



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine



European Maritime
& Fisheries Fund

EMFF Programme 2014-20

Monitoring Committee
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Covid 19 Response

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Background

- Government designated Fishermen and Aquaculture workers as *essential workers* to maintain food supply
- Fishermen have been eligible for the *Pandemic Unemployment Payment* and many made use of it in the first half of this year.
- Government introduced a *Credit Guarantee Scheme* specifically to assist the likes of primary producers such as fishermen and farmers.
- European Union enacted amendment to EMFF Regulation facilitating Covid-specific supports from **February to December 2020 only**.
- For **Fisheries**, amended EMFF allowed Storage Aid or temporary tie-up
- For **aquaculture**, amended EMFF allowed Storage Aid, or compensation for lost sales or production

Covid 19 Fleet Tie-up Scheme

- In March/April 2020, Government met with representatives of fishing sector – POs, NIFF, Coops in March/April to hear views.
- Fishing representatives almost unanimously opposed to Storage Aid as a solution and strongly favoured temporary tie-up.
- Representatives strongly favoured temporary tie-up.
- Covid-19 Temporary Fleet Tie-up Scheme opened to applications May 2020 providing aid over June to August.
- Fixed premium based on vessel size category and official data on fixed costs of that vessel size
- Designed to complement PUP, which aids lost income
- 98 Individual applications from vessel owners, many covering two tie-up periods
- Total cost €218,000
- Some reasons for modest take-up
 - Timing – EU Markets were re-opening by May/June
 - <12m inshore vessels unable to show official landings data

Covid-19 Aquaculture Support Scheme

- DAFM met with IFA Aquaculture throughout 2020 to hear views
- IFA opposed to Storage Aid solution
- Strongly favoured compensation scheme for certain shellfish producers
- BIM analysed market impacts and IFA proposal
- Covid 19 Aquaculture Support Scheme opened to applications October 2020 and closed 24 November
- Provided support to rope mussel and trestle oyster producers for lost sales/production
- Fixed premium based on enterprise size (historic production) and average cost of lost production
- Designed to complement PUP, which aids lost income
- 181 applications received by BIM
- 109 letters of offer accepted. Payment being made this week.
- 34 applications in appeal. Main reasons for refusal -
 - Multiple applications from a single operator
 - Do not meet mandatory criteria, e.g. Mandatory Annual Returns not submitted, Licence not valid
- Expected cost €1.5 million approximately