

European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)

Malta

Malta - overview

Coast and ports

Situated in the South Eastern Central Mediterranean with excellent climatic conditions for aquaculture, the Republic of Malta has a coastline of 173 km (accounting for 0.26% of the EU's 66 000 km coastline).

Malta's main port is Marsaxlokk, where the island's container facilities are located. Valletta's Grand Harbour is an important seaport.

Marsaxlokk is also the main fishing harbour; others include Valletta, Marsa, Marsascala, St Paul's Bay, as well as Marsalforn and Mġarr Harbour on the neighbouring island of Gozo.

Tradition and potential

Malta's fisheries sector has a long tradition.

The fishing fleet comprises 1 037 vessels and is largely dominated by small-scale coastal fishing vessels (958 under 12 m in overall length). 98% are non-trawlers (April 2014).



Economic performance and employment

In Malta, most fishers are self-employed. **With regard to the productivity of open sea fishing**, the gross value added (GVA) for Full Time Equivalent (FTE) employees represents EUR 158 000, whereas the GVA per FTE employee gainfully employed is EUR 9 000.

In terms of **the productivity of aquaculture**, the GVA per FTE represents EUR 55 000 whereas the GVA per FTE employee gainfully employed is EUR 47 000.

According to the Labour Force Survey 2014, marine employment is 1.1 % of total employment.

Malta's Operational Programme



Budget

Total :
€28 899 018

EU contribution:
€22 627 422
0.39% of the total EMFF

The Operational Programme (OP) covers five out of the six "Union Priorities" defined in the EMFF; namely:

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



1. Fisheries

What?

The main species landed are: Bluefin Tuna (142 tonnes), Swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*, 532 tonnes), Dolphinfish (*Coryphaena hippurus* 349 tonnes), and another 300 species such as Mackerel, Shrimps/prawns and Red mullet (figures from 2013).

OP aim

EMFF funding will help improve the infrastructure for:

- designated landing sites;
- aquaculture (hatchery).

By further improving the port infrastructure with EMFF support, Malta aims to improve the **quality, control and traceability** of products landed.

Malta is also planning investments to improve the selectivity of fishing gear, and to ensure a balance between **fishing capacity and fishing opportunities**.

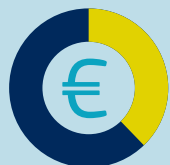
Key result

Environmentally, economically and socially-sustainable fisheries.

Budget

€8 547 929

(37.8% of the OP allocation)



2. Aquaculture

What?

The main marine aquaculture species produced are: Gilt-head Seabream (*Sparus aurata* (1 082 tonnes worth EUR 4 837 million) and European Sea bass (*Dicentrarchus labrax*). Meagre (*Argyrosomus regius*) and Greater amberjack (*Seriola dumerili*) are being developed as alternatives for Bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus thynnus*), which is captured from wild stocks and fattened for export (1 759 tonnes worth EUR 38 594 million) (Figures from 2013).

OP aim

EMFF funding will support the creation of a commercial-scale hatchery in order to produce fingerlings for those species which are mostly farmed domestically, and to conduct research aimed at artificially closing the life cycle of Bluefin tuna.

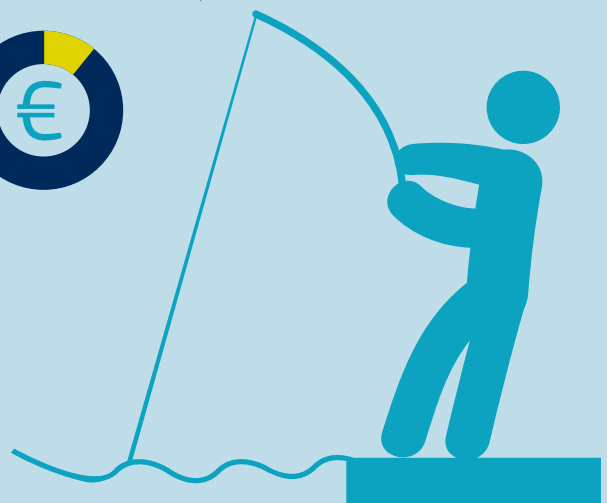
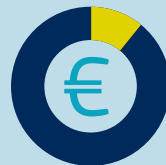
Key objective

Completion of the single aquaculture project by 2023.

Budget

€2 480 116

(11% of the OP allocation)



3. Common Fisheries Policy (CFP)



What?

Malta's Fisheries and Aquaculture Department is responsible for scientifically assessing fish stocks, and for analysing the biological and fishing data on catch levels for key commercial species. It is also responsible for data collection.

OP aim

The CFP sets out rules for managing European fishing fleets and conserving fish stocks. Malta implements these rules by:

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

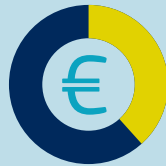
Key result

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

Budget

€8 691 651

(38.4% of the OP allocation)



4. Community-led local development strategies



CLLD is not included in Malta's OP.

5. Marketing and processing



OP aim

The aim is to enable greater use of, and to gain a higher value from, bycatch, therefore reducing the pressure to discard key species, and to divert fishing pressure away from key species towards under-utilised, but wholesome, species. Another aim is to increase consumer awareness of the status of fish stocks and the role of consumers in assisting conservation efforts.

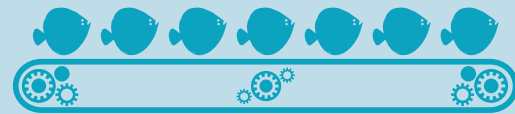
Key result

Greater public awareness of sustainable fishery and aquaculture products.

Budget

€219 771

(0.97% of the OP allocation)



6. Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP)



What?

The Integrated Maritime Policy seeks to provide a more coherent approach to maritime issues, with increased coordination between different policy areas. The Mediterranean Sea around the Maltese Archipelago is a unique ecosystem due to its specific geographical position. Its environmental status is influenced by a large array of factors which need to be monitored on a scientific basis.

OP aim

The EMFF funding will help support the implementation of measures under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (European Parliament and Council Directive 2008/56/EC) and thus contribute to conserving the marine environment and preventing its deterioration.

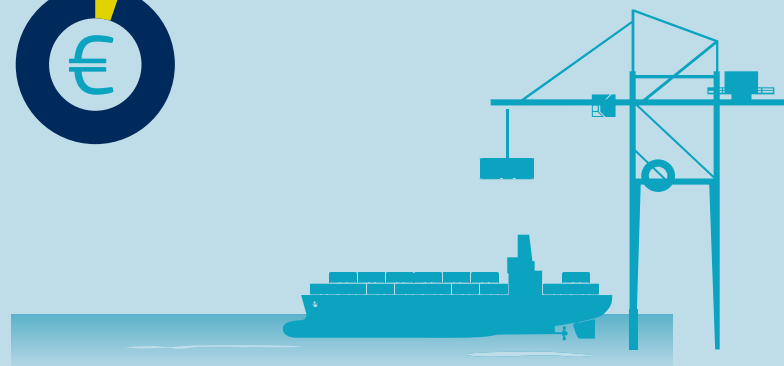
Key result

A healthy environment for the Mediterranean Sea.

Budget

€1.2 million

(5.3% of the OP allocation)



Simplification

The administrative burden on beneficiaries will be reduced through applications being submitted electronically via an Electronic Application System. The Management and Control System will continue as it was under the EFF.

Synergies

Malta does not intend to implement Community Led Local Development (CLLD) under the EMFF, but there is a maritime component to the strategy for a Local Action Group under EAFRD-OP 2007-2013 to be continued in the new programming period.



Success stories

Relocation of a wholesale fish market

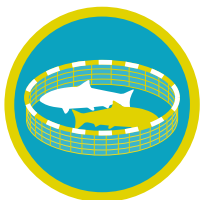


The wholesale fish market was relocated under the EFF from its historic (and technically out-dated) premises, on the waterfront of the Grand Harbour (Valletta), to an industrial area with a nearby landing site in Marsa.

The budget includes **EUR 2 935 877** in public funding and a Community contribution of **EUR 2 201 907.75**.

The fish market has been up and running since the end of June 2015.

FIFG-programme share for Malta



Through the FIFG-programme share, an alternative species was introduced to aquaculture: the Meagre. Farming on a commercial scale has been continued through co-financing under the EFF.

Broadening the range of Maltese aquaculture species tallies well with the hatchery project which is now programmed.

More information

- [European Commission Fisheries](#)
- [Representation of the European Commission in Malta](#)
- [European Maritime and Fisheries Fund](#)
- [Aquaculture multiannual national plan](#)