



EMFF OP Monitoring Committee 03rd December 2019

Draft Minutes

Agenda item 1 – Introduction & Adoption of Agenda

Attendance: (see Appendix A)

Paschal Hayes (chair) opened the meeting and welcomed EMFF OP Monitoring Committee (MC) members.

Having established that a quorum was present, the **Chair** invited MC members to declare any conflict of interest – none were declared.

No further Items were requested to be added to the agenda, and so the proposed agenda was adopted.

Agenda item 2 - Minutes of Meeting 30th May 2019- For Approval

The **Chair** asked for comments/observations on the amended Draft minutes of the previous meeting.

The minutes were approved. (Subject to minor correction)

Agenda item 3 – Update on Suspension of EU funds for Control & Enforcement

The Chair provided an update on the suspension by the Commission of EU recoupment to Ireland of EMFF funds for control and enforcement in connection with the EMFF ex-ante conditionality relating to the EU Points system for fishing vessel owners and masters. He advised that there is currently €10 million in recoupment claims suspended. This will rise to €25 million in 2020, when further recoupment claims relating to 2019 expenditure are submitted and to €37 million in 2021. He advised that the Minister was fully committed to resolving the issue and every effort was being made to progress this.

Alenka Kampl, DGMARE confirmed that it was also the Commission's expectation that this issue would be resolved soon and that the suspension will be lifted as soon as Ireland comes into compliance.

Agenda item 4 - Progress on Implementation of the Programme in 2019

Presentation on Progress Review 2019 (Damien Clarke, DAFM)

Discussion following presentation

Damien Clarke advised that programme modifications would follow by written procedure.

Sean O Donoghue KFO expressed concerns that under the Producer Organisation Scheme there were significant delays for approvals and payment for some Producer Organisations and that some approvals requested in 2018 had not yet been received. **The Chair** stated that the Producer Organisations' Production and Marketing Plans and Annual reports had been assessed by BIM and will be considered at a meeting of the Expert Advisory Committee on 10 December 2019. **Tom Scanlon, BIM** confirmed this and also advised that the simplified costs option was not yet finalised but was progressing.

Sean O Donoghue, KFO requested confirmation that following €7.1 million investment in control and enforcement systems, that the systems could communicate with each other. **The Chair** confirmed that was the case and that the systems would be forward facing to fishermen.

Alenka Kampl DGMARE confirmed that Ireland compared favourably with other countries and the overall commitment rates were very good, although UP 1 and UP4 were slightly behind. The uptake is also slower on UP2 and UP6. Alenka confirmed that targets are being met and are realistic, that the current regulation allows for payments until 2023 and that in the next programme, it would be 2 years rather than 3 for commitments and payments.

The Chair, noted that there was no modifications to Implementation plans at this point.

Publication of the initial public consultation relating to the EMFAF has been somewhat delayed by Brexit uncertainties and other pressures but should be published shortly.

Planning for preparation of the EMFF 2021-27 Programme is ongoing, the Managing Authority is finalising tenders for consultancy assistance with preparation of the new Programme.

Agenda item 5 – EMFF 2021-27 Programme Preparation

The Chair advised that the following presentations were seeking to generate debate and ideas on some of the environmental aspects of the next Programme, specifically climate change, biodiversity and marine litter.

Although other funds were available to directly deal with these issues, the EMFAF should seek a balance between these and Seafood Development.

Presentation on Climate Change (Roni Hawe DAFM)

Discussion following presentation

Kevin Flannery, FLAGS. Noted that a lot of research was being done in this area but expressed concern that there may be a lack of coordination and collaboration between different research areas including 3rd level institutions and agencies.

Catherine Morrison, BIM acknowledged that it was difficult to bring all institutes together and suggested that the new programmes should have a targeted call for research projects as opposed to an open call for such areas.

Presentation on Marine Biodiversity (Leonie O'Dowd, Marine Institute)

Discussion following presentation

Cliona O'Brien, Department of Culture, Heritage & Gaeltacht stated that this was one of the areas, along with Birds & Habitat, that would be addressed in the New Programme for Government and would be providing an action framework to address.

A discussion was held on the importance of ensuring that any displacement caused by bio-diversity efforts were explored and only continued if justified.

Presentation on Clean Oceans Initiative (Catherine Morrison, BIM)

Discussion following presentation

Trudy McIntyre, NIFF pointed out that there was a lot of waste on the west coast of Ireland and enquired what is being done to bring those responsible to justice and whether the country of origin of the waste could be identified especially repeat offenders.

Catherine Morrison, BIM responded that it was currently difficult to classify the origin, but potential options were being investigated.

Discussions were held as to options to recycle this waste and the challenges that were being experienced, mainly due to contamination.

Joe Silke, M.I. acknowledged that Seafest 2019 provided the platform, to showcase projects displaying examples of marine litter recycling. These were well received by visitors to the event.

Catherine Morrison, BIM confirmed that BIM are committed to participating in such events in order to educate the public about marine litter.

Sean O Donoghue, KFO acknowledged the success of the work being done by BIM. But this needs to continue and stated that fishing gear is only ¼ of the problem, with other issues like microplastics continuing to be an issue.

Kevin Flannery, FLAGS recalled that although much work was being done at the 6 fishery harbour centres, there were over 400 landing places and councils and local authorities were responsible for these.

Catherine Morrison, BIM confirmed that this year the bigger vessels were targeted with almost 100% of those now engaged. However, work had also begun with 6/7 County Councils with some more engaged than others. The main issue being that there was no permanent management on these smaller landing sites.

Alenka Kampl, DGMARE thanked the contributors of the previous presentations.

Alenka stated that the new commissioner Virginijus Sinkevičius took office on the 1st December.

It is hoped that the new fund EMFAF will allow more flexibility in its set up of schemes.

It will not be able to cover all ambitions and so we should look to other funds to reach the best possible collective outcome.

Agenda item 6 - 6. AOB

Progress update of negotiations for 2021-27 period (COM)

- **Alenka Kampl, DGMARE** provided an update that formal trilateral negotiations on the draft Regulation have commenced involving Commission, Council and Parliament.

Revision of the strategic guidelines for aquaculture (COM)

- An update was provided by Alenka Kampl, DGMARE

There were no further comments or contributions, so the Chair thanked the attendees and the meeting was concluded.

END

Appendix A

Attendees

Name	Organisation
Antonescu, Adrian	DGMARE
Brennan, David	Marine Harvest
Clarke, Damien	DAFM
Coppinger, Declan	Bord BIA
Faulkner, Barry	NIFF
Flannery, Kevin	FLAG Rep/ North West Shellfish
Guckian, Barry	NWRA
Hawe, Roni	DAFM
Hayes, Paschal	DAFM
Hennessy, Breda J	DAFM
Kampl, Alenka	DGMARE
Kelleher, Keith	DAFM
Lyons, David	Culture, Heritage & Gaeltacht
McCarthy, Aine	SFPA
McDonagh, Noel	FLAG Rep
McIntyre, Trudy	NIFF
McKendry, Felix	Enterprise Ireland
Morrison, Catherine	BIM
Morrissey, Teresa	IFA
Murphy, Ann	DAFM
O'Brien, Cliona	Culture, Heritage & Gaeltacht
O'Donoghue, Sean	KFO
O'Dowd, Leonie	Marine Institute

OShea, Conor	SFPA
Power, Maureen	DAFM
Rihan, Dominic	BIM
Ryan, Olga	DAFM
Scanlon, Tom	BIM
Silke, Joe	Marine Institute
Stanley, Margaret	Dept of Defence
Tobin, Carmel	DAFM
Twomey, Michelle	DAFM
Weir, Ross	Public Expenditure and Reform
APOLOGIES	
Hogan, Enda	Southern Assembly
Murphy, Patrick	Irish South & West
Ward, John	IFPO
Gallagher, Jerry	Northwest Shellfish
Roe, Corina	DAFM
Doyle, John	Dept Defence
McGarry, Mary	Dept Education
Boyle, Hugo	ISEFPO
Quirke, Mick	DAFM
Carey, Mary	DAFM
Conway, Jim	EMRA
Lawler, Ian	BIM
Walker, Michael	Environmental Pillar
Kelly, Paul	IBEC