

EMFF OP Annual  
Implementation Report 2016  
Citizens Summary



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## 1. - Introduction

The aim of the Citizens Summary is to provide a summary of the second Annual Implementation Report (AIR) for the EMFF OP 2014-2020, which reports on the progress achieved under the EMFF OP for the year 2016.

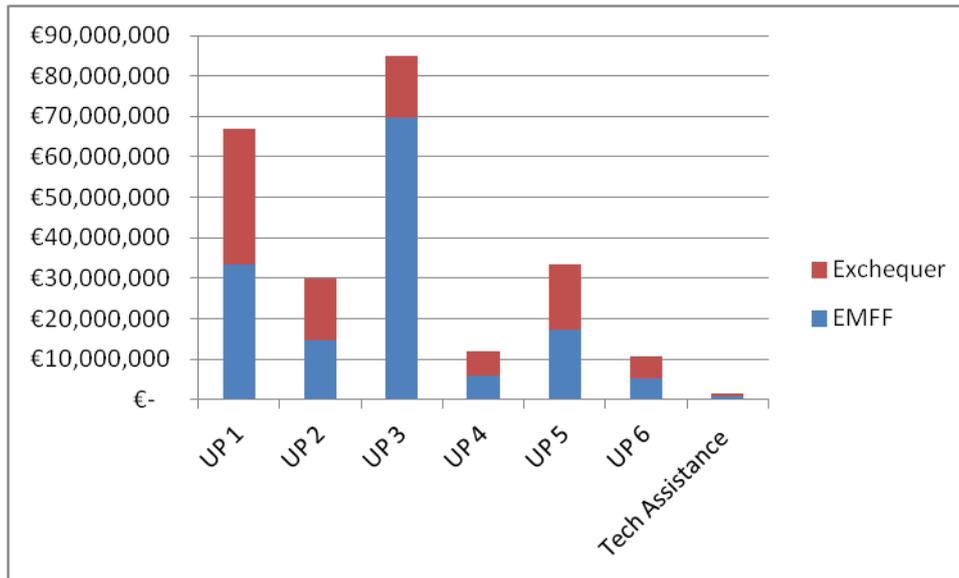
## 2. - Background

Following approval by Government of Ireland's EMFF Operational Programme and its adoption by the European Commission on 4 December 2015, the Programme was formally launched on 14 January 2016. The Programme is implemented under Regulation 508/2014 (European Maritime and Fisheries Fund). The Programme is the principal source of development funding for the seafood sector to 2021 approximately. The Programme provides a range of support measures for fisheries, aquaculture and seafood processing.

The Programme is co-funded by the Exchequer and European Union as follow:

### **EMFF OP 2014-2020 Financial Allocations by Union Priority**

<b>Union Priority</b>	<b>EMFF</b>	<b>Exchequer</b>	<b>Total Public</b>
1 - Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based fisheries	€ 33,500,000	€ 33,500,000	€ 67,000,000
2 - Fostering environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based aquaculture	€ 14,900,000	€ 14,900,000	€ 29,800,000
3 - Fostering the implementation of the CFP	€ 69,790,720	€ 15,133,482	€ 84,924,202
4 - Increasing employment and territorial cohesion	€ 6,000,000	€ 6,000,000	€ 12,000,000
5 - Fostering marketing and processing	€ 17,281,587	€ 16,000,000	€ 33,281,587
6 - Fostering the implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy	€ 5,334,672	€ 5,334,672	€ 10,669,344
7 - Technical assistance	€ 795,000	€ 795,000	€ 1,590,000
<b>EMFF OP 2014-2020 Total</b>	<b>€ 147,601,979</b>	<b>€ 91,663,154</b>	<b>€ 239,265,133</b>



**Figure 1 -EMFF OP 2014-2020 Allocations**

## 2. - Overview

Total Programme expenditure in 2016 was €18.1 million. This is detailed in section 3. Having regard to funds made available for the Programme in 2016, this level of expenditure was lower than anticipated. From the €23.7 million available under support schemes for fisheries, aquaculture and processing, only €11 million approximately was committed through grant offers in 2016, while only €7 million approximately was actually drawn down by applicants in 2016. The following are considered to be some of the main reasons for the lower than anticipated spend:

- The proposed Decommissioning Scheme did not proceed;
- Approved investment projects in the seafood processing sector did not proceed for various business reasons;
- Continued muted demand for capital grants in the aquaculture sector;
- Considerably lower than anticipated interest in investments to facilitate the landing obligation;
- Difficulties for some operators in accessing credit and the cost of credit;
- The establishment of the seven FLAGs in 2016 and approval of their Local Development Strategies in November 2016, meaning applications for FLAG support were not invited in 2016.

The Managing Authority and BIM will be reviewing scheme administration and proposing changes to scheme terms and conditions to promote and incentivise investment and enhance take-up of funds in 2017 and beyond.

A Cost Benefit Analysis of the proposed €16 million Decommissioning Scheme, required under the Public Spending Code, was commissioned by BIM in 2016 and conducted by consultants Grant Thornton. While the CBA acknowledged the positive NPV of the proposed Scheme, it concluded that a scheme was not recommended because of the high risks that off-register fleet capacity would be

used to facilitate the introduction of replacement vessels, thus undermining the value of the expenditure under the Scheme.

Work continues to address the outstanding EMFF ex-ante conditionality concerning the points system for control and enforcement. The High Court judgement against the State in relation to Regulations providing for a points system for licence holders is under appeal to the Supreme Court and a hearing date is awaited. Separately, drafting of primary legislation providing for a points system for licence holders, and for masters of fishing vessels, is well advanced and, subject to legal advice from the Attorney General, will be brought to Government.

In 2016, consultants Indecon were commissioned jointly by the EAFRD and EMFF Managing Authorities to conduct an ex-ante assessment required under the Common Provisions Regulation (1303/2013) to consider the case for the use of financial instruments in the two programmes. In relation to the seafood sector, this study focused on the seafood processing and aquaculture sectors. The study has not yet been finalised by Indecon.

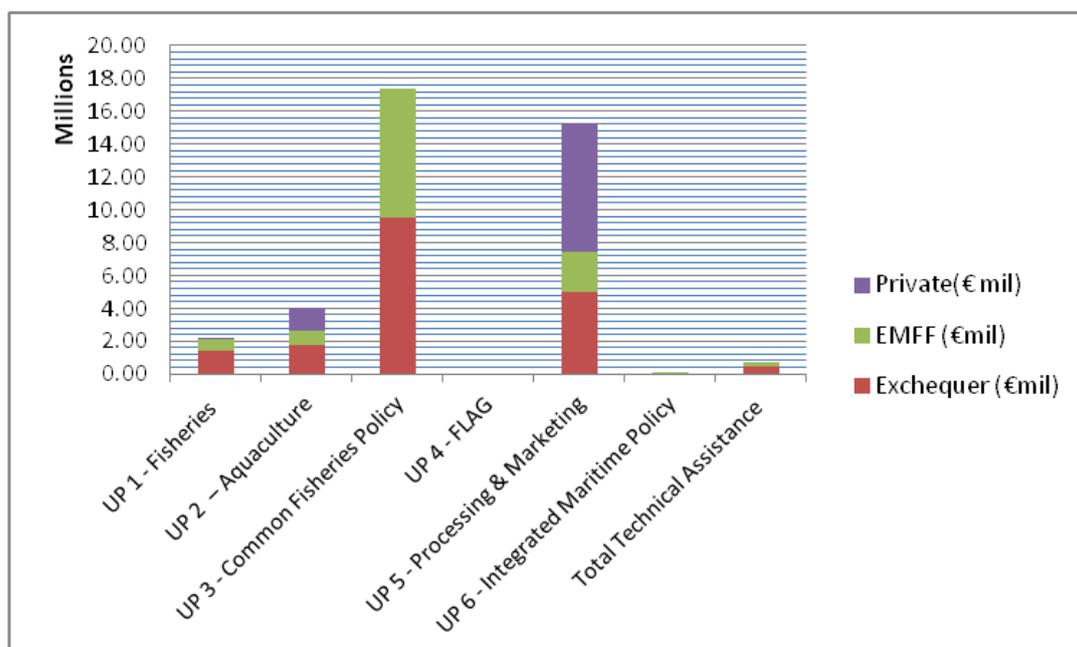
### 3. - EMFF Implementation 2016.

In 2016, some 22 schemes were approved by the Programme Monitoring Committee in the course of its 3 meetings in 2016. The 22 schemes are listed below, together with total public aid in 2016 for each scheme, where applicable.

#### **Expenditure declared by beneficiaries in 2016 by Scheme/Measure**

	<b>Total Investment</b>	<b>Public Aid</b>
Sustainable Fisheries Scheme	€791,097.24	€776,537.24
New Fishermans Scheme	€ -	€ -
Marine Biodiversity Scheme	€275,000.00	€275,000.00
Inshore Fisheries Scheme	€429,556.95	€335,598.40
Seafood Skills and Training Measure	€ -	€ -
Fishery Harbours Scheme	€ -	€ -
<b>Total UP 1 - Fisheries</b>	<b>€1,495,654.19</b>	<b>€1,387,135.64</b>
Sustainable Aquaculture Scheme	€2,191,422.09	€802,565.67
Knowledge Gateway Scheme	€949,443.12	€932,683.14
Aquaculture System Scheme	€ -	€ -
<b>Total UP2 - Aquaculture</b>	<b>€3,140,865.21</b>	<b>€1,735,248.81</b>
Control & Enforcement	€2,928,687.74	€2,928,687.74
Data Collection	€6,558,760.26	€6,558,760.26
<b>Total UP3 - Common Fisheries Policy</b>	<b>€9,487,448.00</b>	<b>€9,487,448.00</b>
<b>Total UP4 - FLAG</b>	<b>€ -</b>	<b>€ -</b>
Producer Organisation Scheme	€1,531,038.19	€609,669.00
Seafood Promotion Scheme	€833,000.00	€833,000.00
Seafood Processing Development Measure	€10,436,806.55	€3,516,190.80
Storage Aid Scheme	€ -	€ -

<b>Total UP5 - Processing &amp; Marketing</b>	<b>€12,800,844.74</b>	<b>€4,958,859.80</b>
<b>Total UP6 - Integrated Maritime Policy</b>	<b>€55,400</b>	<b>€55,400</b>
<b>Total Technical Assistance</b>	<b>€485,807.00</b>	<b>€485,807.00</b>
<b>2016 Grand Total</b>	<b>€27,466,019.14</b>	<b>€18,109,899.25</b>



**Figure 4 - Expenditure declared by beneficiaries 2016 by Union Priority**

### 3.1 - Union Priority 1- Sustainable Development of Fisheries

#### Marine Biodiversity Scheme - Article 40

The Marine Biodiversity scheme supports actions with the specific objectives of

1. reducing the impact of fisheries and aquaculture on the marine environment, including the avoidance and reduction, as far as possible, of unwanted catch
2. Protecting and restoring aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems.

In 2016, projects carried out under UP1 included the following:

- Assessments on the impacts of winter potting, oyster dredging and hydraulic dredging.
- Monitoring of fishing activities surrounding closed areas to protect sensitive habitats.
- Appropriate assessment reports and advisory services of aquaculture activities in NATURA sites (SPAs and SACs)

Implementation cost of the marine biodiversity scheme in 2016 was €275,000.

### **New Fishermen Scheme - Article 31**

The objective of this Scheme is to contribute to maintaining a balance between available fishing capacity and fishing opportunities in particular fleet segments by encouraging younger fishermen to enter balanced fleet segments.

In 2016, there was one project was approved (Eligible Expenditure €227,000 with public expenditure granted of €56,750) but not fully completed. The main issue for lack of uptake in 2016 may extend to the limited scope of the scheme to vessels less than 12m due to the fleet balance report leading to the exclusion of polyvalent vessels greater than 12m.

### **Sustainable Fisheries Scheme - Articles 27, 29, 32, 38, 40, 42**

The objectives of this Scheme include the following

- Assist the seafood sector make the structural adjustment necessary to implement the CFP Landing Obligation.
- Reduce the impact of fisheries on the marine environment.

The Scheme did not become operational until Q3 2016 so it is expected to have a much greater uptake in 2017

#### **Part A - Public Interest Projects:**

In 2016 support for public interest projects were implemented under the BIM Work Programme for 2016. This programme of actions mainly focused on Environmentally Friendly Fishing Methods, innovation and protection /restoration of marine biodiversity. Examples include the following:

- Development of a cetacean friendly device to reduce seal-fisheries interactions
- Improved gear selectivity to address the landing obligation
- Fishing for Litter Programme & Waste Management
- Provision of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Environment Information Services

12 Part A projects were supported to a grant value of €754,690.

#### **Part B - On Board Investments**

In 2016 support for on-board investment in fishing vessels focused on improving health and safety, quality, adding value and improving working conditions. Examples include the following:

- Insulated Fish Bins
- Jigging Machines
- Personal protection & Fish Handling Equipment

8 projects supported to a grant value of €21,847.

Part C - Promoting Quality and Added Value Onshore

This part of the scheme is designed to foster the gradual elimination of discards, to reduce the impact of fishing on the marine environment, and to facilitate the transition to a sustainable exploitation of living marine biological resources. In 2016 no projects were approved.

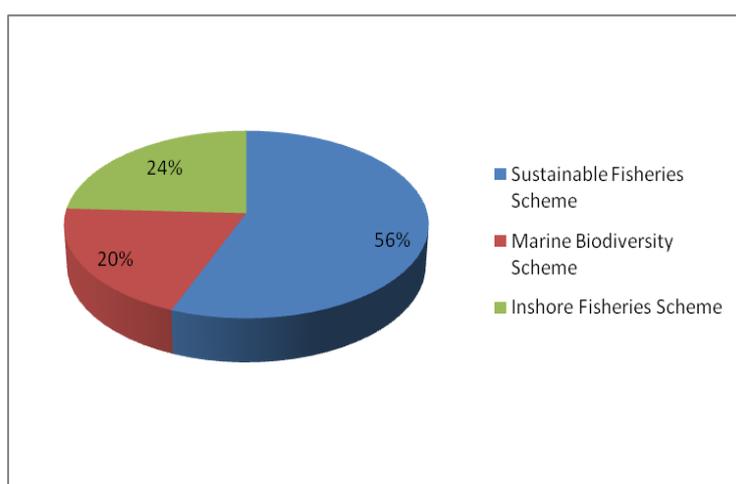
**Inshore Fisheries Conservation Scheme (V Notching) - Article 40:**

The objective of this Scheme is to support implementation of the Small Scale Coastal Fisheries (SSCF) Action Plan, together with similar supports to the inshore fisheries sector generally. The Scheme aims to stabilise and aid recovery of stock biomass in inshore stocks, support ecosystems based management of those stocks, and support the economic viability of the 1,313 SSCF vessels in the Irish fleet.

In 2016, aid under this Scheme primarily supported V-Notching of lobsters. The scheme provides support to collectives and individual fishermen. 62 operations were supported to a grant value of €335,598.

**UP1 – Total Expenditure Declared by beneficiaries in 2016**

	<b>Total Investment</b>	<b>Public Aid</b>
Sustainable Fisheries Scheme	€791,097.24	€776,537.24
Marine Biodiversity Scheme	€275,000.00	€275,000.00
Inshore Fisheries Scheme	€429,556.95	€335,598.40
<b>Total UP 1 - Fisheries</b>	<b>€1,495,654.19</b>	<b>€1,387,135.64</b>



**Figure 5 UP1 – Public Expenditure Declared in 2016**

## 3.2 - Union Priority 2 - Sustainable Development of Aquaculture

### **Knowledge Gateway Scheme - Articles 47 and 50**

This Scheme supports applied research, new species development and commercialisation, research into managing diseases and parasites, the provision of environmental and business planning advice, and training for the aquaculture sector.

The Knowledge Gateway Scheme funded 5 industry projects in 2016 along with the BIM EMFF work programme package. The industry projects were divided into technical and research projects and training and networking. There were 4 technical and research projects (including BIM work programme) and 2 training and networking projects.

The total amount of support allocated under this scheme to completed projects amounted to €932,683.

### **Sustainable Aquaculture Scheme - Article 48**

This scheme provides supports for the following:

- Sustainably increasing the productive output of aquaculture enterprises
- Supporting new aquaculture enterprises entering the sector
- scaling up of aquaculture enterprises to improve their competitiveness and efficiency
- Diversification into new species, more farming of underutilised species and promotion of organic aquaculture.
- encourages organic production
- Provide assistance to enterprises significantly affected by naturally occurring biotoxin events.

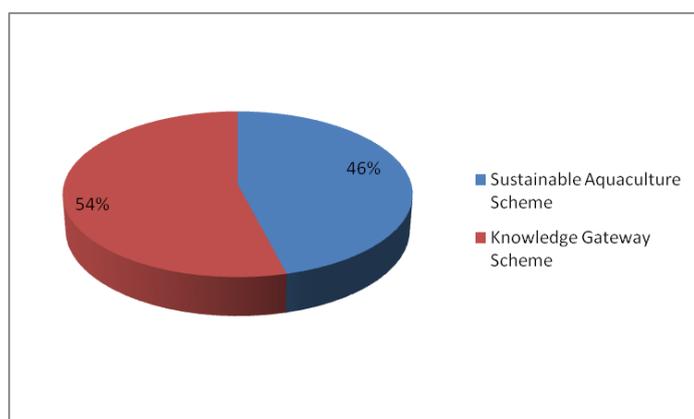
There were 16 projects completed under the Sustainable Aquaculture scheme in 2016. Under the capacity building project type, the scheme supported 10 projects to increase production of aquaculture enterprises. These were all in the oyster sector. A further 4 projects were supported to improve competitiveness and modernise aquaculture units and one project on reducing environmental impact through improving output water quality.

One project was funded under the organic aquaculture project type.

The total amount of support allocated under this scheme to completed projects amounted to €802,565.

### **UP 2 – Total Expenditure Declared by beneficiaries in 2016**

	<b>Total Investment</b>	<b>Public Aid</b>
Sustainable Aquaculture Scheme	€2,191,422.09	€802,565.67
Knowledge Gateway Scheme	€949,443.12	€932,683.14
<b>Total UP2 - Aquaculture</b>	<b>€3,140,865.21</b>	<b>€1,735,248.81</b>



**Figure 6 UP 2 – Public Expenditure Declared by beneficiaries in 2016**

### **3.3 - Union Priority 3 – Implementing the CFP - (Data Collection and Enforcement)**

#### **Control & Enforcement (Article 78)**

Activities implemented in 2016 included.

- The implementation of an infringement register and a points management system within the Integrated Fisheries Information system (IFIS) for assigning and management of points assigned to vessel licence holders;
- The integration of Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) with vessel catch detail in IFIS to provide a consolidated view of vessel position and catch information;
- Technical review of the technologies in IFIS to ascertain its suitability in providing innovation through new technologies for the management of data, conducting risk analysis and revamping IFIS, VMS, Automated Information Systems and Electronic Recording System (ERS).
- Commencement of the implementation of the requirements under the Landing obligation:
  - Development of requirements for revised aggregated Catch report over Flux
  - Analysis of the requirements of the fishing activity/Sales notes and the exchange of information in the UNCEFACT format over FLUX
  - Implementation of architecture to support the exchange of information over FLUX
  - Initial analysis of the implementation of a quota balancing system

Further development work under these activities will be advanced in 2017. Eligible expenditure up to end of 2016 is €2,928,687.74 and this covers the costs of expenditure incurred for the contracting in of external ICT resources.

**Data Collection - (Article 77)**

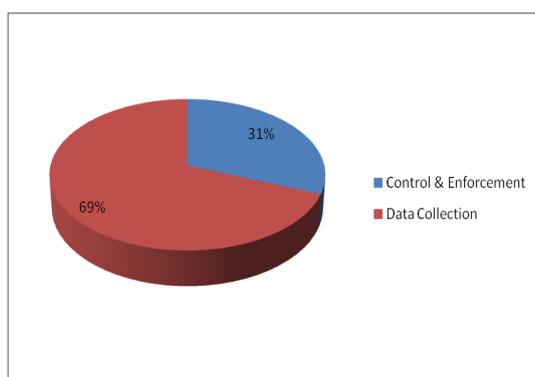
In 2016, the evaluation of the fishing sector was supported through the collection of

- a) economic variables based on economic surveys and sentinel vessel programmes
- b) transversal variables (capacity, effort, landings) based on fleet registers and logbook declarations;
- c) biological variables which comprised metier related variables and stock related variables for 67 fish stocks

Overall, staff costs to implement the DCF in 2016 were € 6,558,760.

**UP 3 – Total Expenditure Declared by beneficiaries in 2016**

	<b>Total Investment</b>	<b>Public Aid</b>
Control & Enforcement	€2,928,687.74	€2,928,687.74
Data Collection	€6,558,760.26	€6,558,760.26
<b>Total UP3 - Common Fisheries Policy</b>	<b>€9,487,448.00</b>	<b>€9,487,448.00</b>



**Figure 7 UP 3 – Public Expenditure Declared by beneficiaries in 2016**

### 3.4 - Union Priority 4 – Sustainable Development of Fisheries and Aquaculture Areas

In February 2016, Expressions of Interest (EoIs) were sought from interested coastal groups seeking consideration as FLAGs in order to receive support to develop a new Local Development Strategy for the duration of the EMFF. At the conclusion of the process in May 2017 ten EoIs had been received and following evaluation seven EoIs were selected for the provision of assistance to develop Local Development Strategies (LDS):

- FLAG Northeast - Omeath to Howth
- FLAG Southeast - Bray to the east bank of river Blackwater at Youghal
- FLAG South - West bank of the river Blackwater at Youghal to county boundary west of Lauragh
- FLAG Southwest - County boundary west of Lauragh to Foynes
- FLAG West - Kilimer to Leenane
- FLAG Northwest - Killary to Easkey
- FLAG North - BallyShannon to Muff

The FLAGs Designate were supported in the development of their Local Development Strategies through the provision of consultants. A public consultation process including public meetings throughout the area of each FLAG, in addition to meetings with stakeholder groups, took place during the month of September. The draft strategies were approved by the FLAG Boards during October following which they were assessed and approved by the FLAG Strategy Selection Committee.

Parallel to this process, revised and simplified administrative arrangements were being developed and with these in place the FLAGs are expected to begin seeking project applications in the first few months of 2017.

All expenditure related to FLAGs in 2016 was supported through Technical Assistance.

### 3.5 - Union Priority 5 – Marketing and Processing

#### **Seafood Promotion Scheme (Article 68)**

The objective of the Seafood Promotion Scheme is to find new markets for seafood products. In 2016, a total of €833,000 in funding was allocated to Bord Bia under the 2016 Work Programme to fund its international trade exhibition programme which comprised a Bord Bia Ireland Pavilion at the following 7 international trade shows:

- Biofach, Nuremburg
- Boston Seafood Show, Boston
- SEG, Brussels
- PLMA, Amsterdam
- Speciality & Fine Foods Show, London
- Conxemar, Vigo

- China Fisheries Show, Qingdao

A total of 56 of Ireland's leading seafood processors from the pelagic, shellfish, salmon and added value seafood sectors participated across these 7 international seafood shows under the Bord Bia Ireland Pavilion in 2016. Feedback from these clients after these shows confirms that the following benefits resulted from their participation in these trade events:

1. Access to new customers in new markets
2. Consolidation of existing business in existing markets
3. Platform to promote sustainability credentials to international seafood audience
4. Creation of brand awareness
5. Opportunity to showcase the latest industry innovations to international seafood buyers
6. Economies of scale in promotion & marketing
7. Opportunity to generate new export sales in new markets
8. Identification of new customers in new channels
9. Increased export sales in existing export markets
10. Platform to test and launch new seafood products
11. Industry networking
12. Assist with idea generation for NPD and packaging

### **Seafood Processing Development Measure - Articles 26, 68 & 69**

Three Schemes were launched in 2016 under the seafood processing development measure, namely:

#### **Seafood Capital Investment Scheme**

This Scheme supports investments that seek to:

- Add value to fish through processing, presentation, and packaging;
- Promote innovation and new product development;
- Improve safety, health, quality, hygiene, and traceability;
- Reduce energy costs.

The Scheme prioritises supports for secondary processing investments.

In 2016, 18 companies were supported through the Seafood Capital Investment Scheme with a total grant aid of €1.99m. There were 5 whitefish value added projects, 3 salmon/trout value added projects, 7 shellfish value added projects, 2 pelagic value added projects and 1 pelagic primary project.

### Seafood Scaling and New Market Development Scheme

This Scheme supports investments that seek to promote economies of scale through promoting industry cooperation, joint ventures, and shared route to market structures.

These include the following:

- **Industry projects** aimed at solving Route to market (RTM) inefficiencies and Scale problems within the industry. The scheme will also support Industry collectives to work together in the development of new markets.
- **Public projects** which are beyond the scope or capability of industry to implement. This includes projects which deal with key issues identified in the main commercial seafood categories such as: Salmon, Pelagic, Whitefish, Prawns, Crab and Mussels.

In 2016, 8 collective joint venture Projects were supported with grant aid of €456,895, with particular focus on market development for shellfish in Asia.

### Seafood Innovation and Business Planning Scheme:

This Scheme supports projects that seek to promote innovation and new product development, together with improved business planning and organisation.

In 2016, 11 Projects supported with grant aid of €1,067,443. Projects ranged BIM's common interest work programme on behalf of the industry to added value crab meat retail solution products for core European markets, to exploring clean label solutions for frozen at sea prawns, to converting fish raw material of relatively low commercial value into a much higher value by converting to advanced and stable ingredients.

### Producer Organisation Scheme - Article 66

The objective of the Producer Organisation Scheme is to promote the contribution of Producer Organisations to implementation of the CFP and development of the seafood sector.

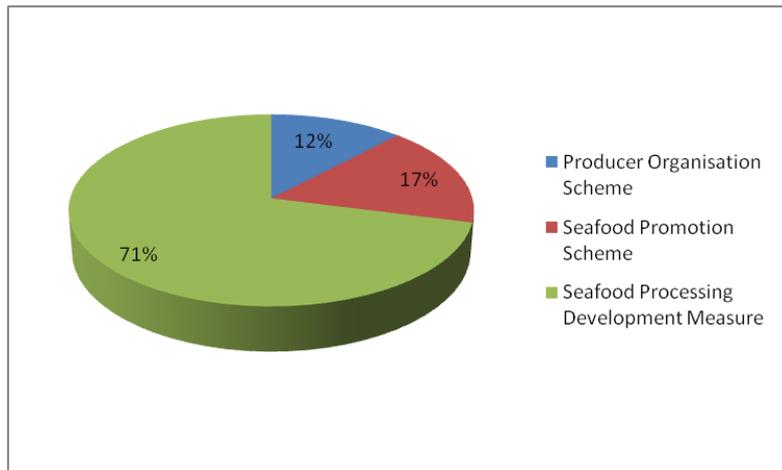
Types of projects implemented in 2016 under this scheme include the following:

- Boarfish Trials
- Development of Production and Marketing Plans
- Fish Stock Surveys

11 projects were implemented under this scheme and were included in the Production and Marketing Plans (PMP) of 5 Producer Organisations to a grant value of €609,669.

**UP 5 – Total Expenditure Declared by beneficiaries in 2016**

	<b>Total Investment</b>	<b>Public Aid</b>
Producer Organisation Scheme	€1,531,038.19	€609,669.00
Seafood Promotion Scheme	€833,000.00	€833,000.00
Seafood Processing Development Measure	€10,436,806.55	€3,516,190.80
<b>Total UP5 - Processing &amp; Marketing</b>	<b>€12,800,844.74</b>	<b>€4,958,859.80</b>



**Figure 8 UP 5 – Public Expenditure Declared by beneficiaries in 2016**

**3.6 - Union Priority 6 – Implementation of the IMP (EU) Integrated Maritime Policy**

**Blue Growth & Marine Spatial Planning Scheme - Articles 79 & 80**

The objective of the **Blue Growth & Marine Spatial Planning Scheme** is to progress the strategy for the Implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy.

As part of planning the Blue Growth Scheme, an Implementation Group, comprised of national development organisations (IDA, Enterprise Ireland, Bord Iascaigh Mhara, Fáilte Ireland, Bord Bia, Geological Survey of Ireland, Irish Maritime Development Office (IMDO), Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland and Údarás na Gaeltachta) met and advised the Interdepartmental Marine Coordination Group on achieving the economic ambitions set out in Ireland’s Integrated Marine Plan including the mandate, governance and structure of a new integrated Marine Development Team (MDT).

Planning the key activities for 2017 also took place in 2016. This includes:

- Engaging with agencies to identify the capacity and competency shortages that currently exist and identify areas in which the MDT can be of assistance
- Mapping the domain by identifying leading companies and key industry players by each sector, in addition to the key stakeholders on whose support and collaboration the overall project relies
- Establishing the competitive advantages that Ireland has in each industry sector, in effect, making the 'why Ireland' case on a sectoral basis that can be fed into marketing material, complementing the material that already exists in other development agencies
- Identifying and advancing a feasible development project in each industry sector
- Identifying the conferences and fora at which the MDT can deliver its message about opportunities in the marine industry and create a business development programme linked to such events
- Creating and publishing a plan for the overall management and delivery of the project over the EMFF funding period

Finally, in November 2016, Minister Creed held a high-level meeting of senior representatives of all the agencies of state involved in the delivery of the economic ambitions set out in Ireland's Integrated Marine Plan to emphasise the importance of a collective effort in realising Government's ambitions for the marine industry.

Implementation cost of the Blue Growth & Marine Spatial Planning Scheme in 2016 was €55,400.

### 3.7 - Union Priority 7 – Technical Assistance

In 2016, operations carried out under Technical Assistance included the items below. The total expenditure on these operations was €485,807.

- **Information & Publicity**

Costs were incurred for the purchase of a display stand for the Managing Authority which would be used at events to promote the EMFF OP over its lifetime. Costs were also incurred for printing of EMFF programme documents and for promotional materials and for advertising of schemes by BIM.

- **Training**

In August 2016 the EMFF MA organised a 1½ day seminar for all bodies involved in the Implementation of the EMFF OP 2014-2020. The event was held in the National Seafood Centre, Clonakilty, Co. Cork. The main topics that were discussed at this seminar included the following:

- Management & Control System
- Audit Trail
- EMFF National Eligibility Rules
- Anti-Fraud Policy

- Reporting & Monitoring Requirements
- Public Procurement
- Information & Publicity Guidelines

- **EMFF Monitoring Committee costs**

Costs were incurred in relation to catering for 3 Monitoring Committee meetings staged in 2016

- **Contracted EMFF staff**

Costs were incurred in relation to 11 contract staff recruited by BIM and 2 by the Sea Fisheries Protection Authority to implement the EMFF Programme. Costs included recruitment costs, salaries, pension contribution, travel and subsistence and personal equipment (laptop, phone).

- **Consultancy**

Consultancy and related costs were incurred in relation to consultants commissioned by BIM in 2016 to advise on Cost Benefit Analysis for a Decommissioning Scheme (Grant Thornton) and for evaluation of the FLAG scheme under the EFF Programme, Development of 7 FLAG Local Development Strategies, etc. (PACEC).

#### **4. - Issues which affect the performance of the programme and the corrective measures taken**

In 2016, intermediate body Bord Iascaigh Mhara made the case to the Managing Authority that its staff resources were insufficient to effectively deliver the Operational Programme. BIM identified 12 technical specialist roles that required to be filled. On 21 April 2016, the Managing Authority accepted the BIM case and approved the funding through Technical Assistance of 11 identified posts, with the costs to BIM of the twelfth position to be compensated by the Marine Institute through the EMFF Data Collection Scheme.

Similarly, the Managing Authority recognised that the project management resources available to the Sea-Fisheries Protection Authority were likely to be an impediment to effective delivery of the investments envisaged in the area of control and enforcement. This was likely to have been a factor in the under-utilisation of the available budget by the SFPA in 2016. The Managing Authority approved the funding to SFPA through Technical Assistance of a Project Coordinator and Finance Assistant and additional contracted project management support services.

In 2016, there was a significant under spend of available EMFF funds. From the €23.7 million available through BIM under schemes for fisheries, aquaculture and processing, only €10 million approximately was committed through grant offers, while only €6m approximately was drawn down

by applicants. Some of the main reasons for the under spend include the Decommissioning Scheme not proceeding as planned because of concerns raised in the Cost Benefit Analysis, approved projects not proceeding for various business reasons, continued muted demand for capital grants in the aquaculture sector and lower than anticipated interest in investments to facilitate the landing obligation.

The Managing Authority and BIM will be implementing a number of changes to scheme administration and scheme terms and conditions, together with some new schemes, to enhance take-up of funds in 2017 and beyond.

## 5. -Useful links

1. EMFF OP 2014-2020 information:  
<http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/emff/>
2. DG Mare CFP Reform Package Information:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/reform/proposals/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/reform/proposals/index_en.htm)
3. Schemes implemented under EMFF OP 2014-2020:  
<http://www.bim.ie/schemes/>
4. Fisheries Areas Network (FARNET): <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/cms/farnet/>
5. European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 435 of 2004):  
<http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/2004/en/si/0435.html>
6. European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 200 of 2011):  
<http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/2011/en/si/0200.html>
7. European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 477/2011):  
<http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/2011/en/si/0477.html>
8. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland Guidance for Planning Authorities:  
<http://www.npws.ie/media/npws/publications/codesofpractice/AA%20Guidance%2010-12-09.pdf>
9. Interim Report of the Local Government/Local Development Alignment Steering Group (December 2011): <http://www.environ.ie/en/Community/AlignmentofLocalGovtLocalDev/>

10. National Reform Programme for Ireland under the Europe 2020 Strategy  
[http://www.taoiseach.gov.ie/eng/Work\\_of\\_the\\_Department/Economic\\_and\\_Social\\_Policy/Economic\\_Policy/National\\_Reform\\_Programme/National\\_Reform\\_Programme.pdf](http://www.taoiseach.gov.ie/eng/Work_of_the_Department/Economic_and_Social_Policy/Economic_Policy/National_Reform_Programme/National_Reform_Programme.pdf)
11. National Reform Programme for Ireland 2012 Update under the Europe 2020 Strategy  
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