



EMFF OP 2014-2020

Implementation plan Fishery Harbour Scheme

Operational Programme	EMFF Operational Programme 2014-2020
Priority	Union Priority 1 Sustainable Development of Fisheries
Thematic Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ TO3 - Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises
Specific Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SO4 - Enhancement of the competitiveness and viability of fisheries enterprises, including of small scale coastal fleet, and the improvement of safety or working conditions.
Scheme	Strategic Fishery Harbour Scheme
EMFF Certifying Body	Finance Division, Dept. Of Agriculture, Food & the Marine.
Managing Authority	Marine Agencies & Programmes Division, Dept Of Agriculture, Food and Marine
Intermediate Body	Not applicable
Grant Rate	30% to 100%
EU Co-Financing Rate	50%
Legal Basis	Article 43(1) EMFF

1. Objective of Intervention

The Needs Analysis for Union Priority 1 (Sustainable Development of Fisheries) identified a need to develop infrastructure at key fishing ports to meet the evolving needs of the fishing and aquaculture sectors. The 6 National Fishery Harbour Centres provide a key strategic asset to the seafood sector, while certain local authority owned fishery harbours also play a strategic level role. These fishery harbours require continual investment in infrastructure in order to be fit for purpose in the modern era and for efficient provision of essential services to users of the harbours.

Consistent with Article 43(1) EMFF, infrastructural investment in fishing ports may be supported for the purposes of:

1. Improving Safety and Working Conditions
2. Increasing the quality, control and traceability of products landed
3. Increasing Energy Efficiency
4. Contributing to Environmental Protection

5. Waste and Marine Litter Collection

This Scheme will support capital investments in eligible infrastructure under the above 5 categories in strategic level fishery harbours. Support will be available to the owners of the harbours and in relevant instances to third party owners of eligible infrastructure within the harbours.

2. Definitions

For the purposes of this document:

'Project Approvals Board' means a selection board comprised of representatives of the EMFF Managing Authority, the Marine Engineering Division and Sea Fisheries Administration Division (Harbours) of the Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine.

'National Fishery Harbour Centres' means the State owned fishery harbour centres located in Dingle, Castletownbere, Dunmore East, Howth, Killybegs and Rossaveal.

'Strategic level fishery harbours' means the 6 National Fishery Harbour Centres and Local Authority owned fishery harbours with landings of at least 1,000 tonnes in 2015.

3. Description of Intervention

The Managing Authority may periodically invite applications from eligible beneficiaries for support under this Scheme. Calls for applications may relate to specific sub-categories of eligible infrastructure investments, such as (1) National Fishery Harbour Centres, (2) Local Authority owned fishery harbours or (3) third party owned eligible infrastructure. Calls for applications may be confined to specific types of infrastructure investment.

Applications from Local Authorities and from private enterprises will be invited on a competitive basis.

4. Eligible Beneficiaries

Depending on the objective of a particular call for projects, the following beneficiaries may be eligible for support under this Scheme.

- Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine
- Local Authorities owning strategic level fishery harbours
- Other owners of relevant infrastructure within strategic level fishery harbours

5. Eligible Activities

Capital investment by eligible beneficiaries to improve the infrastructure of strategic level fishery harbours may be supported under this Scheme, where that investment is focussed on one or more of the following purposes:

1. Improving safety conditions for staff and users of or visitors to the harbour
2. Improving working conditions for staff and users of the harbour
3. Increasing the quality of products landed in the harbour
4. Increasing the control of products landed in the harbour
5. Increasing the traceability of products landed in the harbour
6. Increasing the energy efficiency of the harbour
7. Contributing to Environmental Protection
8. Waste Collection
9. Marine Litter collection

6. Ineligible Costs

- Operational costs of the beneficiary
- Expenditure for the purchase of land
- Goods purchased under Hire Purchase or Lease Purchase agreements
- Second hand plant, machinery, equipment, etc.
- Intangible costs, such as cost of pre-financing and of arranging loans and interest, administrative costs, patents, invitations to tender etc.
- Repairs and maintenance work
- Landscaping and other embellishment works, except those specifically required as a condition of planning
- Vehicles
- Mobile equipment
- Office equipment, including desktop computers, laptops and pads
- Consultancy costs not directly related to the planning, preparation and execution of the project, including costs of management consultancy

7. Support Rates

Beneficiary	Max Grant Rate %	Maximum Aid per project
Bord Iascaigh Mhara	100%	N/A
Department of Agriculture Food and Marine	100%	N/A
Local Authorities	50%	€200,000
Private beneficiaries	50% (SMEs) 30% (non-SMEs)	€200,000

8. Selection Process

Projects will be selected for funding as follows.

Step	Description	Carried Out By
Call for proposals	The Managing Authority will periodically invite applications.	EMFF MA
Eligibility Check and evaluation	To ensure compliance and to assess validity.	EMFF MA
Technical Assessment	To assess technical aspects of proposed projects	DAFM Marine Engineering Division
Final Project Selection	To select projects for funding and decide grant amounts and grant rates.	Project Approvals Board
Grant Offer	The MA will issue letters of offer awarding EMFF funding.	EMFF MA

9. Selection criteria

The selection process for non-competitive applications will entail selection of projects by the Projects Approvals Board based on their consistency with the call for applications, confirmation of eligibility under the Scheme, satisfactory technical assessment and available budget.

The selection process for competitive applications will entail selection of projects by the Project Approvals Board based on the following criteria:

- Strategic importance of the proposed investment for users of the harbour (40 marks)
- Contribution to improving safety and/or working conditions for staff and users of or visitors to the harbour (20 marks)
- Contribution to Environmental Protection (20 marks)
- Contribution to improving the quality, control or traceability of products landed (20 marks)

10. Procedure for dealing with appeals

The Managing Authority may specify a template for appeal of award decisions. Award decisions may be

appealed to the Managing Authority, who will provide a written explanation for award decisions, in consultation with the chair of the Projects Approvals Board. Following receipt of that explanation, appellants may request that an appeal be considered by the Projects Approvals Board. The Chair of the Board will, through the Managing Authority, provide to the appellant a written decision of the Board.

11. Document Retention

In accordance with Article 140 of the Common Provisions Regulation (EC) 1303/2013, the Managing Authority and final beneficiaries will ensure that all supporting documents regarding expenditure, verification checks, certification and audits on operations for which total eligible expenditure is less than €1,000,000.00 are kept available for the EU Commission and Court of Auditors for a period of three years from 31 December following the submission of the accounts in which the expenditure of the operation is included.

In the case of operations over €1,000,000.00 all supporting documentation shall be kept for a 2 year period from 31 December following the submission of accounts in which the final expenditure of the completed operation is included.

The Managing Authority will inform final beneficiaries of the start date of the period referred to above.

12. Monitoring and Reporting arrangements

The Managing Authority will provide periodic updates to the Monitoring Committee on the progress of this Scheme. These updates will form part of the agenda for meetings of the Monitoring Committee.

Final beneficiaries will provide information on the implementation of this Scheme to the Managing Authority to contribute to:

- The compilation of the Annual Implementation Report under article 114 of the EMFF Regulation to be transmitted to the Commission by 31 May each year.
- A Common Monitoring and Evaluation System under article 107 of the EMFF Regulation;
- Data on operations selected for funding required to be submitted to the Commission under Article 97(1)(a) of the EMFF Regulation by 31 March each year.

The Managing Authority will annually present information on the implementation of this Scheme to the Monitoring Committee through the Annual Implementation Report, which will be presented for the Committee's approval.

13. Information and Publicity

The contribution of the Irish exchequer and EMFF 2014-2020, will be acknowledged in all brochures, promotional material, press releases, publicity activity, advertisements, signage, applications forms, annual reports, letters of offer, etc., by use of appropriate logo and text references.

The Managing Authority will ensure compliance with Annex V of Commission Regulation 508/2014 concerning the provision of information on the Operational Programme and the co-funding provided by the Union.