



European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)

Portugal

Portugal – overview

Coast and ports

Located in the westernmost part of Europe on the west coast, over the three main biogeographical regions of the Atlantic Ocean including Azores and Madeira Islands, Portugal has a coastline of 1 214 km (accounting for 1.8 % of the EU's 66 000 km coastline).

The largest ports in Portugal are Sines, Leixões, Setúbal and Aveiro. Fishing vessels use also small ports like Sesimbra, Matosinhos, Peniche, Olhão and Figueira da Foz.

Potential

Portugal has a long-standing tradition and history in fisheries. Despite its limited contribution to the gross domestic product (GDP), the Portuguese fisheries' sector represents a primary sector of significant socio-economic importance, particularly in coastal areas.

In 2013, the Portuguese fishing fleet comprised 8 216 vessels, with a combined gross tonnage of 99 700 GT and a total engine power of 365 500 kW.

Aquaculture in Portugal does not represent more than 6 % of the catches; however, it is growing rapidly and could become an important activity for the fisheries sector. At the same time, it offers other socio-economic benefits like employment opportunities and contributes to local coastal economies.

Economic performance and employment

- In 2013, the number of fishing vessels in the Portuguese fleet totalled 8 126 vessels, of which 51 % in number and 22 % in capacity were inactive. For the same year, the total volume of seafood landings achieved by the Portuguese fleet was around 193 000 tonnes, and the total value amounted to EUR 351 million.
- With the vast majority (95 %) of fishing enterprises owning a single vessel, total employment in the catching sector reached about 17 875 jobs, corresponding to 9 307 full-time equivalents (FTEs).



- Regarding the fish processing industry, it had a turnover of EUR 1 078 million in 2013, with a total employment of 6 823 jobs or 6 308 FTEs.
- Finally, in 2013, the aquaculture sector produced 10 300 tonnes, corresponding to EUR 53.7 million. In the same year, Portuguese aquaculture comprised 1 443 farms employing 2 572 workers, or 2 083 FTEs.
- It is estimated that the blue economy represents 3 % of the Portuguese GDP.

Portugal's Operational Programme



Budget

Total (EU + national):
€506 601 183

EU contribution:
€392 485 464

The Operational Programme (OP) covers 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. implementation of the **Common Fisheries Policy (CFP)**;
4. increasing **employment and territorial cohesion**;
5. fostering **marketing and processing**;
6. implementation of the **Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP)**.



1. Fisheries

What?

The marine fisheries sector in Portugal faces challenges in terms of its sustainability, at both biological and economic level. The poor state of some commercial fish stocks (in particular pelagic and demersal stocks) has resulted in low fishing production for the Portuguese fleet and low incomes for fishers. In addition, the risk of a further reduction of fishing stocks due to the potential increase of fishing pressure, but also due to changing climate conditions, highlights the need for effective intervention in the fisheries sector management.

OP aim

EMFF funding will support the adjustment of the Portuguese fleet fishing effort to the available fishing resources, the use of more selective fishing gear, fleet modernisation, protection of marine resources, establishment of marine protected areas and the modernisation of fishing infrastructures (landing sites, ports and shelters), so as to achieve sustainable management of the fisheries sector at biological, environmental and economic level.

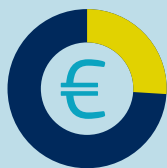
Key result

An environmentally, financially and socially sustainable fisheries sector.

Budget

€103 625 000

26 % of EMFF allocation



2. Aquaculture



What?

Good environmental and climatic conditions, spatial planning and clear identification of available areas (both offshore and in lagoons), skilled human resources, and access to the country's research facilities are the main factors that can boost the aquaculture sector.

The Portuguese aquaculture industry produces marine finfish species and shellfish. The former far exceeds the latter in size — marine fish production accounted for more than 57 % of the total sales value in 2013.

The main cultured marine species are sea bream, sea bass and turbot. In 2013, Portuguese aquaculture production totalled 10 300 tonnes and EUR 58.8 million in value.

OP aim

EMFF funding will support the competitiveness and the environmental and economic sustainability of the aquaculture sector, mainly through the development of joint support facilities and infrastructures, investments aiming to increase the efficiency of aquaculture units, promotion of aquaculture products in new markets and the development of maritime spatial planning.

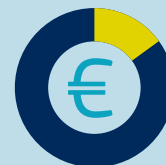
Key objective

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

Budget

€59 000 000

15 % of EMFF allocation



3. Common Fisheries Policy (CFP)



What?

The Department for Natural Resources, Security and Maritime (DGRM) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Sea of the Portugal is responsible for the management of fish stock and for data collection programmes for the assessment of biological and economic data on catch levels for key commercial species.

OP aim

This is a new element in the structural funds for maritime and fisheries, and it represents an opportunity to ensure consistency with the CFP, which sets out rules for managing European fishing fleets and conserving fish stocks. Portugal implements them by strengthening fisheries control and enforcement, and improving the supply of scientific knowledge, and the collection and management of data.

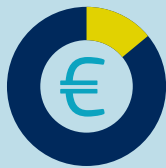
Key result

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

Budget

€55 446 945

14 % of EMFF allocation



4. Community-led local development strategies



What?

Fisheries activities take place in the coastal regions of Portugal. The main challenges faced by Portuguese fisheries and aquaculture areas are creating new sources of income and new job positions, 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;
- promoting social well-being and cultural heritage;
- enhancing and capitalising on environmental assets.

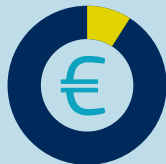
Key result

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

Budget

€35 000 000

9 % of EMFF allocation



5. Marketing and processing



What?

In 2013, the Portuguese seafood processing sector comprised 180 enterprises, 91 of which were small enterprises with fewer than 11 employees. The same year, 6 308 persons were employed on a full-time basis in the sector. The total income generated by the Portuguese seafood processing sector in 2013 was EUR 1 138 million. Portugal is the largest consumer of fish products among EU Member States, and at about 193 000 tonnes per year, the landings of the Portuguese fishing fleet are insufficient to respond to the demand. Therefore, the country has to import almost of 70 % of its

consumption of fishery products. The Portuguese trade balance of fishery products (including aquaculture and products for non-food use) was negative in both volume and value (approximately 180 000 tonnes and EUR 690 million, respectively). Imports are derived almost solely from non-European countries, whilst the vast majority of Portuguese exports are directed at European markets.

OP aim

EMFF funding will be invested in new or improved seafood processing products, processes, new technology, management systems and marketing tools and measures (labelling related to environmental sustainability, and promotional campaigns) for fisheries and aquaculture products. In addition, incentives will be given for the establishment of fisheries producer organisations that aim to improve the existing organisational structures and ensure optimal management of marketing of seafood products. In particular, the compensation of additional costs will be supported in the outermost regions of the Azores and Madeira for fisheries and aquaculture products, in order to make up for the specific disadvantages in those regions.

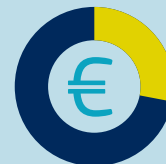
Key result

The processing sector will be modernised, and its economic performance and sustainability will be supported through investments in the development of new or improved products, the introduction of new technology and systems, and marketing and promotional campaigns. The compensation for additional costs in outermost regions for fisheries and aquaculture products represents 40 % of the allocations under this Union Priority.

Budget

€111 228 847

28 % of EMFF allocation



6. Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP)



What?

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

OP aim

EMFF funding will support Portugal to develop and implement the programme of measures under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008/56/EC). Respective projects aim at protecting marine biodiversity and improving knowledge on the marine environment, with a view to contributing to the achievement of 'good environmental status of European seas and oceans by 2020'.

Key results

Preservation and protection of the marine environment and its resources.

Budget

€5 334 672

2 % of EMFF allocation

(The rest of €22 850 000 has been allocated under 'Technical Assistance of the OP')



Simplification

It aims to improve interoperability between national administrative services and reduce the administrative burden for potential beneficiaries. The delivery system will be simplified by reducing the number of intermediate bodies, separating national and regional intermediate bodies and increasing the use of e-administration.

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 and fisheries). Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) will be a core focus under all of the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIFs).

The ESIFs will help fulfil many of the policy recommendations made in the context of the European Semester, e.g. investing in human capital, helping people — especially youth — enter the labour market, facilitating access to finance for SMEs and implementing the new national strategy for research, development and innovation.

Success stories

Local development in coastal areas: 'The best fish of the world'

Through the development of an innovative, short chain delivery system, Axis 4 of the European Fisheries Fund (EFF) OP has helped a Portuguese company to bridge the gap between customers and small-scale fishermen, whilst also encouraging sustainable fishing practices in the Sesimbra area.

Total cost: €25 940 (including EFF funding €5 022)

Productive investments in aquaculture: 'Finisterra. S.A.— exploitation of offshore bivalve production and marketing'

The project aimed to expand the exploited area for sea mussels (*Mytilus galloprovincialis*) from 44.4 hectares to 161 hectares. The project increased the area by occupying 3 sea-bottom parcels, approximately 570 m long and 550 m wide, and enlarging the offshore structure that the company already operates. The new structure comprises 42 longlines, each with a length of 420 m. The project was estimated to have an annual production of about 4 200 tonnes of mussels and is also expected to create 14 jobs.

Total estimated cost: €6 million (including EFF funding €1.9 million)

Cooperation between fishermen and scientists: A future for the eel

Fishermen in Aveiro are participating in environmental conservation measures to help restore the sustainability of a once economically valuable species: the European eel. Their participation is allowing researchers to go further and faster in their research, and is giving fishermen a role in assessing eel stocks, and a voice in proposing conservation measures.

Total cost: €57 720 (including EFF funding €43 290)

Pilot project: 'Pilado' crab for biomedicine

By looking into the biological components of the common swimming crab's shell, this pilot project aims to increase the economic value of a resource that is presently not being utilised, and to create market bridges between fishermen and other stakeholders of the area.

Total cost: €26 842 (including EFF funding €11 072)

More information

• European Commission Fisheries

• EFF 2007-2013

• EMFF 2014-2020

• European Maritime and Fisheries Fund

• Aquaculture multiannual national plan