

INFORMATION FICHE NO 4

ACTION PLAN FOR SMALL-SCALE COASTAL FISHING

04/02/2019

RELEVANT PROVISIONS IN THE DRAFT LEGISLATION

Regulation	Provisions
EMFF Proposal	Article 15
CPR Proposal	Annex V, appendix 3

This document is based on the text of the adopted EMFF and CPR proposals. It is a provisional text, without prejudice to on-going discussions. This series of fiches is intended to guide Member States, explaining and elaborating the text of the proposal.

OBJECTIVE OF THIS FICHE

This fiche provides orientation concerning the proposed action plan for small-scale coastal fishing annexed to the EMFF programmes.

LEGAL BASIS

The provisions on the action plan are laid down in Article 15 of the EMFF proposal. The template to be used in the programme is laid down in Appendix 3 of Annex V of the CPR proposal. These proposed provisions are in the Annex to this fiche.

BACKGROUND

A key element of the Commission proposal for the post 2020 EMFF is a preferential treatment granted to small-scale coastal fishing (i.e. vessels below 12m not using towed gears). The action plan is one part of this package¹. It was devised as an improvement of the 2014-2020 action plan, which only required a general and short description of the Member State's strategy for small-scale coastal fishing.

For the next programming period, the Commission's proposal develops a more comprehensive approach with a clearer description of the main challenges for the small-scale coastal fleet. It also includes a monitoring system based on indicators, linked to the monitoring and evaluation framework of the EMFF.

This proposal also links EMFF support to the FAO guidelines for securing sustainable small-scale fisheries² and the GFCM Regional Plan of Action for Small-Scale Fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea³, which are important EU commitments.

CONTENT AND STRUCTURE

According to Article 15 of the EMFF proposal, the purpose of the action plan is to “*set out a strategy for the development of profitable and sustainable small-scale coastal fishing*”. For this purpose, the article lists a series of challenges, which constitute the structure of the template in Annex V of the CPR proposal.

The action plan is neither a self-standing area of support⁴ nor a set of eligibility rules. It is a strategic description of how each Member State intends to use the EMFF to tackle the challenges of the small-scale fleet by using support under the relevant thematic areas of support (e.g. achievement of the CFP objectives, control, marketing, etc).

In principle, the proposal foresees that all Member States are required to prepare an action plan. However, the wording of Article 15 is flexible (“*where applicable*”) to make sure that

¹ The other two parts are a higher aid intensity rate and the access to reserved areas of support (engine replacement and the acquisition of a second hand vessel).

² <http://www.fao.org/voluntary-guidelines-small-scale-fisheries/en/>

³ <http://www.fao.org/gfcm/meetings/ssf2018/rpoassf/en/>

⁴ Areas of support are listed in Annex II of the EMFF proposal and Article 15 is not part of it.

the situation of Member States with a small or no small-scale fleet is taken into account. Concretely, the Commission and each Member State will jointly assess what is applicable on a case-by-case basis during the preparation of the programme,

For each challenge listed in Article 15, the template requires an indication of the corresponding EMFF amount allocated. This indicative breakdown will not pre-judge the actual allocations. It should not be considered as a financing plan⁵ but rather as a strategic roadmap to guide the implementation of the programme with a focus on small-scale coastal fishing.

MONITORING

Article 15(3) of the EMFF proposal requires the establishment of specific milestones and targets to monitor the implementation of the action plan. These milestones and targets should be linked to the relevant indicators established under the monitoring and evaluation framework of the Fund.

This issue will be addressed in the context of the development of the overall monitoring and evaluation framework (Article 37 of the EMFF proposal and corresponding delegated act). In this context, it is possible to develop specific indicators for small-scale coastal fishing or rather use the mainstream indicators.

Since the action plan is not an area of support, its monitoring is not linked to the performance framework established pursuant to Article 12 of the CPR proposal. Therefore, there should be no reference to the action plan in section 2.1.1.2 (indicators) of the programme.

QUESTIONS

- To what extent can the action plan help to concretise EMFF support to the small-scale fishing sector with the aim to reinforce the capacities of the sector in several domains including scientific research and data collection, fisheries management measures, value chain and market access, participation in decision-making processes, health and safety, climate and environment?
- Should specific indicators be developed to reflect the specificities of the small-scale coastal fishing or are the mainstream indicators sufficient?

⁵ The financing plan is laid down in table 11a of Annex V of the CPR proposal and does not include a specific line on the action plan for small-scale coastal fishing.

ANNEX: relevant provisions in the Commission's proposals

Article 15 of the EMFF proposal

Action plan for small-scale coastal fishing

1. Member States shall prepare as part of their programme an action plan for small-scale coastal fishing which shall set out a strategy for the development of profitable and sustainable small-scale coastal fishing. This strategy shall be structured along the following sections, where applicable:
 - a. adjustment and management of fishing capacity;
 - b. promotion of low-impact, climate resilient and low-carbon fishing practices that minimize damage to the marine environment;
 - c. reinforcement of the value chain of the sector and promotion of marketing strategies;
 - d. promotion of skills, knowledge, innovation and capacity building;
 - e. improvement of health, safety and working conditions on board fishing vessels;
 - f. increased compliance with data collection, traceability, monitoring, control and surveillance requirements;
 - g. involvement in the participatory management of the maritime space, including Marine Protected Areas and Natura 2000 areas;
 - h. diversification of activities in the broader sustainable blue economy;
 - i. collective organisation and participation in the decision-making and advisory processes.
2. The action plan shall take into account the FAO voluntary guidelines for securing sustainable small-scale fisheries and, where appropriate, the regional plan of action for small-scale fisheries from the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean.
3. For the purpose of monitoring the implementation of the strategy referred to in paragraph 1, the action plan shall establish specific milestones and targets linked to relevant indicators established under the monitoring and evaluation framework referred to in Article 37.

Appendix 3 of Annex V of the CPR proposal (template)

*EMFF action plan for small-scale coastal fishing
Template for submitting data for the consideration of the Commission*

Date of submitting the proposal	
Current version	

1. Description of the small-scale coastal fleet

Text field [5 000]

2. General description of the strategy for the development of profitable and sustainable small-scale coastal fishing

Text field [5 000]and indicative overall EMFF amount allocated
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3. Description of the specific actions under the strategy for the development of profitable and sustainable small-scale coastal fishing

Description of the main actions	Indicative amount (EUR)	EMFF allocated
Adjustment and management of fishing capacity Text field [10 000]		
Promotion of sustainable, climate resilient and low-carbon fishing practices that minimize damage to the environment Text field [10 000]		
Reinforcement of the value chain of the sector and the promotion of marketing strategies Text field [10 000]		
Promotion of skills, knowledge, innovation and capacity building Text field [10 000]		
Improvement of health, safety and working conditions on board fishing vessels Text field [10 000]		
Increased compliance with data collection, traceability, monitoring, control and surveillance requirements Text field [10 000]		
Involvement of small-scale operators in the participatory management of the maritime space, including Marine Protected Areas and Natura 2000 areas Text field [10 000]		
Diversification of activities in the broader sustainable blue economy Text field [10 000]		
Collective organisation and participation of small-scale operators in the decision-making and advisory processes Text field [10 000]		

4. Where appropriate, the implementation of the FAO voluntary guidelines for securing sustainable small-scale fisheries

Text field [10 000]

5. Where appropriate, the implementation of the regional plan of action for small-scale fisheries from the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean

Text field [10 000]

6. Indicators

Table 1: Output indicators				
Title of the output indicator	Measurement unit	Milestone (2024)		Target (2029)
Table 2: Result indicators				
Title of the result indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline	Reference year	Target (2029)