sales in POs	tonnes	148 420	35 815 365
UP 6			
Change in the coverage of Natura 2000 areas designated under the Birds and Habitats directives	km2	25 600	18 142
Change in the coverage of other spatial protection measures under Art. 13.4 of the Directive 2008/56/EC	km2	146 575	23 297
Increase in the Common Information Sharing Environment (CISE) for the surveillance of the EU maritime domain	%	599	100

Source: AIR 2020 reports.

Annex 8: EMFF programme specific result indicators (AIR data)

MS/UP/Specific result indicator	Specific result indicator (working translation)	Measurement unit	Sum of Result Indicator Target Value	Cummulative Value
Anlagen - Gehege und Kreislaufanlagen	Facilities – Enclosures and Recirculation	m2	7 000	13 907
Beschäftigung in Aquakultur	Employment in aquaculture	FTE	240	274
Množství vysazeného úhoře	Quantity of restocked eel	kg	3 000	5 066
Udržení objemu akvakulturní produkce	Maintaining the volume of aquaculture production	tonnes	17 411	18 251
Produkce zpracovaných ryb	Production of processed fish	tonnes	250	370
Erhaltene Arbeitsplätze	Preserved jobs	FTE	366	485
UP1			1 713	1 901
Omfang af opnået god økologisk tilstand	Extent of good ecological condition achieved	km	1 700	1 894
Bevaret beskæftigelse	Retained employment	FTE	30	607
Muutus kalapüügi kütusesäästlikkuses	Change in the fuel efficiency of fishing	litres/tonne	- 3	- 10
Partnerlusvõrgustiku tegevustes osalevad ettevõtjad	Entrepreneurs participating in the activities of the Partnership Network	number	350	375
Selektiivsed (sh hülgekindlad) püügivahendid	Selective gear (including seals)	number	250	550
Partnerlusvõrgustiku tegevustes osalevad ettevõtjad	Entrepreneurs participating in the activities of the partnership network	number	49	50
Buques pesqueros afectados	Fishing vessels affected	number	42	72
Pescadores afectados	Fishermen affected	number	41 209	147 886
Pescadores que se benefician de la operación	Fishermen who benefit from the operation	number	2 456	3 111
Relación Privado / Público de los beneficiarios	Private / Public beneficiaries	%	1	1
Población total abarcada por el GALP	Total population covered by the FLAG	number	2 710 845	3 453 878
Empresas y otras entidades que se benefician de la operación	Companies and other entities that benefit from the operation	number	20 244	33 796
Volume of first sales of POs		tonnes	70	93
Volume of processed fish of domestic origin		tonnes	80	92
Employment (FTE)		FTE	1	1
Ostu skaits, kurās attīstīta infrastruktūra	Number of ports with developed infrastructure	number	7	9
Zušu krājumu pārvaldības pasākumu īstenošana atbilstoši paredzētajam Zivju resursu mākslīgās atjaunošanas plānā 2017.–2020. gadam	Implementation of eel management measures as foreseen in the Artificial Fishery Recovery Plan 2017-2020 year	number (in millions)	2	2

Zvejas un akvakultūras produktu apstrādes uzņēmumi, kas veikuši investīcijas	Investments made by fishery and aquaculture processing enterprises	number	25	27
Increase in the estimated per capita fish consumption		kg per capita	1	258
Comprehensive and integrated database on the marine environment		number	1	1
Number of vessels having purchased the gear referred to in art. 38.1.a-c		number	200	210

Source: AIR 2020 reports.