

Overview

The Operational Programme (OP) supported by the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) in Ireland aims at achieving key national development priorities along with the EU's "Europe 2020" objectives. The OP will support the general reform of the EU's Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and the development of its Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP) in Ireland.

Main objectives:

The OP strategy is designed around the Irish national priorities in the agri-food sector: *'Act Smart'* by encouraging knowledge and innovation, *'Think Green'* through a responsible and sustainable use of resources, *'Achieve Growth'* in order to maintain and create jobs.

Funding aims at increasing the competitiveness of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors through innovation and skills, while promoting a more efficient and sustainable use of resources. Funding will also help local coastal communities to improve their livelihood by supporting small-scale fisheries and through significantly increased support for Fisheries Local Action Groups (FLAGs).

Due to its geographical position, Ireland has major responsibilities in enforcing the rules of the CFP, but also in providing sound data for the management of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors. The EMFF support will help Ireland to fulfil its obligations and better achieve these challenges.

Funds will also be used to improve the competitiveness of small and medium-sized companies in the marketing and processing sectors, through investments to reduce energy costs; and to improve safety, product quality and traceability. Compared to the past, a greater focus is put on the sustainable use of resources, marine knowledge and preserving marine biodiversity, local-led development of fisheries and aquaculture areas, and shifting towards a low-carbon economy.

Funding priorities:

The Irish OP is organised around the following priorities:

- **Union Priority 1 (UP1)**: € 33.5 million (23% of the total EMFF allocation) aim at assuring the sustainable development of fishing activities, while protecting the marine environment. The OP will help Ireland to adjust fleet capacity to available resources and support the Irish fishing fleet in tackling the obligation to land all catches, also through investments in port infrastructures.
- **Union Priority 2 (UP2)**: € 14.9 million (10% of the EMFF allocation) will support the Irish National Strategic Plan for Aquaculture that aims at boosting the competitiveness of the aquaculture sector. Support will go towards three main areas: sustainable aquaculture production; knowledge, innovation and new technology; and more effective governance of marine planning.
- **Union Priority 3 (UP3)**: € 69.8 million (47% of the EMFF allocation) will go towards compliance with CFP rules regarding control and data collection. Funding will be used to further develop risk-based inspection of fishing activities and enhance

cooperation with other Member States to ensure effective fisheries control and inspection in Ireland and at EU level. EMFF funding will also ensure a more efficient data collection and management, by improving scientific assessment of stocks and the knowledge on the state of the marine environment at sea.

- **Union Priority 4 (UP4):** €6 million (4% of the EMFF allocation) will support local development initiatives – a substantial, eleven-fold increase compared to the 2007-2013 funding period. EMFF funds will create and maintain jobs in fisheries and aquaculture areas and strengthen the role of the small-scale fisheries sector in the development of local communities.
- **Union Priority 5 (UP5):** €17.3 million (12% of the EMFF allocation) will go towards creating scale in the Irish marketing and processing sectors, starting from the base of very small-scale businesses. Funds will also go to developing new products from underutilised/non-commercial species.
- **Union Priority 6 (UP6):** €5.3 million (3.5% of the EMFF allocation) will be used on measures to improve the knowledge on the state of the marine environment and the level of protection of marine areas, through collection and harmonisation of marine data and development of marine spatial planning capacities.
- €0.8 million (0.5% of the EMFF allocation) is allocated to technical assistance in order to reinforce implementation and ensure efficient administration of the EU funding.

Financial Information	
Total OP Budget	€239 265 133
Total EU Contribution	€147 601 979
Total Exchequer Contribution	€91 663 154

Ireland EMFF OP 2014-2020 Summary of Schemes & Funding

Union Priority 1 - Sustainable Development of Fisheries (€67m)



Sustainable Fisheries Scheme

(Total €25m - €12.5m Exchequer, €12.5m EMFF)

Supports the fishing fleet in implementing the CFP, in particular the discards ban and landing obligation.

Decommissioning Scheme

(Total €16m - €8m Exchequer, €8 EMFF)

Supports maintenance of a balance between fishing capacity and fishing opportunities by decommissioning vessels in imbalanced segments.

Inshore Fisheries Conservation Scheme

(Total €6m - €3m Exchequer, €3m EMFF)

Supports implementation of the Small Scale Coastal Fisheries Action Plan to support the economic, social and environmental sustainability of inshore fishing.

Marine Biodiversity Scheme

(Total €9.4m - €4.7 Exchequer, €4.7 EMFF)

Supports compliance of fisheries and aquaculture with Habitats, Birds and Marine Strategy Framework Directives through acquisition and analysis of data on fisheries and aquaculture and conduct of Habitats Directive assessments.

Engine Replacement Scheme

(Total €3m - €1.5m Exchequer, €1.5m EMFF)

Supports for replacement of fishing boat engines with more energy efficient engines.

Human Capital Scheme

(Total €5.6m - €2.8m Exchequer, €2.8m EMFF)

Investment in training, mentoring, skills development, networking and exchange of best practice and dissemination of knowledge for the fishing sector.

New Fishermen Scheme

(Total €1m - €0.5m Exchequer, €0.5m EMFF)

Supports for fishermen <40 years of age to purchase first fishing vessel.

Mutual Fund

(Total €1m - €0.5m Exchequer, €0.5m EMFF)

Contribution to an industry led mutual fund to aid affiliated fishermen significantly affected by economic losses arising from storms, biotoxin events etc.

For further information:

<http://www.bim.ie>

Union Priority 2 - Sustainable Development of Aquaculture (€30m)



Sustainable Aquaculture Scheme

(Total €20.6m – €10.3m Exchequer €10.3m EMFF)

Supports sustainable growth of output, value and employment in the aquaculture sector through capital investment in licensed aquaculture sites, promotion of organic aquaculture and aid for biotoxin closures.

Knowledge Gateway Scheme

(€8.2m- €4.1m Exchequer €4.1m EMFF)

Supports investment in knowledge, innovation, technology, training and advice for the aquaculture sector.

Good Governance and Reducing the Administrative Burden

(€1m- €0.5m Exchequer €0.5m EMFF)

Development of an IT system to support sustainable management of aquaculture, in particular spatial mapping of licensed sites and of protected habitats.

For further information:

<http://www.bim.ie>



Union Priority 3 – Accompanying Measures for the CFP (€84.8m)



Control and Enforcement Scheme

(Total €44m - €8.2m Exchequer €37.2 EMFF)

- Investment by DAFM in electronic fishery management systems and databases to support implementation of the CFP and EU Control Regulation.
- Investment by SFPA in control infrastructure, equipment, training etc.
- Joint investment by SFPA and Department of Defence on training, vessel monitoring systems, compliance promotion.
- Investment by the Department of Defence in new fisheries patrol vessels, joint control missions, and the Fisheries Monitoring Centre.

For further information:

<http://www.sfpa.ie>

Data Collection Scheme

(Total €40.8m- €8.2m Exchequer €32.6m EMFF)

- Supports policy and management of fisheries at National and EU level through compilation and analysis of scientific and economic data on fisheries.
- Will include research vessel surveys, contracting of scientific and economic resources, and expertise to survey, compile and analyse data.
- Supplemented by a further €12m in Exchequer spend outside EMFF.

For further information:

<http://www.marine.ie>

Union Priority 4 – Sustainable Development of Fisheries & Aquaculture Areas (€12m)



Fisheries Local Area Development Scheme

(Total €12m- €6m Exchequer €6m EMFF)

- Funds preparation of community led local development strategies in fishing communities and implementation of those strategies by 7 approved Fisheries Local Action Groups (FLAGs).
- Will support seafood enterprise development and diversification into wider marine economy.

For further information:

<http://www.bim.ie>

Union Priority 5 - Processing and Marketing (€33m)



Seafood Processing Capital Investment Scheme

(Total €13m- €6.5m Exchequer €6.5m EMFF)

Support for capital investment by seafood processing enterprises in premises and equipment to increase value added processing of fish, add value and increase sales.

Seafood Innovation and Business Planning Scheme

(Total €7m- €3.5m Exchequer €3.5m EMFF)

Support for innovation, New Product Development and advisory services in the seafood processing sector.

Seafood Scaling and New Market Development Scheme

(Total €4m - €2m Exchequer €2m EMFF)

Support to seafood processing enterprises to encourage consolidation and cooperation in the sector and to develop new markets.

Seafood Promotion Scheme

(Total €5m - €2.5m Exchequer €2.5m EMFF)

Supporting promotion by Bord Bia of seafood products internationally.

Producer Organisation Scheme

(Total €3m - €1.5m Exchequer €1.5m EMFF)

Aid to Producer Organisations to develop and implement Production and Marketing Plans.

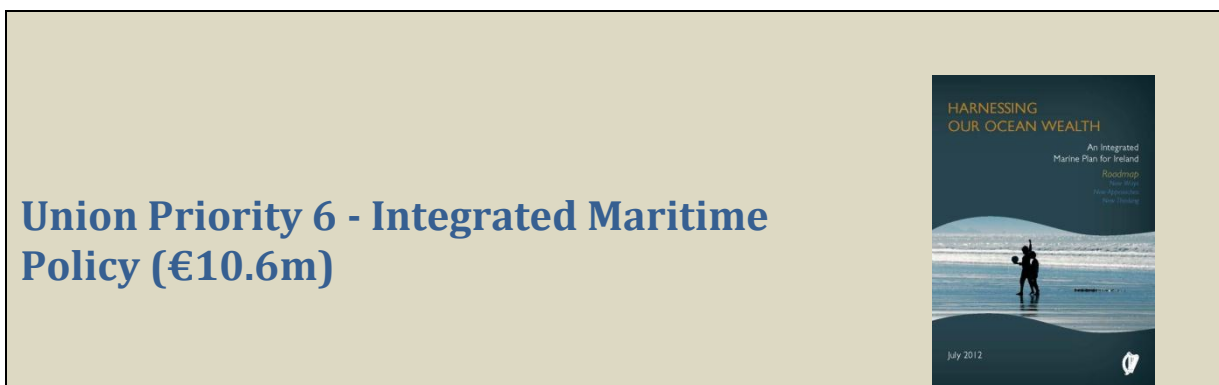
Storage Aid

(Total €1.3m - €1.3m EMFF)

Limited market price support mechanism for seafood products.

For further information:

<http://www.bim.ie>



Blue Growth and Marine Spatial Planning Scheme

(Total €10.6m - €5.3m Exchequer €5.3m EMFF)

Supporting actions targeted at enabling investment in Ireland's blue economy and supporting the establishment Marine Spatial Planning in Ireland for the purpose of promoting sustainable growth of maritime economies, the sustainable development of marine areas and sustainable use of marine resources.

For Further information:

<http://www.ouroceanwealth.ie/>

Managing Authority:

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

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EMFF Operational Programme - Ireland document is located at:

<http://tinyurl.com/z8snntz>