



## EMFF OP Monitoring Committee 30<sup>th</sup> November 2018

### Minutes

#### Agenda item 1 – Registration & Introduction

**Attendance:** (see Appendix A)

The **Chair** opened the meeting and welcomed EMFF OP Monitoring Committee (MC) members. The **Chair** introduced members of the EMFF Managing Authority to the Committee.

The **Chair** acknowledged the sad passing of *Mr. Richie Flynn, RIP (IFA Aquaculture)* since our last meeting in May 2018. He stated that his passing is a great loss to the Aquaculture Sector.

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

**Karen Dubsy** (EP) asked if she could have an update on Aquaculture under AOB. The Chair agreed and advised that Catherine Morrison was not at the meeting, but that perhaps other BIM attendees could assist.

#### Agenda item 2 - Minutes of meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2018-For Approval

The **Chair** asked for comments/observations on the minutes of the previous meeting. **Noel McDonagh** (FLAGs) advised that the sand eel issue had been addressed by the SPPA and thanked them.

No further comments were made and the minutes were approved.

#### Agenda item 3 – Proposed Scheme Amendments – For Approval

The **Chair** asked for comments/observations on the proposed amendments to the Implementation Plans for the following Schemes which were made available to the Committee prior to the meeting:

- Seafood Processing Capital Investment Scheme
- Seafood Processing Innovation Scheme
- Seafood Scaling & New Market Development Scheme

**Patrick Murphy** (ISWFPO) queried the funding available under the schemes and wondered if it was for funding staff. **Damien Clarke** (EMFF MA) advised that the Schemes do not support staff costs of public bodies. One Scheme, the Seafood processing Innovation Scheme, may support the hiring by processors of an innovation specialist on a fixed term special purpose contract for the sole purpose of delivering an innovation project.

The **Chair** asked that the proposed modifications be approved. There were no further comments and the Schemes were approved.

#### **Agenda item 4 - Updates for information**

##### **General Update on Programme Progress 2018**

**Damien Clarke** (EMFF MA) gave a presentation on the progress of the EMFF Programme during 2018.

**Mike Walker** (EP) asked about the Control and Enforcement Scheme and asked for an update on the Penalty Points. The **Chair** advised that he would be giving an update on them under the agenda item Ex-anti Conditionalties and that may answer any queries he may have.

**Karin Dubsky** (EP) said that the Environmental Pillars would be very interested in the Seafood Capacity Building Scheme, but were not aware of the Scheme. **Damien Clarke** (EMFF MA) advised that the Environmental Pillar had been informed by email on 15 June 2018 of the opening of the scheme and that email was acknowledged by the EP. **Tom Scanlon** (BIM) advised that this scheme is still open and applications are being accepted. **Jerry Gallagher** (ISA) was not aware of the scheme either and advised that **Richie Flynn** (RIP) was representing the area and this may be a reason Jerry was not aware of it. Jerry also said that he would be very interested in the scheme if there was support for the Shellfish Area. **Damien Clarke** advised that the support is there and they should check with BIM

**Tom Scanlon** (BIM) advised that the Seafood Training Scheme is in its infancy and hopes that it will grow in the next 12 months.

**Jerry Gallagher** (ISA) asked how much has been invested to date in Sustainable Aquaculture. **Damien Clarke** advised that €5million has been invested.

**Patrick Murphy** (ISWFPO) raised a concern regarding the funding. He advised that people are finding it difficult to raise the funds to undertake projects. He was wondering if it was possible that the Department would assist with a bridging loan from the Credit Union to enable more people to apply for funding.

**Adrian Antonescu** (DG Mare) acknowledged the good progress in the implementation of the Programme. He advised that 60% of the budget is already committed and this is as expected. He could see that Aquaculture is the lowest performer, but it is improving, and he understands that there are mainly the agencies applying for schemes. He advised that there is no risk for N+3 de-commitment at the end of 2018 for Ireland, as we are spending appropriately.

## Performance Framework Update

**Damien Clarke** gave a presentation on the EMFF Performance Framework.

## Ex-ante Conditionalities Update

The **Chair** gave an update on the Points System.

**Mike Walker** (EP) asked about the timeframe for finalising this issue. The **Chair** advised that it is impossible to give a definite timeframe as there is a very detailed process to be followed before it can be implemented.

**Adrian Antonescu** (DG Mare) informed the meeting that the funding for Control and Enforcement is currently suspended but will be lifted once Ireland puts in place the Points System. There is €3.8 million pending. He also advised that a letter was issued to Ireland in May 2018 regarding the matter. If the Points system issue is not sorted, the Treaties provide for penalties on Ireland.

**Patrick Murphy** (ISEFPO) advised that Ireland has an issue with the Points system and it should be noted that the system is not in line with Constitutional Law and this should be taken into consideration. The **Chair** noted Mr. Murphy's comment and advised that the courts and the Houses of the Oireachtas have found this to be an issue. It has been noted that Ireland is not in compliance with the condition under EU law. **Patrick Murphy** put forward a proposal that the producer organisations are willing to assist the Managing Authority with this matter.

**Jerry Gallagher** (ISA) asked if Ireland was the only Member State with this issue. **Adrian Antonescu** (DG MARE) advised that yes, unfortunately Ireland was the only Member State that received a letter regarding the Points system.

**Hugo Boyle** (ISEFPO) advised that we have a different legal system in Ireland. **Adrian Antonescu** advised that he was sure that the Commission legal services were aware.

## Programme Modification Update

**Damien Clarke** (EMFF MA) provided a verbal update on the Programme modification update. He advised that the proposal for Modification of the Programme was distributed to the Monitoring Committee Members for their comments/observations. Some 5 responses were received and the final version sent to the Commission took account of these comments. The adoption of the modified Programme by the Commission was awaited.

**Adrian Antonescu** advised that the Commission had received the Modification document in October 2018 and a decision approving the programme amendment should be adopted by January 2019. He thanked the Managing Authority for the high quality of the Proposal submitted and noted that this greatly helps the Commission. He said that some discussions are ongoing within the Commission on

the proposal, in particular with regard to the contribution of the Programme to Climate Change mitigation.

### Agenda item 5 – Commission proposals for EMFF 2021-27

**Adrian Antonescu** (DG MARE) gave a presentation on the Commission proposal for the next European Maritime and Fisheries Fund for the 2021-27 period.

**Patrick Murphy** (ISWFPO) said that his understanding of the changes meant that he didn't put in any comments as they were unaware of the catch numbers. He asked what is the quota and is there a provision made under the new programme for temporary cessation of fishing. **Adrian Antonescu** advised that it is the choice of the Member State how to spend the funding.

**Jerry Gallagher** (ISA) asked if the increased supports from 2020 will mean that job creation is linked with profits and how will it work. **Adrian Antonescu** advised that the Regulation is still being developed but it is not intended to link job creation with profits. It is too early to say as it is only at the proposal stage.

**Karin Dubsky** (EP) queried how far the new programme will look at Nature and Marine Programmes. **Adrian Antonescu** advised that yes they will be supported under the new Regulation but will be as per the terms and conditions of the schemes run by the Member States.

**Carmel Tobin** (EMFF CA) advised that the N+3 rule which is currently in place for de-commitment is proposed to move to N+2 in the new round of EMFF (not agreed as yet) and enquired if there was a discussion/agreement in relation to this in the negotiation discussions currently taking place. She also flagged her concern around de-commitment of funding if N+2 was in place and that it might prove difficult in relation to EMFF spend. **Adrian Antonescu** advised that yes discussions are being held but did not comment on whether he saw this as an issue.

**Carmel Tobin** also queried the new Annual Performance Reporting (APR) requirement proposed. The timing of the report, the period the report might cover e.g. Financial Year vs Calendar Year, the suspensions and penalties that may apply as a result of non-submission and/or missed targets. **Adrian Antonescu** advised that it is too early to say but it may stay the same as the current system.

### Agenda item 6 – In Depth look at Schemes – For Information

In depth presentations were given by Bord Bia and BIM on the subject areas of the Seafood Promotion Scheme and the Fisheries Local Action Groups (FLAGS)

Following each presentation, the **Chair** invited questions/comments.

- **Seafood Promotion Scheme – Mary Morrissey, Bord Bia**

**Noel McDonagh** (FLAGS) commented that the growth in the market is great, but questioned if there is growth in the actual production. **Mary Morrissey** advised that there is a challenge in developing the markets but Bord Bia works closely with the Industries to try and get as many to the markets as possible, they are aware of it.

**Felix McKendry** (Enterprise Ireland) commented that the problem is production and if there was more production it could be marketed. **Mary Morrissey** agreed.

**Damien Clarke** (EMFF MA) advised that most of the projects under the Sustainable Aquaculture Scheme are related to increasing production of oysters.

The **Chair** commented that there is an opportunity for increases in production. The licence issue is being dealt with and there are more strategies in place to progress production. Raw material is a difficult area to deal with.

**Patrick Murphy** (ISEFPO) advised that oysters take a number of years to bring to market and the actual price to producers is the issue. He also advised that if you require premium product, you must pay premium price. Also licensing is an issue and this must be looked at by DAFM.

**Mike Walker** (EP) asked if there are any Climate Change projects under the €2 million Seafood Promotion budget. **Adrian Antonescu** (DG MARE) advised that each measure is allocated funding, but not all measures are relevant to climate change. **Mary Morrissey** advised that the funding they have is for seafood promotion, but they work with a number of processors that work under Origin Green. The **Chair** advised that a Climate Change Strategy is being worked on by DAFM and is going to consultation shortly.

**Adrian Antonescu** (DG MARE) thanked Mary Morrissey for her very good presentation. He is aware that the Irish Market is performing, but asked which area of the measure is growing. **Mary Morrissey** advised that there are 3 Strategic Pillars – one domestic and two European and national. Under the domestic, they identify the species and identify what is in production.

- **Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAGS) – Dr. Ian Lawler, BIM**

**Karin Dubsy** (EP) thanked Ian Lawler for his presentation on FLAGS. She stated that the FLAGS Scheme is fantastic. She also mentioned that she would like to see a screening of the projects for the use of plastics and polystyrene, as when it breaks down it causes harm to wild life. She advised that on the Wexford Leader Committee there is nobody with knowledge to carry out such screening. She asked if BIM had people with knowledge regarding this issue. She also asked how many appropriate assessments had been conducted on FLAG projects.

**Ian Lawler** advised that BIM appraises all FLAG applications, including in relation to Natura 2000, in order to advise the FLAG boards. None had been deemed to require appropriate assessment.

### [Agenda item 7 – AOB](#)

**Patrick Murphy** (ESEFPO) asked if there was funding available to people for the loss of equipment or damage to vessels from bad weather, i.e. Force Majeure. People find it difficult to raise funds to match grant amounts and may not be in a position to submit applications. The **Chair** advised that there is EMFF funding allocated for a Mutual Fund for Adverse Climatic Events. Under the EMFF

Regulation, the Fund must be established by fishermen and their representatives. DAFM and BIM stand ready to assist the industry in this, but cannot fund the establishment costs under EMFF rules.

With regards to Aquaculture, the **Chair** advised that the Minister has reported on the progress with the issuing of licences. Priority has been given to the backlog of licences. He advised that 300 Aquaculture Licences determinations were made in 2018 and a similar number is expected in 2019.

**Karin Dubsy** (EP) said she would welcome an Aquaculture Workshop similar to the one run by the Marine Institute the previous day. She said that Aquaculture in Loch Foyle is operating without a licence. The **Chair** advised that all produce from Loch Foyle is going through the normal food checks. **Karin Dubsy** asked that it should be noted at the meeting that, from an environmental point of view, this is not acceptable and it should be stopped as it is destroying the shoreline. The **Chair** advised that this is an issue for the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government and is outside the scope of the Committee.

**Fionnán Ó hOgáin** suggested that the 15% grant rate under the Seafood Processing Capital Investment Scheme for energy saving projects was not enough to fund projects. The incentives are too small to encourage applications under the Scheme. If it was increased, it would help uptake for energy saving projects. **Damien Clarke** (EMFF MA) responded that there is a finite budget available for capital investment in processing and the 15% support rate was set in the context of a conscious decision to prioritise investment in value added processing equipment through a 30% support rate for that, while other investments (including energy saving projects) are still supported, but at a lesser rate of 15%. **Mr Clarke** also noted that supports for energy saving investments to businesses are available from SEAI.

**Jerry Gallagher (ISA)** advised that with regards to the FLAGs scheme, community groups are finding it difficult to come up with the funding balance to apply for projects. He advised that a bridging loan is difficult to get. He advised that in France they get assistance from the Credit Union to help raise the funding, which is supported by the government. It would be great if DAFM could have some similar assistance here for the FLAG community. **Damien Clarke** (EMFF MA) thanked Jerry for the feedback and asked him to forward the information to him and that we would have to look into the options regarding this.

The **Chair** thanked the attendees and also thanked **Leonie O'Dowd** for the Marine Institute's very well run workshop the previous day.

The meeting was concluded.

**ENDS**

## Appendix A

### Attendees

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Adrian Antonescu	DG Mare
Damien Clarke	EMFF Managing Authority
Paschal Hayes (Chair)	EMFF Managing Authority
Maureen Power	EMFF Managing Authority
Deirdre Coomey	EMFF Managing Authority
Breda Hennessy	EMFF Managing Authority
Brennan, David	Marine Harvest
Breslin, Ted	Killybegs Fishermens Organisation
Boyle, Hugo	IS & EFPO
Callery, Therese	Department of Education & Skills
Coppinger, Declan	Bord Bia
Doyle, John	Department of Defence
Dubsky, Karin	Environmental Pillar
Gallagher, Jerry	Irish Shellfish Association
Kelly, Paul	IBEC
Lawler, Dr Ian	BIM
McCarthy, Áine	SFPA
McDonagh, Noel	FLAG
McGrath, Ruth	DPER
McKendry, Felix	Enterprise Ireland

Morrissey, Mary	Bord Bia
Murphy, Ann	DAFM - IT
Murphy, Patrick	Irish South & West Fish Producers Organisation
O'Dowd, Leonie	Marine Institute
Ó hOgáin, Fionnán	Údaras na Gealtachta
O'Shea, Conor	SFPA
Rihan, Dominic	BIM
Scanlon, Tom	BIM
Stanley, Margaret	Department of Defence
Tobin, Carmel	DAFM – Finance
Walker, Michael	Environmental Pillar

#### Apologies

Alenka Kampl	DG Mare EU
Mary Carey	DAFM
Jim Conway	Eastern & Midlands Regional Assembly
Donal Cronin	Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government
Barry Faulkner	NIFF
Barry Guckian	Northern & Western Regional Assembly
Roger Harrington	DECLG
Enda Hogan	Southern Regional Assembly
David Kelly	Southern Regional Assembly

Dr. David Lyons	DAHG
Mary McGarry,	Department of Education & Skills
Trudy McIntyre	NIFF
Catherine Morrison	BIM
Lorcan Ó'Cinneide	IFPEA
Conall O'Connor	DECLG
Jenny O'Leary	Marine Institute
Mick Quirke	DAFM
Olga Ryan	DAFM - Finance

### Appendix B

1. Commission proposals for EMFF 2021-27 – presented by Adrian Antonescu, DG Mare
2. Seafood Promotion Scheme – presented by Mary Morrissey, Bord Bia
3. Fisheries Local Action Groups (FLAGS) – presented by Dr. Ian Lawler, BIM