

## EMFF OP Monitoring Committee 18<sup>th</sup> January 2018

### Minutes

#### Agenda item 1 - Registration

**Attendance:** (see Appendix A)

#### Agenda item 2 - Introduction

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed EMFF OP Monitoring Committee (MC) members. The Chair introduced the new members of the EMFF Managing Authority, Maureen Power and Deirdre Coomey to the Committee.

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

The following additional points of business were added to be discussed under AOB:

1. Small Scale Fisheries Plan – Isabelle Garzon (DG Mare)
2. New Plastic Strategy and implementations – Karin Dubsky (Environmental Pillar)
3. Consultation by Commission on SME – Damien Clarke (EMFF Managing Authority-DAFM)

#### Agenda item 3- Minutes of meeting 23 May 2017–For Adoption

Dr. Edward Fahy (Environmental Pillar) advised that he had not received the second report in relation to Consultation on proposal to introduce financial instruments under EMFF & RDP.

Mary Carey (Rural Development Division DAFM) advised that there was only one report made available.

The Chair advised that this matter would be discussed under Agenda item 5 but asked Dr. Fahy to forward the details of the report he required and the Managing Authority would follow up his request.

Isabelle Garzon (DG Mare) queried Item 9 of the minute in relation to the New Fishermen Scheme and asked that this should be checked.

The points raised were noted and the minutes of the meeting of 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2017 were adopted.

#### Agenda item 4 – Ex-ante Conditionalities (Update) – For information

The Chair briefed the Committee members on the up to date position on the EU Points System.

Isabelle Garzon (DG Mare) thanked the Chair for the update. The Commission has started the process of the suspension of EMFF funds for control and enforcement. A letter issued to Ireland in December and they are awaiting a response. Ms. Garzon advised that the EU have taken the decision to suspend payments while

waiting for the adoption of the Bill and there is a deadline of two months for a response. If a response is not received within the deadline, the commission will then make a decision on the suspension of the funds.

### **Agenda item 5- Ex-ante Assessment Financial Instruments (Update) – For Information**

Damien Clarke (EMFF MA) gave a presentation which briefed the committee members on the Ex-ante Assessment on Use of Financial Instruments within the EMFF OP. The Indecon Report was received on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2017 and the Public Consultation closed in October 2017. DAFM is liaising with the Commission on the proposal and also considering the report with regard to the submissions from the stakeholders.

Dr. Edward Fahy (Environmental Pillar) was unclear if the Financial Instrument was necessary, he could not see where it was indicated in the report. Dr. Fahy said that he had not got the report in question. Dr. Fahy feels that the SME's will not benefit from the report.

Mr Clarke advised that the report was clear that it is necessary to have a Financial Instrument and the SME's will benefit from the Instrument.

Richie Flynn (IFA Aquaculture) agreed with Mr Clarke and stated that this was an important report and the Financial Instrument was necessary.

Isabelle Garzon (DG Mare) advised that the Commission does not get involved in Member State's Public Consultation procedures, but they are very pleased with the way it is being progressed here in Ireland.

### **Agenda item 6 – Proposed Programme Amendment (Presentation) – For Information**

Damien Clarke (EMFF MA) gave a presentation on the proposals for programme modifications. The Chair advised that this presentation today is for information only and there will be full consultation with the OPMC.

Patrick Murphy (Irish South & West PO) was happy to see the proposals and asked where the €16 million would be allocated. He advised that they are finding it difficult to carry out the extra work due to lack of resources and as the workload has increased they would require extra funding.

The Chair advised that the €16m which was not spent on the Decommission Scheme is to be reallocated to the EMFF Fishery Harbours Scheme.

Nr Murphy advised that the volume of workload has trebled for all PO's with limited resources as a result. Goals cannot be achieved as set out in the Production Marketing plans and the overall objectives of the EMFF OP.

Lorcan Ó'Cinneide (IFPEA) commented on the importance of identifying the money allocated by the EMFF, the danger for the agencies (a) will the resources continue to be available, (b) to be told state funding not available because programme has ended. This programme has given a substantial lift to the agencies. This may be a discussion for the coming months.

Isabelle Garzon (DG Mare) congratulated and thanked the members for outlining the issues of the programme. Revision of the programme from EU is necessary with the following considerations:

- Where are we with the implementation of the OP;
- We are late but catching up, almost half way through;

What happens in 2018:

- Milestones to be reached – on basis of 6% to be allocated to each Union Priority;

- Discussions to take place with regards to extra funding;
- Aware of changes in programme;
- The Commission require the AIR 2017 in May of 2018;
- The milestones must be comparable with where the money goes;
- Strong justification – we need to have good knowledge where the money is spent;

Richie Flynn (IFA Aquaculture) highlighted the need to have a discussion on the allocation of funding for capital investment. Mr. Flynn identified that the Independent Review of the Aquaculture Licensing Process was carried out and published but not implemented due to lack of resources. Mr. Flynn advised that the Minister has promised to issue 300 Licences in 2018 and asked if the EMFF can deliver through their resources?

The Chair advised that Catherine Morrison (BIM) will deal with aquaculture in her presentation. The Independent Review of the Aquaculture Licencing Process is outside the scope of this meeting and is for discussion off line.

### **Agenda item 7 – Schemes (amendments) – For Approval**

The Chair proposed to take the five schemes together for approval. Karin Dubsy looked for clarification on the Aquaculture Knowledge Gateway Scheme and it was decided to deal with each Scheme separately.

- **Aquaculture Knowledge Gateway Scheme**

Karin Dubsy (EP) requested clarification on SO3 – Protection and restoration of Aquatic Biodiversity and Enhancement of Ecosystems related to aquaculture and the promotion of resource efficient aquaculture. Ms. Dubsy commented that this was only mentioned on the first page of the Implementation Plan and it was not discussed further in the body of the document.

Catherine Morrison (BIM) advised that it will be included under Specific Objective 1. Karin Dubsy feels that this is an important area and there should be a performance indicator for protection and restoration and it needs to be measured.

Damien Clarke (EMFF MA) advised that the objectives come from the programme and can be presented in different ways. This scheme will contribute to SO1 directly and indirectly under SO3 & SO4.

Richie Flynn (IFA Aquaculture) advised that he would have certain projects in mind which would come under protection and restoration in the Aquaculture side. His interpretation of this would be the restoration of the Mussel Beds that were destroyed in the storms.

The comments were noted. The amended Scheme was approved.

- **Seafood Promotion Scheme**

No Comments. The amended Scheme was approved.

- **Marine Biodiversity Scheme**

Karin Dubsy (EP) raised the issue of restoration and protection, one example is her concern in relation to the kelp in Bantry Bay, which has serious implications for fish. Ms. Dubsy feels that more monitoring is required and there is an opportunity here to have a discussion on how best the money

should be spent on this scheme. Ms. Dubsky believes that there are not enough indicators to monitor this scheme.

Leonie O'Dowd (Marine Institute) advised that the suggested changes in the document fits into the programme.

Karin Dubsky stated that the Marine Institute work is very important and the money should be kept with Marine Biodiversity.

The amended scheme was approved by majority vote, with the disagreement of Ms. Dubsky.

- **Seafood Skills and Training Measure**

Damien Clarke (EMFF MA) advised that the budget for this scheme is €5.6m.

Catherine Morrison (BIM) advised that these are non-competitive projects. They are for training people.

The amended scheme was approved.

- **Producer Organisation Scheme**

Dr. Edward Fahy (EP) asked if this was for the year 2018 or until the Programme end. Damien Clarke (EMFF MA) confirmed that it was until the end of the Programme. No further comments.

The amended Scheme was approved.

## **Agenda item 8– Schemes (Progress Updates) – For Information**

- Presentations were given by agency experts (see Appendix B) on scheme implementation progress in the areas of Control and Enforcement, Aquaculture, Seafood Promotion, Seafood Processing, Fishing, FLAGS, Data Collection & Marine Biodiversity Scheme and Blue Growth & Maritime Spatial Planning Scheme

Presentations would be made available to the OP MC following the meeting. Following each presentation, the Chair invited questions/comments.

- **Control & Enforcement**

Lorcan O'Conneide (IFPEA) suggested that this presentation be made available to the SFPA's Consultative Committee. Conor O'Shea (SFPA) advised that there is a meeting in the coming month and this is on the agenda.

Isabelle Garzon (DG Mare) thanked Áine McCarthy for the presentation and noted that they were committed to spending their budget and asked what was their strategy for this.

The Chair advised that the SFPA was under resourced, but that has now changed and the extra resources will help deliver the programme.

Conor O'Shea (SFPA) advised that their colleagues in the Department of Defence will assist on the delivery of the Control & Enforcement Scheme.

- **Aquaculture**

Catherine Morrison (BIM) gave a presentation on Aquaculture Schemes. Karin Dubsy (EP) asked if there was more information available on this matter and Catherine Morrison advised that the website had more details on the scheme.

- **Seafood Promotion**

Declan Coppinger (Bord Bia) gave a presentation on Seafood Promotions, Trade Fairs & Events.

- **Seafood Processing**

Tom Scanlon (BIM) gave a presentation on Seafood Processing Development Measure.

- **Fishing & FLAG's**

Ian Lawlor (BIM) gave a presentation on Fishing and Flags. Isabelle Garzon (DG Mare) asked why some of the projects were deferred until 2018 and suggested that more viable projects must be selected.

Ian Lawlor explained that due to time constraints and private funding, some projects were not completed and advised that they were looking into any difficulties that arose in the running of the schemes.

- **Data Collection & Marine Biodiversity Scheme**

Leonie O'Dowd (Marine Institute) gave a presentation on the Data Collection Programme and the Marine Biodiversity Scheme.

- **Blue Growth & Maritime Spatial Planning Scheme**

Jenny O'Leary (Marine Institute) gave a presentation on the Blue Growth and Marine Spatial Planning Scheme which comes under UP6 and outlined the work programme for the scheme.

Lorcan O'Conneide was concerned regarding the time scales of the marine spatial planning process. The Chair advised that an Interdepartmental Steering Group has been set up and all the relevant Departments are included. Lorcan O'Conneide suggested that it should not only be the agencies present at today's meeting. The Chair advised that these matters will be discussed at the first meeting which is coming up in the near future.

Isabelle Garzon (DG Mare) thanked everyone for their presentations and advised that the commission may come back to the individual organisations to discuss the Scheme's progress. Ms. Garzon advised that the role of the Monitoring Committee is to hear the reports of the agencies, to see how the implementation of the programme is progressing and to be updated on the key indicators and targets.

Ms. Garzon advised on where we stand on the progress of the programme:

- There was a 31% commitment in 2017;
- UP3 has not performed as high as expected;

- UP1 was at 13%;
- UP6 was at 0%;
- There was a strong performance on UP5 at 41%;
- UP4 also had a high performance.

Ms. Garzon advised that 2018 will be a challenging year. We will all continue the selection of new projects and turn what has been committed into actual spend. The commission is aware that the milestones in the programme are challenging, but we will work to get the required outturn.

## Agenda item 9 – AOB

- **Small Scale Fisheries Plan – Isabelle Garzon (DG Mare)**

Ms. Garzon requested a report on the progress of the plan to date. She feels that the information available is very vague. A report showing the initial Action Plan and up-to-date progress of the Scheme to be presented at the next Monitoring Committee meeting.

- **New Plastic Strategy and implementations – Karin Dubsy (Environmental Pillar)**

Karin Dubsy suggested that funding should be made available to the decommissioning of plastic. Fishermen need funds to assist them to find alternative materials to use for their fishing equipment. She feels a new plastic strategy should be put in place.

Isabelle Garzon thanked Ms. Dubsy for raising the issue of a new Plastics Strategy and advised that it is their view to stop all use of plastics in the fishing industry. Ms. Garzon also advised that this issue will be discussed at the next Ocean Wealth Conference. She also suggested that all agencies should look at what kind of projects can be put forward which would help to prevent the use of plastic, for example reusable materials.

- **Consultation by Commission on SME definition – Damien Clarke (EMFF MA)**

Damien Clarke advised that the Commission has invited SME's to contribute to a Commission survey on the definition of an SME. He advised that this should be an important issue for seafood SMEs and their representative organisations, as more and more SMEs grow and near the existing upper thresholds for defining an SME. A lesser maximum grant rate of 30% is available for non-SMEs under the EMFF. He encouraged BIM and industry stakeholder groups to encourage relevant SMEs to involve themselves in this survey.

The Chair thanked the attendees and concluded the meeting.

### Actions arising

- All Presentations to be circulated to MC members
- The next meeting of the EMFF OP MC will begin at the earlier time of 10am.

ENDS

## Appendix A

### In Attendance

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Adrian Antonescu	DG Mare
Isabelle Garzon	DG Mare
Damien Clarke	EMFF Managing Authority
Paschal Hayes (Chair)	EMFF Managing Authority
Maureen Power	EMFF Managing Authority
Keith Kelleher	EMFF Managing Authority
Deirdre Coomey	EMFF Managing Authority
Breda Hennessy	EMFF Managing Authority
Brennan, David	Marine Harvest
Boyle, Hugo	Irish South & East Fisher Producers Organisation
Breslin, Ted	Killybegs Fishermens Organisation
Carey, Mary	DAFM
Conway, Jim	Eastern & Midlands Regional Assembly
Coppinger, Declan	Bord Bia
Cronin, Donal	DHPLG
Crowley, Alex	NIFF
Doyle, John	Department of Defence
Doyle, Monica	DPER

Dubsky, Karin	Environmental Pillar
Fahy, Dr. Edward	Environmental Pillar
Flynn, Richie	IFA Aquaculture
Guckian, Barry	Northern & Western Regional Assembly
Lawler, Dr Ian	BIM
Lyons, Dr. David	Department of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht
McCarthy, Áine	SFPA
McDonagh, Noel	FLAG
McKendry, Felix	Enterprise Ireland
Morrison, Catherine	BIM
Murphy, Patrick	Irish South & West Fish Producers Organisation
O’Cinneide, Lorcan	Irish Fish Processors & Exporters Association
O’Dowd, Dr. Leonie	Marine Institute
O’hOgáin, Fionnán	Údaras na Gealtachta
O’Leary, Jenny	Marine Institute
O’Shea, Conor	SFPA
Power, Maureen	EMFF Managing Authority
Scanlon, Tom	BIM

#### Apologies

Vincent Dunphy	Southern Regional Assembly
Paul Kelly	IBEC

Mick Quirke	DAFM
Dominic Rihan	BIM
Ann Murphy	DAFM - IT
Carmel Tobin	DAFM – Finance

#### **Appendix B**

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