

Programme Summary

Ireland - Programme for the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund

2021-2027 - CCI 2021IE14MFPR001

1. Programme overview

Total allocation: 258 369 552 EUR

EU contribution: 142 369 552 EUR

National contribution: 116 000 000 EUR

Ireland will implement all four EMFAF Priorities.

TA below is for Technical assistance.

Priority	Specific objective	Union contribution	
		Union contribution without TA	Union contribution for TA
1. Fostering sustainable fisheries and the restoration and conservation of aquatic biological resources	1.1.1. Strengthening economically, socially and environmentally sustainable fishing activities. All operations except those supported under Articles 17 and 19	12,910,915	774,637
1. Fostering sustainable fisheries and the restoration and conservation of aquatic biological resources	1.1.2. Strengthening economically, socially and environmentally sustainable fishing activities. Operations supported under Articles 17 and 19	1,000,000	60,000
1. Fostering sustainable fisheries and the restoration and conservation of aquatic biological resources	1.2. Increasing energy efficiency and reducing CO2 emissions through the replacement or modernisation of engines of fishing vessels	1,000,000	60,000
1. Fostering sustainable fisheries and the restoration and conservation of aquatic biological resources	1.3. Promoting the adjustment of fishing capacity to fishing opportunities in cases of permanent cessation of fishing activities and contributing to a fair standard of living in cases of temporary cessation of fishing activities	1,000,000	60,000
1. Fostering sustainable fisheries and the restoration and conservation of aquatic biological resources	1.4. Fostering efficient fisheries control and enforcement, including fighting against IUU fishing, as well as reliable data for knowledge-based decision-making	50,000,000	3,000,000
1. Fostering sustainable fisheries and the restoration and conservation of aquatic biological resources	1.6. Contributing to the protection and restoration of aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems	4,500,000	270,000
2. Fostering sustainable aquaculture activities, and processing and marketing of fisheries and	2.1. Promoting sustainable aquaculture activities, especially strengthening the competitiveness of aquaculture production,	16,000,000	960,000

Priority	Specific objective	Union contribution	
		Union contribution without TA	Union contribution for TA
aquaculture products, thus contributing to food security in the Union	while ensuring that the activities are environmentally sustainable in the long term		
2. Fostering sustainable aquaculture activities, and processing and marketing of fisheries and aquaculture products, thus contributing to food security in the Union	2.2. Promoting marketing, quality and added value of fisheries and aquaculture products, as well as processing of those products	35,600,000	2,136,000
3. Enabling a sustainable blue economy in coastal, island and inland areas, and fostering the development of fishing and aquaculture communities	3.1. Enabling a sustainable blue economy in coastal, island and inland areas, and fostering the sustainable development of fishing and aquaculture communities	9,000,000	540,000
4. Strengthening international ocean governance and enabling seas and oceans to be safe, secure, clean and sustainably managed	4.1. Strengthening sustainable sea and ocean management through the promotion of marine knowledge, maritime surveillance or coast guard cooperation	3,300,000	198,000

2. Programme Summary

The Irish EMFAF programme aims to strengthen the resilience of the seafood sector, through environmentally sustainable and climate smart actions, and to support its green transition and digitalisation. The programme contributes to the EU objectives defined in the EU Green Deal, Farm to Fork, Biodiversity strategy and national seafood strategies.

The programme will also address the important long-term and structural reforms needed in response to the impact felt from Brexit by the Irish seafood sector. These are being dealt with in the first instance through the Brexit Adjustment Reserve (BAR) support. As the transformational change of the seafood sector extends beyond 2023 (when the BAR support will end), EMFAF will become the main financial source for long-term structural support.

The Irish programme will implement all four EMFAF priorities.

Improving energy efficiency, decarbonisation, digitalisation and building resilience to the effects of climate change are cross-cutting areas of support. The programme can provide also for emergency support for the seafood sector in case of significant market disruption.

The fisheries specific challenges will be tackled through actions addressing the generational renewal of an ageing workforce; improving the health, safety and working conditions on board fishing vessels; on board investments in selective fishing gears to reduce unwanted catch and onshore investment to facilitate the handling of unwanted catch; also support for the temporary cessation of fishing activities may be provided in case of natural disasters, environmental incidents or health crises.

Data collection and fisheries control and enforcement, which are key for the effective implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy, remain important focus areas of the programme and together account for more than a third of its total budget.

Sustainable aquaculture and processing of fisheries and aquaculture products are also important areas of support, representing more than a third of the total budget as well. For these areas, the objectives of the programme will be achieved through innovation, investments in sustainable aquaculture, including developing cultivation techniques that support biodiversity and actions to increase the competitiveness of the processing sector.

The coastal communities will drive the implementation of the Irish community-led local development strategies to enhance economic opportunity and ensure a dynamic framework for sustainable local development and diversification of its blue economy.

The Irish EMFAF programme will also support specific actions to enrich marine knowledge, in particular to improve the management of marine protected areas (MPA), as well as to fight against marine litter. This will include continued support for the designation and management of Natura 2000 sites and MPAs, the development and use of more selective fishing gear, the restoration of habitats and species and the expansion of the Clean Oceans Initiative to address plastic pollution.

Contribution to EU horizontal priorities:

Resilience: The Irish EMFAF programme focuses on research, innovation and knowledge transfer, skills development and also the use of modern technologies to strengthen the resilience and profitability of the seafood sector.

Ireland has included in its programme a provision for support of temporary cessation of fishing activities in case of natural disasters, environmental incidents or health crises as well as emergency support for the seafood sector in case of significant market disruption.

Green transition:

With its EMFAF programme, Ireland will support research and innovation aiming at decarbonisation, and the replacement and modernisation of fishing vessels' engines to reduce the carbon emissions of the Irish fleet in order to reach its national goals on climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Overall, the Irish EMFAF programme is in line with the EU Green Deal, the Farm to Fork and Biodiversity Strategies, and the Irish national seafood strategy. The programme will support research and the development of measures to improve the management of marine protected areas as well as actions to fight marine litter.

Ireland plans to develop innovative, sustainable and environmentally friendly technologies in aquaculture and processing. The use of energy efficient production methods and technologies and support to increase the use of renewable energy sources is also envisaged to accompany operators in their green transition.

Based on the budget allocations, the programme contributions to fight **climate change** and protect the **environment** represent respectively **58%** and **68%** of the total EU allocation, which is well above the 30% target for climate contribution set in the EMFAF Regulation. The contribution of the programme to **biodiversity** amounts to **25%**.

Digital transition: The digital transition of the entire seafood sector is a strategic focus area of the programme. It includes the development of digital skills and capacity for professionals in the sector to take up new technologies and implement digital

transformation in the Irish fleet, in particular its small-scale coastal fleet (SSCF), and to maximise the use of digital technology to enhance control and enforcement of the CFP, through digital catch reporting and traceability systems.

The transition to digital technology in the management of EMFAF grants is also important for Ireland. Using technical assistance, a new grant management system will be developed, which will facilitate online application to support schemes, simplify administration for all implementing bodies and beneficiaries and strengthen reporting requirements and the collection of indicator data.

Added value of public investment: Ireland carried out an ex-ante assessment for the use of Financial Instruments for Ireland's programmes under the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) a few years ago. For the 2021-2027 programming period, Ireland renewed its decision not to implement FIs. Main reason is that nationally funded FIs are currently being implemented through the Strategic Banking Corporation of Ireland (SCBI) and are available to both the agriculture and seafood sectors.

3. Partnership Agreement (PA)

The Irish Partnership Agreement was adopted on 16 September 2022.