

European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)

Czech Republic

Czech Republic – overview

Coast, lakes and ports

The Czech Republic is a landlocked country with a long tradition of fish farming. Fish is produced mainly in ponds (42 000 ha) but also in flow-through systems and recirculation systems.

Potential

The strengths of the Czech aquaculture sector are:

- advanced and effective breeding know-how based on traditional carp farming,
- high-quality breeding material.

The quality of domestic products is high. Several products are trademarked (Czech carp) or carry the protected geographical indication or protected designation of origin labels.



Economic performance and employment

The aquaculture sector accounts for 0.04 % of GDP. It provides work for 1 520 full-time equivalent (FTE) employees, who represent 0.003 % of the entire Czech workforce.

Czech aquaculture production amounts to 20 000 tonnes of freshwater fish per year, representing €40 million in value.

The fish processing sector employs 111 FTE workers. It produces around 7 000 tonnes of high-quality freshwater fish and seafood products every year.

The Czech Republic's Operational Programme









Budget

Total (EU+National)
€41 159 047

EU contribution
€31 108 015
(0.54% of total EMFF)

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

-  promoting environmentally sustainable, resource-efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge-based **fisheries**
(this priority is not covered by the OP);
-  fostering environmentally sustainable, resource-efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge-based **aquaculture**;
-  fostering the implementation of the **Common Fisheries Policy (CFP)**;
-  increasing **employment and territorial cohesion**
(this priority is not covered by the OP);
-  fostering **marketing and processing**;
-  fostering the implementation of the **Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP)**
(this priority is not covered by the OP).

1. Fisheries



Fisheries are not included in the Czech OP.

2. Aquaculture



What?

Fish pond aquaculture is the predominant production method and accounts for almost 80 % of national fish production. It also has significant non-production functions, such as water management, flood control, landscaping, preservation of biodiversity and recreational fishing.

There are some 406 Czech aquaculture businesses, the majority of which are small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). A special feature of the sector is the existence of companies whose primary business activity is not aquaculture; they engage in fish farming alongside other activities.

The main farmed fish is carp (87%), followed by salmonids (mainly rainbow trout) and other fish, such as pike, amur and tench.

OP aim

Modernisation of aquaculture farms and ponds via the introduction of new technologies, and the implementation of environmentally friendly and resource-efficient farming methods, such as sound ways of silt removal and closed recirculation systems that minimise the use of water.

Diversification of the aquaculture farms' sources of income via development of complementary activities, such as angling tourism, aquaculture-related environmental services and educational activities.

Setting-up of sustainable aquaculture businesses by new farmers and the further development of innovation in aquaculture.

EMFF funding will also support participation in *ex-situ* conservation and the reproduction of European eel. This will involve restocking eels in selected catchment areas of the main Czech rivers, the Elbe and the Odra.

Key result

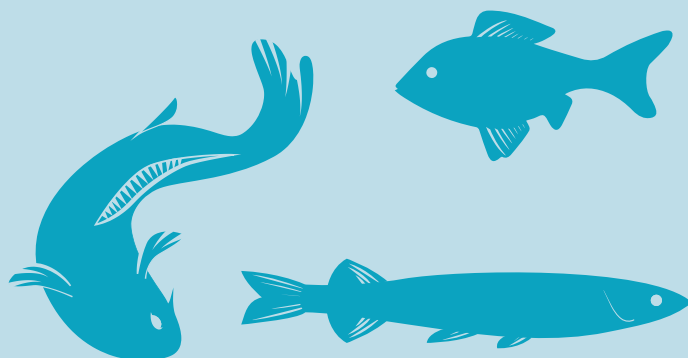
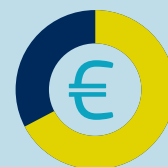
- Modernised and environmentally friendly aquaculture farms.
- New recirculation systems to reinforce production.
- Increased production and a self-sufficient aquaculture sector.
- Development of technical, scientific and organisational knowledge in aquaculture farms.
- Introduction of new fish species and improved products and processes to the market.

Budget

EMFF: €20 772 150

National contribution: €6 924 050

(67.3% of the OP allocation)



3. Common Fisheries Policy (CFP)



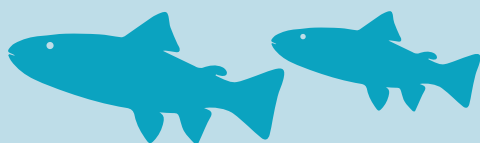
What?

The Czech Republic currently provides data on aquaculture production in line with EU regulations on statistics. Following revision of the Data Collection Framework (Regulation (EC) No. 665/2008), landlocked countries will also be obliged to collect data on aquaculture and processing. To ensure control and enforcement, the country will focus on implementing traceability measures for fishery and aquaculture products. These will include the installation of updated information technology, training for inspectors and partner organisations, and exchange programmes with other EU Member States.

OP aim

The EMFF funding will contribute to:

- improving and supplying scientific knowledge;
- collecting and managing data;
- providing support for monitoring, control and enforcement.



Key result

The collection of data to:

- improve availability and quality of data;
- identify sectoral problems in a timely manner and facilitate solutions;
- contribute to strengthening regional cooperation and coordination.

Control and enforcement obligations to:

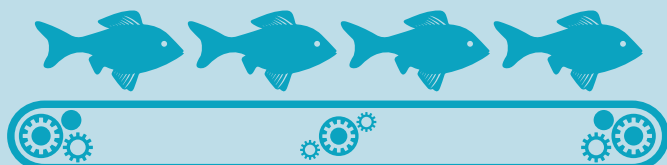
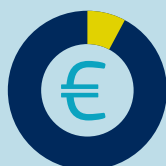
- ensure the sustainable exploitation of fisheries resources;
- ensure that fisheries products can be traced back and checked throughout the supply chain, from net to plate.

Budget

EMFF: €2 653 015

National contribution: €566 032

(7.8% of the OP allocation)



4. Community-led local development strategies



CLLD is not included in the Czech OP.

5. Marketing and processing



What?

The Czech fish processing sector consists of 15 major fish processing plants, the majority of which are medium-sized enterprises, together employing 111 FTE workers.

Communication with consumers plays an important role — the aim is to boost currently low domestic consumption of fish throughout the year and thereby also address the seasonality of fish consumption in the Czech Republic.

OP aim

Improve market organisation and increase profitability and sustainability of the entire market chain.

To strengthen marketing, the country plans to create producers' organisations and establish communication and promotional campaigns to help raise public awareness of sustainable fishery and aquaculture products.

EMFF funding will also be used to modernise and increase productivity of the processing sector. The activities planned will contribute to energy saving, improve safety, hygiene, health and working conditions.

Key result

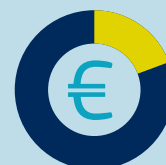
- Improved market organisation and increased profitability and sustainability of the entire market chain;
- Modernised processing sector with increased productivity;
- Well-informed consumers, aware of the advantages of sustainable and locally farmed fish;
- Better promotion of aquaculture and increased fish consumption.

Budget

EMFF: €5 975 550

National contribution: €1 991 850

(19.3% of the OP allocation)



6. Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP)



The IMP is not included in the Czech OP.



Success stories

1. New technology for farming common carp with increased omega-3 fatty acid content



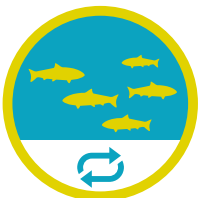
Total cost of the project: €254 554
EFF contribution: €30 972

2. Water treatment for intensive fish farming, reducing energy consumption



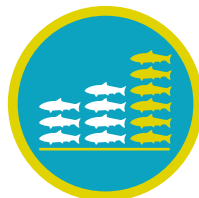
Total cost of the project: €75 645
EFF contribution: €31 315

3. Fish pond silt removal leading to improved retention of ponds and better water regime in the region



Total cost of the project: €204 028
EFF contribution: €90 192

4. New recirculation system contributing to increased production and year-round fish availability



Total cost of the project: €77 833
EFF contribution: €31 766

More information

- European Commission Fisheries
- European Maritime and Fisheries Fund
- Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech Republic
- European Structural and Investments Funds in the Czech Republic
- Permanent Representation of the Czech Republic to the EU
- Representation of the European Commission in the Czech Republic
- Aquaculture multiannual national plan