

Malta

European Maritime and Fisheries Fund 2014 – 2020: Operational Programme for Malta

Programme description

Main objectives

The Operational Programme for support from the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund in Malta (OP) aims at achieving key national development priorities along with the "Europe 2020" objectives. The OP addresses the general reform of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and the Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP) and supports the priorities defined in the EMFF Regulation. The main objectives of the OP are related to enhancing smart and green fisheries and aquaculture, strengthening the economic viability of fisheries and aquaculture enterprises, and integrating their activities in a wider framework of maritime policy.

Funding priorities

The OP will improve the livelihoods of fishing communities through investments aimed at improving the quality (and consequently higher value) of their catch through chilling installations at dedicated landing places - which in turn will be up-graded substantially in order to meet the standards set by the Mediterranean Regulation - and, to a lesser extent, by providing support for engine replacement, thereby bringing down fuel cost as well as greenhouse gas emissions. By supporting changing of gear the OP is meant to promote selective fishing practices, which allow for the reduction of unwanted by-catch. Diversification of fishers' professional activity is programmed through trainings that will help fishers broaden their qualifications and take up supplementary jobs in diverse maritime fields.

Aquaculture in Malta has been a profitable activity and a solid pillar of the national economy for decades and continues to be so, albeit to a lesser extent than in the past. Since the Maltese finfish farming consists predominantly of Bluefin tuna (BFT)-fattening, based on stocks caught from the wild, the stressed BFT stock may be relieved through research aimed at closing the species lifecycle to be conducted at the commercial scale hatchery that is programmed in the OP. The planned facility will initially be used to produce fingerlings for the existing closed-cycle aquaculture operations with the more common Mediterranean species (sea bream and sea bass, meagre and amberjack), in order to end the present dependency on imported fingerlings and improve the profitability of finfish farming in Malta.

38.4% of the OP budget will be absorbed to meet the legal requirements related to Control and Enforcement as well as Data Collection under the reformed Common Fisheries Policy.

The total MT allocation corresponds to 0.39% of total EMFF budget, and is distributed mainly between fisheries (76% including 38.4% for data collection and control), aquaculture (11%), Integrated Maritime Policy (5.3%) and processing and marketing (2%).

In total 11 EMFF measures have been programmed.

Financial information

Total OP budget: EUR 28,899,019.--

Total EU contribution: EUR 22,627,422.--

Managing Authority

Mr Raphael P. Scerri

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