



EMFF OP Monitoring Committee 8th December 2016

Minutes

Agenda item 1 - Registration

Attendance: (see Appendix A)

Agenda item 2 - Introduction and Overview

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed EMFF OP Monitoring Committee (MC) members.

Having established that a quorum was present the Chair proceeded with the order of business of the meeting.

The following additional points of business were added to the agenda:

1. Minutes of 18 May 2016 for inclusion under matters arising from previous meeting – requested by Ed Fahy (EP).
2. Scheme amendments to be brought forward as each scheme is put forward for approval – requested by Hugo Boyle (ISEFPO).

No further points of business were added and the amended agenda was adopted.

Agenda item 3- Minutes of meeting 18 May 2016 –For Adoption

Ed Fahy (EP) enquired when the stakeholder submissions of the EMFF OP Consultation Process, previously requested, would be published. The Chair confirmed that the submissions were available to view on the EMFF website.

Ed Fahy(EP) requested the following points for correction under Agenda Item 6:

- (a) Fishing Effort Adjustment (Decommissioning) Scheme – amend “The Chair stated that the purchase of surplus tonnage was prohibited under EU Legislation.....” to “The Chair stated that the purchase of **non active capacity** was prohibited under EU Legislation.....”
- (b) Amend “All Implementation Plans were unanimously approved” to “All Implementation Plans were **approved by majority decision.**”

The Minutes of the MC meeting of 18 May 2016 were agreed and adopted with amendments.

Agenda item 4 – Ex-ante Conditionalities–Update - For Information

The Chair read a statement prepared by the Sea-Fisheries Policy and Management Division briefing MC members on the current position regarding the points system for serious infringements of the CFP and the related EMFF Ex-ante Conditionality.

Isabelle Garzon – DG Mare reminded, as a matter of urgency, the need for compliance by Ireland by end of 2016.

Agenda item 5-Scheme Selection Criteria – For Approval

Seven previously approved Implementation Plans with proposed new amendments and four new Scheme Implementation Plans were put forward for approval. The Chair opened to the floor for comments/questions as each scheme was put forward for adoption.

Scheme Implementation Plans with Amendments

Aquaculture Knowledge Gateway Scheme

- Sonja Maurus (SRA) queried why the training objective in Section 5 was removed from the scheme. Damien Clarke (EMFF MA) explained that the Seafood Skills and Training Measure would address that element and to avoid duplication it had been removed from the Aquaculture Knowledge Gateway Scheme.

Sustainable Aquaculture Scheme

- Jerry Gallagher (ISA) queried
 - (a) how would the scheme operate for example in the case of Biotoxin Harvesting Suspension and if funding wasn't taken up, would there be a "roll-over"?
 - (b) drawing from his own experience where previously he had to increase share capital in his business in order to draw down a grant, would this apply under this scheme?

In addressing query (a) the Chair outlined the funding process of delivery of schemes though agency budgets operated on an annual basis. Where funding allocations were not utilised, they could be re-allocated. Catherine Morrison (BIM) expanded on Biotoxin Harvesting Suspension scheme, stating that there were strict rules pertaining to the opening of such schemes and may be dealt with on a retrospective basis. She had no comment in relation to query (b) as she was not aware of the particular case and emphasised that each application was assessed on its own merits.

Seafood Processing Development Measure

- Isabelle Garzon (DG Mare) raised a technical issue with regard to the name of the scheme. Her preference was for the use of "Scheme" rather than "Measure". Tom Scanlon (BIM) explained that as the scheme contained 3 schemes within it, no alternative to the scheme title given had been found.

Sustainable Fisheries Scheme

- Ed Fahy (EP) spoke of his reservation with regard to giving support for engine replacement. Isabelle Garzon – DG Mare commented that the EMFF foresaw the applications of Small Scale Coastal Fisheries and reminded that in assessment, there was a tight link with the Annual Fleet Report, whereby support could only be given to a segment that was balanced.

Inshore Fisheries Conservation Scheme

- Ed Fahy (EP) raised an issue concerning the management of offshore fisheries in the terms of reference of the Regional Inshore Fisheries Forum. The Chair stated the issue was outside the scope of the MC and advised Ed to refer his query to the RIFF.

Fisheries Local Area Development (FLAGs) Scheme

- Noel McDonagh (FLAGs) spoke of his hope that the 7 newly formed FLAGs would meet 2-3 times a year. Keith Kelleher (EMFF MA) informed that a National Network structure with representation from each FLAG would be put in place early 2017 with a view to meeting at least bi-annually.

Producer Organisation Scheme 2016

- Hugo Boyle (ISEFPO), speaking on behalf of the Producer Organisations (POs), requested the rollover of support funding for the Fish Stock Surveys/Trials for 2016 and amendment of that item in Section 6 (Support Rates) of the Implementation Plan, stating that there was no provision for that element in 2016 and that the monies involved were small. The Chair pointed out that with regard to the retrospective Producer Organisation Scheme 2014/2015, there had been agreement with the former Minister for the inclusion of support for Fish Stock Surveys on a once-off basis and therefore the Chair was not in a position to amend the scheme for 2016. Following broad discussion, it was agreed that the appropriate place for support for Fish Stock Surveys/Trials was under the Sustainable Fisheries Scheme and agreement was reached to allow the 2016 scheme to be put forward for approval as presented and a meeting could be arranged with the POs for early 2017 to discuss the possibility of reinstating support for that element, subject to approval of the Minister.

New Scheme Implementation Plans

- **Fishery Harbours Scheme**
 - No comment/question.
- **Storage Aid Scheme**
 - Ed Fahy (EP) sought the views of Producer Organisations (POs) on the specifics of anticipated use of the scheme and queried if the list differed from that of the Common Fisheries review? The Chair informed that POs were required to set out in their Production and Marketing Plans how to avoid availing of storage aid. Hugo Boyle (ISEFPO) added that the scheme was not currently being availed of.
- **Seafood Skills & Training Measure**
 - Ed Fahy (EP) raised two queries
 - (a) in relation to the scheme maximum support rate of 60% for stakeholder organisations, how would the remaining 40% be made up, e.g. cash, payment-in-kind?
 - (b) should Union Priority 5 be also included in the Implementation Plan?

In response, Damien Clarke (EMFF MA) stated that in all schemes it was a matter for the individual beneficiaries to source the private contribution. The grant is based on a percentage of eligible costs and the private contribution pays the balance. He said that 60% grant funding must be considered a very generous level of support from the EMFF for these activities that would otherwise be funded entirely by the beneficiary.

- Patrick Murphy (ISWFPO) commented that he considered Producer Organisations important links in the dissemination of information regarding the measure and advocated all agencies to stay involved in the process.
- Isabelle Garzon -DG Mare commented that she welcomed the measure, emphasising that skills enhancement was key for the future and believed the success of the measures would rest on strategy, i.e. right basic education with continuation into the business of fishing. In relation to the Seafood Training Scheme, she noted that in general the normal salary of staff was not eligible under UP1, and that the 'labour replacement costs' heading could be interpreted as that. She understood that the costs concerned related to hiring of third parties to man boats while the vessel owner was attending training and said that it was important that this was clearly communicated in the scheme.
- **Aquaculture System Scheme**
 - Jerry Gallagher (ISA) sought information on the review of the licensing process and queried if the budget of 1 million euro was an annual one or a "once-off". David Lyons (NWPS) expanded on the query seeking clarification on how monies would be utilised, on measurement targets, if there was a breakdown of the licensing system and if timelines were in place. In response, the Chair clarified that the budget for this system would cover the entire course of the programme, that an in-depth licensing review would be taking place and that further information on the programme would become available in the coming weeks. He extended the offer of a presentation by Marine Engineering Division, DAFM on the system.

All Scheme Implementation Plans put forward at the meeting were approved.

Agenda item 6 – Scheme Implementation Progress Updates – For Information

Short presentations were given by agency experts (See Appendix B) on scheme implementation progress in the areas of Seafood Promotion, Seafood Processing, Fishing fleet, FLAGs, Data Collection, Aquaculture and Control and Enforcement. Following the presentations, the Chair opened to the floor for comment.

Isabelle Garzon (DG Mare) congratulated the agency experts on the transparency shown in the presentations and commented that while the EMFF had been put on track it was just the initial phase. Financially, approximately 20% of the EMFF had been committed and the majority of investment had fallen under Union Priority 3. She appealed to the MC to make 2017 the year of take up of real projects on the ground.

Agenda item 7 – AOB

- **Update on the designation of authorities process**

Keith Kelleher (EMFF – MA) gave a verbal update regarding the EMFF designation process.

- **Feed-back from stakeholders on the first year of OP implementation**

The Chair opened to the floor for feedback.

The main views expressed were that the broad range of schemes now available to the fishing sector were to be welcomed and would allow real investments to be made. Stakeholders would work hard to ensure that the EMFF would be utilised and thrive. Re the evaluation process, EP suggested the need for specific projects to comment on, as results sheets on previous programme had not been satisfactory. It was unknown what the fund had achieved, or as a marker for the future, what it meant to the Irish Economy.

Isabelle Garzon (DG Mare) spoke on the function of the MC to ensure that the funds would be put to best use. In relation to reporting, she suggested that the MC focus on the Annual Implementation Report in the Spring meeting and in the Winter meeting to focus on the qualitative process. This would allow the ability to address any issues arising sufficiently early if necessary.

The Chair advised that the next meeting would be scheduled for the second quarter of 2017 and members would be notified in advance.

As there were no other matters arising, the Chair thanked the attendees and concluded the meeting.

ENDS

Appendix A

In Attendance

Name	Organisation
Adrian Antonescu	DG Mare
Alex Crowley	NIFF
Ann Murphy	DAFM (IMT)
Breda Hennessy	EMFF MA
Catherine Morrison	BIM
Conor O'Shea	SFPA
Damien Clarke	EMFF MA
David Brennan	Irish Salmon Growers Association
David Lyons	Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs (NPWS)
Declan Coppinger	Bord Bia
Ed Fahy	Environmental Pillar
Felix McKendry	Enterprise Ireland
Geraldine Hinchion	EMFF MA
Hugo Boyle	Irish South and East PO
Ian Lawler	BIM
Isabelle Garzon	DG Mare
Jerry Gallagher	Irish Shellfish Association
Jim Conway	Eastern and Midlands Regional Assembly (ERDF MA)
Keith Kelleher	EMFF MA
Leonie O'Dowd	Marine Institute

Mary McGarry	European Social Fund Managing Authority
Noel McDonagh	FLAGS
Paschal Hayes	EMFF MA DAFM (CHAIR)
Patricia Kelly	RDP Managing Authority
Patrick Murphy	Irish South & West Fish PO
Richard Guildea	National Inshore Fisheries Forum
Sonja Maurus	Southern Regional Assembly (ERDF MA)
Tom Scanlon	BIM

Apologies

Name	Organisation
Paul Kelly	IBEC
Francis O'Donnell	Irish Fish PO
Mick Quirke	EMFF Audit Authority
Barry Guckian	Northern & Western regional Assembly (ERDF MA)
Mairéad Ni Oistín	Údarás na Gaeltachta
Margot Dunne	DPER

Appendix B

1. Seafood Promotion - presented by Mr Declan Coppinger, Bord Bia.
2. Seafood Processing – presented by Mr Tom Scanlon, BIM.
3. Fishing and FLAGS – presented by Mr Ian Lawler, BIM.
4. Data Collection – presented by Ms Leonie O’Dowd, Marine Institute.
5. Aquaculture – presented by Ms Catherine Morrison, BIM.
6. Control & Enforcement – presented by Mr Conor O’Shea, SFPA.