

EMFF OP Monitoring Committee 08th December 2020

Draft Minutes

Attendance: via Webex

Agenda item 1 - Introduction & Adoption of Agenda

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.

Alenka Kampl introduced new colleague Fabio Galetti, Deputy Head of Unit.

Changes to circulated Agenda:

- No. 7 Evaluation Report EMFF Programme (Presentation by RSM Consultants) - not available today to give an update.
- No. 4 Covid-19 Response - Commission to deliver a presentation.

No further items were proposed to be added to the agenda - the agenda was adopted.

Agenda Item 2 - Minutes of Meeting 3rd December 2019– For Approval

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

Adrian Antonescu, DGMARE, requested Minutes of EMFF OPMC be circulated within 1 month of meeting going forward and requested some modifications to the previous minutes

The minutes were approved. (Subject to minor correction on agenda item 4)

Agenda Item 3 - Progress Update on Implementation of Programme

(Presentation delivered by Damien Clarke, Managing Authority)

Discussion following presentation:

Patrick Murphy, Irish South & West FPO thanked Damien Clarke for presentation, then asked for clarification on the reasons why funding has been suspended on Control & Monitoring? He requested confirmation on whether this related further legislation?

Sean O Donoghue, KFO commented that in relation to the Covid 19 scheme payments, the industry did not support this scheme, he also queried the voting system within the OPMC? Understands that all the non state, semi-state people on the OPMC did support the fishing industrys position.

He also expressed his concerns, in relation to the timing of payments in terms of the marketing and production plans have not been paid for 2019, despite receiving commitments that these would be speeded up.

Alenka Kampl, DGMARE Congratulate Ireland on progress with programme so far and investments in energy efficiency are going up. Programme payments can extend to 2023.

The Chair, thanks Damien Clarke for presentation, Patrick Murphy and Sean O'Donoghue for comments/questions.

Damien Clarke, replies to Patrick Murphy's question – Funds for Control & Enforcment: There are two elements of the legislation:-

1. Owners of Vessels
2. Masters of Vessels

Both are required by EU control regulation - both part of the Ex-Ante conditionality as under the EMFF regulation for Control and Enforcement of funds both must be inacted/implemented by the Control Authorities before they are eligible to receive funds for Control & Enforcement.

Damien Clarke, replies to Sean's question on the Tie Up Scheme and voting – Producer Organisations voted against that fund as did IFA Aquaculture, recollection is that everyone else on the MC voted in favour.

The Chair, asks for BIM to reply to Sean O Donoghue, KFO.

Tom Scannell, BIM acknowledged the delay in payments, and outlined that this was caused by a staff and resource issue. He noted that External Evaluation meeting was being held on 9/12/20 and expected payments to follow.

Item 4 – Presentation on Covid-19 Response

Alenka Kampl, DGMARE - Presentation

Damien Clarke – Update from Managing Authority

Questions on both the EU & DAFM presentations:

Teresa Morrissey, IFA Clarification on the legal obligation of compliance of shellfish producers with the BIM annual return?

Sean O Donoghue

1. Remarked that he did not agree with DAFM's analysis no unanimous support against Storage Aid at that meeting. The KFO made it clear, that they supported specific storage aid for specific species.

2. Disagreed with analysis of the low uptake, being a matter of timing in March, April & May with prices dropping 50-70%, the KFO proposed a very specific scheme which had the unanimous support of the PO's, CO-OP's & all the fishing industry, from small to larger vessels. In terms of timing by the Commission getting applications through has been excellent, but unfortunately it was down to individual member states. France adopted a correct approach to this and tried to give help where it was really needed. Sean expressed his view that the Scheme here was not fit for purpose hence low uptake on scheme.

Chair, thanks Sean O'Donoghue, KFO, comments and said his comments were noted.

Karin Dubsy, Environmental Pillar Thanked everyone and very welcome what is happening at EU level However, we are losing a lot of biodiversity right now, Karin gives an example of Waterford Estuary. If new scheme is implemented in 2/3 years time then we will lose further biodiversity in our Natura 2000 sites and then our fishermen will lose out too.

Patrick Murphy Thanks Commission and Damien for their presentations. Commend Sean O'Donoghue for the work that he did on the organisations on the European stage, his work with other key members with the commission allow for changes in legislation for the fast tracking for help to be provided to the industries right across Europe.

His group attempted 3 different interventions to revise scheme. Improved communication is necessary.

Some questions were posed for the Commission:

Where do they see the fisheries being involved at the table?

Can the commission see what is happening and would they have an input?

Will the Commission be involved in the member states?

Objective of tie up scheme was not just to provide compensation but regulate amount of fish coming to market.

The Chair, thanks contributors, suggests we take the domestic points that have been raised first and then Commission can come in.

Re: Conditions attached to the Tie Up Scheme –

Dominic Rhian, BIM Under the EU legislation it is the obligation of the member state – conditions imposed by the S.I. introduced into Irish Law. Per national legislation there is an obligation on the aquaculture operator to provide the information that is required for the scheme.

Teresa Morrissey Producers are being turned down, and appealing on those grounds, we cannot see the clarity. S.I. is fair enough but, when the producers were not made aware before hand your retrospectively applying which the producers did not have this knowledge.

Dominic Rhian Doesn't know the answer right now. Point taken re: producers being unaware.

Damien Clarke For clarification it was stressed in the presentation that it was almost unanimous. Also made the point it was a personal view that there was different opinions concerning the modest take up of the scheme.

Alenka Kampl thanks everyone for contribution. EMFF fund has high ambitions and choices need to be made, as the budget is limited. The post-2020 EMFF Regulation will provide a lot of flexibility to the MS, so it will be easier for MS to design the programme according to their specific context and needs.

Recommends engagement on Maritime Spatial Planning, the commission has been advocating for years, it is essential that member states reach out to all stakeholders concerned. Commission also underlined that the fisheries and aquaculture sectors should be at the table when discussions on Maritime Spatial Planning are taking place – all stakeholders with interest on the marine space should be involved, including fisheries.

*** Coffee break ***

Chair draws attention to a recent press releases of Minister McConalogue welcoming agreement on the scale of the new OP. Ireland is earmarked to received €142,000,000 under the EMFAF, which will be supplemented with the exchequer funding. The amount of €142,000,000 approx in line with the share of the EMFF that Ireland had, maybe a little bit less.

[Agenda Item No 5 - Update on planning for 2021-27 Programme \(Proposal for sub-groups\)](#)

Alenka Kampl Commission welcomes the progress in the preparation, and follow up discussions with MC members in January. The earlier we get the documents the better it will be as this is a complex process and it is necessary to consult with all policies concerned.

Cliona O'Brien, DHLGH requests draft documents for circulation as early as possible in order to distribute to colleagues and look at the various strategies to be delivering on.

Karin Dubsy supports use of the full day for the process.

Damien Clarke refers to circulation of documents – internal deadline has been set with drafts ready for distribution before Christmas.

[Agenda Item No. 6 - Evaluation Report on Sustainable Fisheries Scheme](#)

Presentation by Dominic Rhian, BIM

Alenka Kampl – thanked BIM for presentation and pointed out to the importance of such evaluations to see the impact of funding on the sector. Commission underlined the need to avoid overinvestments, in particular as they might lead to overcapacity and increased effort. Investments should be encouraged in projects to address the landing obligation and energy efficiency, which are major policy priorities.

Karin Dubsy – What is the uptake on environmental gear? How many vessels and the size that were involved? Inshore & Offshore numbers? Was the environmental gear only available for trawlers? Was that an Irish decision or an EU decision?

Dominic Rhian – Engine Replacement – it was an Irish decision to restrict it under 12m. Not thought to be practical in over 12m due to required reduction in engine capacity. In terms of numbers Dominic will talk to Karin Dubsky offline.

Dominic Rhian – as a result of these projects there is extra storage space around the country – capacity now for 10,000 boxes of unwanted catches between the projects we've invested in.

Karin Dubsky – requests to circulate slides with 'n' – number of vessels – Dominic confirmed ok.

John Ward IFPO – Ice plants and carbon footprint – fishermen say why are we increasing our ice plants on vessels when this is increasing carbon footprint a better option would be to upgrade the ice plants we have.

Dominic Rhian – acknowledges John Ward's point on ice plants – discussion for another day. Correct on comment on carbon footprint.

Agenda Item No. 7 - Evaluation Report EMFF Programme

(Presentation by RSM Consultants)

Chair – Unfortunately presentation could not go ahead due to unavailability of presenter. All presentations from today's meeting will be sent to all members. Arrangements will be made to reschedule this presentation for a future OPMC.

Agenda Item No. 8 - Proposal for 3rd Modification of EMFF Programme

(Presentation by Keith Kelleher DAFM)

Adrian Antonescu, DGMARE – comments that it would be good practice to circulate all comments and final approved documents to the Monitoring Committee members.

The modified programme, should include an outline of what measures are taken to ensure overcompensation does not occur with other Covid 19 Compensation Schemes operating in Ireland. In order to ensure transparency, more details of how compensation is calculated should also be included in section 4.5. It must be ensured that any possible adjustments of indicators should be done on solid and well justified grounds that are listed in the regulation.

Keith Kelleher – thanks Adrian for comments acknowledges they will be helpful in developing proposals.

Damien Clarke – thanks Adrian for his comments, and acknowledges DAFM will be working with the commission in terms of a draft before formally submitting documents, this is normal practice and it is our intention to continue with this practice.

Agenda Item No. 9 – AOB

Producer Organisation Scheme (requested by POs)

Sean O'Donoghue - On behalf of 4 producer orgs, 1379/2013 Art. 27 requires that POs have to continue producing marketing plans. There is provision for funding in the EMFF under Article 66 that those plans should be funded. There is no provision in the Irish Operational Programme to cover 2021/22.

Chair – acknowledges PO's have been looking for a meeting with him in relation to this matter.

Damein Clarke – update(document shared on screen) - €3m funding is provided within scheme. Based on payments to date and 2020 commitments there is only circa €200k for 2021 activities. Proposed to seek reallocation of €300k within UP5 for 2021 to provide certainty for the year.

Patrick Murphy - There should be clarity on the funding required as it is down to the euro – exact amount should be known. Can BIM clarify?

Tom Scannell - Cannot confirm exactly, meeting tomorrow to confirm position.

Jerry Gallagher – Would like to acknowledge passing of Noel McDonagh RIP.

Re: Aquaculture Compensation Scheme: disappointed only two species were covered. The two schemes were approved but industry were not happy with them.

Paschal Hayes - Schemes were only intended to support fisheries through a particular tough period and to work in tandem with horizontal measures from other Government Departments.

Patrick Murphy - We must learn from what happened with this scheme to be able to deal with any future crisis.

Chair thanked all for their participation and will meet again in the coming months.