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EMFF case study - initial outcome

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Case study: Coordinaton of EMFF implementation

- Objective: to foster collaboration in the implementation of the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)
- Workshop in Tallinn, Estonia
- 24-25 September 2015
- 20 experts from 10 Member States (primarily around the Baltic Sea) + 3 from DG MARE



Case study: Coordinaton of EMFF implementation



The objective of the workshop:

- to explore different ways that Member States Managing Authorities can work together to create synergies between their policy, implementation of the fund and the financed projects

Case study: Coordination of EMFF implementation



Outcome of the workshop. Collaboration will lead to:

- more efficient cooperation could increase significantly the **quality of implementation** and lead to better use of public money of the EMFF
- decrease of **error rates**
- increase the dissemination of knowledge and **good practices** between Member States,
- **reduce the time and resources spent** to the implementation questions and interpretation issues
- **improve the dialogue** between the Member States and the Commission

Conclusions and recommendations of the workshop on improving the influence of the EMFF through cooperation

24th and 25th of September 2015
Tallinn, Estonia

At the initiative of Finland and Estonia, experts from ten member states (DK, EE, FI, HU, IE, LT, LV, NL, PL, SE) as well as observers from the European Commission (DG MARE) and COFASP ERA-NET discussed how to improve the influence of the European Maritime Fisheries Fund (EMFF) through cooperation both at implementation level as well as at project level. The workshop was financed and supported, by an ERA-NET/Horizon 2020 project "Cooperation in Fisheries, Aquaculture and Seafood Processing" (COFASP) as synergies between the EMFF and COFASP were expected. COFASP's principal objective is to facilitate, through research and innovation, an effective and efficient implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP).

After two days of informal discussion the participants concluded that deeper and more efficient cooperation could increase significantly the quality of implementation and lead to better use of public money of the EMFF. Improved cooperation would lead in practice to decrease of error rates, increase the dissemination of knowledge and good practices between Member States, ~~reduce~~ the time and resources spent to the implementation questions and interpretation issues and to improve the dialogue between the Member States and the Commission.

In relation to COFASP:

- As COFASP calls are not funded with EU money, Member States can utilise EMFF as financial instrument for joint calls
- It was clear that the EMFF implementation is still in its early phase in many countries
⇒ interpretation, uncertainties and building the national legal framework have currently higher priority
- there are clearly good prospects for cooperation and a great deal of potential in the EMFF to implement joint activities and thus support even better the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy.



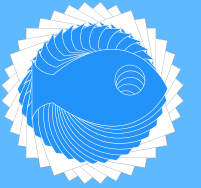
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The following steps were identified

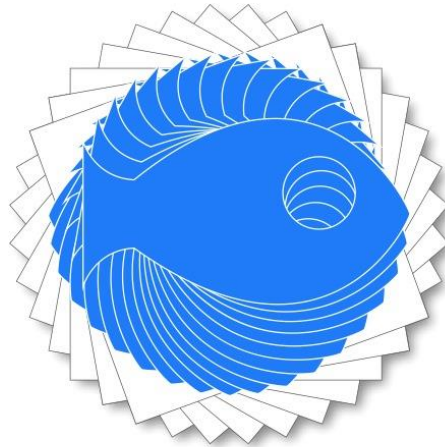
- **Continue to meet** regularly and informally face-to-face in Brussels as well as annually in other Member States.
- **Time (and resources)** need to be reserved to Managing Authorities for cooperation activities.
- Launch a “**EMFF Learning Network**” (web platform) following the example of Agriculture Learning Network.
- Launch a questioner to **map potential cooperation themes** and projects under **direct and shared management** in order to find joint cooperation needs.
- Report in the EMFF expert group meetings the progress of cooperation activities.
- Ensure that **SCAR Fish and COFASP** are aware of the conclusions and recommendations of the workshop as well as discuss with possible collaboration with the EMFF and these bodies;
- Establish a sub group under BALTFISH to **discuss concrete cooperation at regional level**. In future other regional fisheries groups might develop a similar Managing Authority sub-group.

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- The group decided that they wish to conduct a new meeting before finalising the COFASP case study report
- Final report expected by April 2016



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