

European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)

Spain

Spain – overview

Coast, lakes and ports

- Coastline of 8 000 km, representing 7.4 % of the total EU-23 coastline.
- Commercial harbours on both coasts (Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea). There are about 200 fishing ports in total; the main ones are Vigo, A Coruña and Celeiro. The main maritime ports are Barcelona, Algeciras and Valencia.

Potential

Spain, with a coastline of almost 8 000 km, is home to the biggest fishing industry in the EU. Positioned at the far south-west of Europe, the country enjoys entry points into both the Atlantic and the Mediterranean, while offering good conditions for marine and fresh water aquaculture.

Spain produces over 1 million tonnes of fisheries products per annum, more than any other EU country: of these, 70 % come from sea fishing, 29 % from aquaculture and a mere 1 % from inland fishing.

Its population of some 46 million inhabitants consumes an average of almost 41 kilos per head of fisheries products each year, putting the Spanish behind the Portuguese, as the second biggest consumers of fish in the EU.



Economic performance and employment

- In 2013, the Spanish fleet totalled 19 720 vessels, of which 13 % were inactive. Total employment in the same year was estimated at 31 166 full time equivalents (FTEs). The total volume of landings achieved by the Spanish fleet in 2013 was around 882 thousand tonnes of seafood, corresponding to a total value of EUR 1 982 million.
- Regarding the aquaculture sector, production value equalled EUR 501 million. Total employment in the same year was estimated at 27 180 jobs or 6 639 FTEs.
- Finally, in 2013, the fish processing industry rolled out a turnover of EUR 4 646 million, with total employment in the same year estimated at 18 390 jobs or 17 702 FTEs.

Spain's Operational Programme



Budget

Total (EU + national):
€1 558 280 753

EU contribution:
€1 161 620 889
(co-funding of 74.55 %)

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

-  promoting environmentally sustainable, resource-efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge-based **fisheries**;
-  fostering environmentally sustainable, resource-efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge-based **aquaculture**;
-  implementation of the **Common Fisheries Policy (CFP)**;
-  increasing **employment and territorial cohesion**;
-  fostering **marketing and processing**;
-  implementation of the **Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP)**.



1. Fisheries

What?

The marine fisheries sector in Spain faces challenges in terms of its sustainability, at both biological and economic level. The Spanish fleet is highly diversified. The different fleet segments have situations and needs that differ widely. For this reason, in its Spanish fleet report, the OP lays down general principles and establishes links so as to assess the circumstances of the various segments.

OP aim

EMFF funding will mainly support the adaptation of the Spanish fleet, in a combined effort to boost competitiveness of its fishing sector and adapt its fleet to the new regulatory obligations, particularly under the reformed CFP, in order to achieve the maximum sustainable yield in fisheries.

Competitiveness will be boosted by investments on board, which will improve the quality and added value of fisheries products, and increase investments in ports.

Measures will also include diversification of fishery and fishery-related activities, promoting entrepreneurship, especially through support to young fishermen, improving the added value and use of unwanted catches, and enhancing safety on board. The aim is to make the profession both more attractive and more competitive.

A third of the funding under this priority will focus on the protection of aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems. This is a radical change compared to the EFF period, where almost 40 % of the Spanish allocation under EFF was channelled towards permanent and temporary cessations.

Key result

A sustainable and balanced fishing fleet and sector.

Budget

EMFF: €352 491 260

National contribution: €172 282 506
(30 % of EMFF allocation)



2. Aquaculture



What?

Spain boasts good environmental and climatic conditions, availability of adequate sea areas located at a reasonable distance from the coastline, and access to both the Atlantic and Mediterranean coastlines. The main fishing and aquaculture regions are Galicia, and to a lesser extent, Andalusia and Basque Country.

The main cultured marine species are sea bream, sea bass, turbot, sole, trout, tuna and mussels. In 2012, Spanish aquaculture production reached 266 thousand tonnes, and the total value amounted to EUR 501 million in 2013.

In June 2014, Spain adopted a national strategic plan for aquaculture (PEAE), setting out a common approach for its aquaculture sector.

OP aim

The Spanish OP advances the fulfilment of the PEAE's objectives. EMFF funding will support the competitiveness and the environmental and economic sustainability of the aquaculture sector.

Key objective

By 2023, aquaculture activities are expected to treble, contributing to food supply, environmental protection and employment.

Budget

EMFF: €205 905 843

National contribution: €68 635 448
(18 % of EMFF allocation)



3. Common Fisheries Policy (CFP)



What?

The main objective is to meet the needs arising from the implementation of the CFP and ensure their adaptability to regulatory changes and the revision of the framework programmes of data collection.

OP aim

The CFP sets rules for managing European fishing fleets and conserving fish stocks. The Spanish OP addresses structural weaknesses in the Spanish scientific data collection system through an action plan.

In terms of control, the main measures aim to reinforce the control and inspection schemes, support the development of specific programmes, increase the control of products from third countries and boost the fight against illegal fishing or the control of discards and fishing effort. Control in the Atlantic basin will concentrate on monitoring compliance with total allowable catches (TACs) and quotas, while in the Mediterranean, it will focus on control of fishing gears and the size of the captures.

Key result

EMFF funding will support the collection, management and use of data required by the CFP, as well as implementation of the control, inspection and enforcement system, likewise required by the CFP.

Budget

EMFF: €155 954 705

National contribution: €31 397 934

(13 % of EMFF allocation)



4. Community-led local development strategies



What?

The majority of fisheries activities are carried out in the coastal regions of Spain. The main challenges for Spanish fisheries and aquaculture areas lie in creating new sources of income and new job positions, while exploiting their comparative advantages, enhancing their environmental assets and promoting social well-being and maritime cultural heritage.

OP aim

EMFF funding will help increase employment and territorial cohesion in fisheries-dependent areas by:

- creating new jobs and diversifying activities;
- creating added value in activities and local products;
- strengthening the Fisheries Local Action Groups (FLAGs) network;
- enhancing and capitalising on environmental assets.

Key result

Help fisheries and aquaculture-dependent communities to diversify their economies and add value to their fishing activities.

Budget

EMFF: €107 673 734

National contribution: €19 001 248

(9 % of EMFF allocation)



5. Marketing and processing



What?

The Spanish marketing and processing industry is the second largest in the EU. It represents 15 % of the EU value of the sector's output and employment. The main challenges of the processing sector are

not specific to this sector, but affect most of the Spanish industry: difficulty accessing finances, lack of internationalisation and need to increase the value added of products.

OP aim

The Spanish programme aims at **capitalising on the value added from high-quality fishery products**. It hopes this will support the development of new products, and new conservation techniques and processes, as well as handling and storage techniques, assisted by new organisational systems and commercial strategies for fisheries and aquaculture products.

There is a **strong focus on commercial strategies** and approaches, with a spotlight on the fulfilment of the discards ban and the **valorisation of discards** not suitable for human consumption into products. Measures will focus more specifically on financing small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and will also involve the creation of quality labels (i.e. eco-labels).

The third axis will focus on promoting the **competitiveness of professional organisations** (i.e. the **producers' organisation**).

Key result

The processing sector will be modernised and its economic performance and sustainability supported through investments in the development of new or improved products, the introduction of new technology and systems, and marketing and promotional campaigns.

Budget

EMFF: €274 409 949

National contribution: €67 786 876

(24 % of EMFF allocation)



6. Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP)



What?

The IMP seeks to provide a more coherent approach to maritime issues, with increased coordination across different policy areas.

OP aim

Funds under the IMP will be used to ensure appropriate mapping of marine ecosystems, run a programme to explore the continental shelf and slope (through surveys), and other measures contributing to increased marine knowledge (seabed data, mapping, bathymetric analyses, etc.).

Key result

The preservation and protection of the marine environment and its resources, and enhancing the spatial planning and implementing policies and guidelines and the MSFD.

Budget

EMFF: €5 334 672

National contribution: €17 605 526

(0.5 % of EMFF allocation)



The remaining budget has been allocated under 'Technical Assistance of the OP':

EMFF: €59 850 976

National contribution: €19 950 326

(5.1% of EMFF allocation)



Simplification

The delivery system has been simplified by reducing the number of intermediate bodies, by separating national and regional intermediate bodies and expenditure in different European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) programmes and by further utilising e-administration. Spain is committed to significantly expanding the use of flat rates and different methods of simplified costs options, and profiting from the opportunities which the regulations allow.

Synergies

Coordination of funds is ensured by specific structures (coordination, evaluation and monitoring committees) as well as through thematic networks (communication, research, development and innovation, urban, environment, equal opportunities, social inclusion, rural, fisheries). SMEs will be a core focus under all of the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIFs).

Success stories

New study on how to manage and make the best use of discarded fish in the Atlantic and Mediterranean fisheries, in view of implementing the new landing obligation foreseen under the CFP.

Total cost: €360 000 (including EFF funding of €257 940).

LANBAL, A comprehensive study of the lobster in the Balearic Islands for the definition of a sustainable fisheries management system.

Total cost: €378 170 (including EFF funding €75 634).

An initiative to foster women entrepreneurship in the fisheries sector by studying the experiences of local women in Andalusia and promoting successful females entrepreneurs as role models to others to turn their business ideas into reality.

Total cost: €126 255.64 (including EFF funding €94 691.73).

Creation of an Interactive Fish Museum (in Central Fish Market in Barcelona) in order to teach schoolchildren about the various stages of the marketing of fish (from auction to the fork), to raise awareness about the benefits linked to the consumption of fisheries products and to promote their consumption among young people.

Total cost: €258 364 (including EFF funding of €64 591).

New treatment of molluscs, by packaging them in a protective atmosphere, which extends their life in the package and freshness and improves their quality without adding additives.

Total cost: €1 671 942.86 (including EFF funding €660 440.48).

More information

- European Commission Fisheries
- European Maritime and Fisheries Fund
- EFF 2007-2013
- EMFF 2014-2020
- Aquaculture multiannual national plan