



EMFF OP 2014-2020

Implementation plan Seafood Skills & Training Measure

Operational Programme	EMFF Operational Programme 2014-2020
Priority	Union Priority 1 Sustainable Development of Fisheries Union Priority 2 Sustainable Development of Aquaculture
Thematic Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ TO 8 Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility
Specific Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ UP1 SO6 - Development of professional training, new professional skills and lifelong learning. ▪ UP2 SO Development of professional training, new professional skills and lifelong learning.
Scheme	Seafood Skills & Training Measure
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	Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM)
Grant Rate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Up to 80% (SSCF sector) ▪ Up to 50% (other vessels and crew) ▪ Up to 50% (Seafood Enterprises) ▪ Up to 75% (Producer Organisations) ▪ Up to 60% (Stakeholder Organisations) ▪ Up to 100% (Public bodies)
EU Co-Financing Rate	50%
Legal Basis	Articles 29, 50 EMFF

1. Objective of Intervention

The need for enhanced training and skills development is a common theme running through Union Priorities 1, 2 and 5 (Fisheries, Aquaculture and Seafood Processing). It is identified in the EMFF Programme Needs Assessment for each as follows:

UP1	Sustainable Development of Fisheries	Improve fleet profitability and competitiveness through Development and dissemination of fishing knowledge and technology training, skills development, advisory services and networking.
UP2	Sustainable Development of Aquaculture	Promote through professional training, skills development and networking of uptake of best husbandry, environmental and disease management products and practices, adoption of innovative technology and scaling. Protect biodiversity in marine habitats, including species and habitats protected under Natura 2000 with networking and capacity building
UP5	Marketing and Processing	Develop industry skills and in particular management skills in the industry and disseminate knowledge to industry through advisory services and networking.

The Seafood Skills and Training Measure will seek to develop skills and knowledge across the Fisheries, Aquaculture and Seafood Processing sectors. Training, skills development, fisheries apprenticeship and stakeholder capacity building initiatives will be promoted across the following core themes:

2. Core themes of Seafood Skills & Training Measure

- (A) Health and Safety at sea and on land
- (B) Skills
- (C) Sustainability
- (D) Innovation
- (E) Competitiveness

3. Definitions

For the purposes of this document:

'Recognised Training and Educational Courses' means courses provided by BIM or by educational or training providers recognised by BIM as having the necessary

competence to deliver courses relevant to this Measure. BIM, with the agreement of the Managing Authority, will recognise academic courses as relevant to this Scheme.

'SSCF or Small Scale Coastal Fisheries' means fishing carried out by fishing vessels of an overall length of less than 12 metres and not using towed fishing gear as listed in Table 3 of Annex I to Commission Regulation (EC) No 26/2004.

4. Description of Intervention

This Measure contains 3 Schemes as follows:

- Seafood Training Scheme
- Fisheries Apprenticeship Scheme
- Seafood Capacity Building Scheme

These are detailed separately in the following pages.

BIM will periodically launch calls for applications under each of the 3 Schemes for particular types of eligible activities. These calls may be competitive or may be non-competitive calls open to eligible beneficiaries until allocated funds are awarded. BIM will also implement certain training and capacity building projects on behalf of the seafood sector.

5. Procedure for dealing with appeals

BIM may specify a template for appeal of award decisions. BIM will provide on request a written explanation for award decisions. Following receipt of that explanation, appellants may request that an appeal be considered by the Project Approvals Board.

6. Document Retention

In accordance with Article 140 of the Common Provisions Regulation (EC) 1303/2013, BIM 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.

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

7. Monitoring and Reporting Arrangements

The Managing Authority or BIM 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.

BIM will provide information on the implementation of these Schemes 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.

The Managing Authority and/or BIM will maintain a website providing details of this Scheme and its progress.

8. Information and Publicity

Beneficiaries (excluding natural persons) shall publicly acknowledge the EMFF aid to their project through appropriate information and publicity measures, as may be specified by BIM in letters of offer.

The Managing Authority and BIM 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.

Seafood Training Scheme

9. Eligible Beneficiaries

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

- SME enterprises in the Fishery, Aquaculture or Seafood Processing sectors
- Organisations¹ representing stakeholders in Fisheries, Aquaculture or Seafood Processing
- Owners of fishing vessels registered on the Irish Register of Sea-fishing Boats
- Crew of fishing vessels
- Persons active in the aquaculture sector
- Persons wishing to enter the seafood sector
- Bord Iascaigh Mhara

10. Eligible Activities & Costs

Eligible activities must concern the Core Themes specified in section 2.

(A) Provision of relevant training and educational courses

The following costs, net of projected fee income and other charges levied on participants, may be eligible for support under this Scheme:

1. Outsourced course content development costs
2. External course instructor fees and travel costs at public service rates
3. External quality assurance and accreditation costs
4. Preparation and/or dissemination of training and educational books, brochures, guides, manuals, and other such materials.
5. Development of relevant training and educational websites and content.
6. Development of relevant educational or training software and apps.

¹ Recognised by BIM as having a significant representative role at a regional or national level

(B) Participation by eligible beneficiaries in relevant training and educational courses

Aid under this section is not available where the beneficiary may be eligible for grant assistance from other sources.

The following costs may be eligible for support under this Scheme:

1. Course fees or other charges levied on eligible beneficiaries by course providers for participation in recognised training and educational courses;
2. Costs to eligible beneficiaries of required course materials;
3. Travel and subsistence² costs, where deemed appropriate by BIM.

11. Ineligible Costs

- (a) Computers, laptops, tablets, mobile phones or similar equipment.
- (b) Vehicles.
- (c) Value Added Tax unless non-recoverable by the beneficiary under law.
- (d) Travel costs except as provided for in section 10.

12. Support Rates

The maximum levels of support will be as specified below.

Beneficiary	Maximum support per year	Maximum Support Rate %
SSCF vessel owners or crew	€20,000	80%
Other fishing vessel owners or crew	€20,000	50%
Persons active in the aquaculture sector	€20,000	50%
Persons wishing to enter the seafood sector	€20,000	50%
Eligible SME enterprises	€20,000	50%
Producer Organisations	€20,000	75%
Other organisations representing stakeholders ¹	€20,000	60%
Bord Iascaigh Mhara	Not applicable	100%

Fixed support amounts concerning the above, in the form of standard scales of unit costs or lump sums³, may be specified by BIM, with the approval of the Managing

² At a maximum of public service rates

Authority. These may be for general application or may be specific to a particular call for applications, a particular class of beneficiary or a particular form or item of eligible activity.

13. Selection Process

With the exception of BIM projects, all projects will be selected for funding as follows.

Step	Description	Carried Out By
Call for proposals	BIM will periodically invite applications.	BIM
Eligibility Check and evaluation	To ensure compliance and to assess validity.	BIM
Assessment / Appraisal	To appraise and score applications under competitive calls.	BIM
Final Project Selection	To select projects for funding and decide grant amounts and grant rates.	BIM
Grant Offer	BIM will issue letters of offer awarding EMFF funding.	BIM

14. Selection criteria

For BIM projects, the selection process will entail submission of project applications by BIM to the Managing Authority, and the approval by the Managing Authority having regard to the objectives of the Scheme and its contribution to supporting the priorities of the EMFF OP 2014-2020.

For non-competitive calls for proposals, the selection process will entail selection of projects for funding based on projects meeting the specified mandatory requirements of the call for proposals and subject to budget.

For competitive calls for proposals, the selection process will entail selection of participants based on the following criteria and subject to budget:

³ In accordance with Article 67 of Regulation 1303/2013

- (A) Demonstrated need of applicant for the support sought (40 marks).
- (B) Suitability of the applicant to obtain maximum benefit from the course (30 marks).
- (C) Demonstrated importance of the support sought to the delivery of the proposal (10)
- (D) Cost of proposal (20 marks).

Fisheries Apprenticeship Scheme

15. Eligible beneficiaries

Owners of SSCF fishing vessels registered on the Irish Register of Sea-fishing Boats and who are at least 50 years of age.

16. Eligible Activities

Apprenticeships of unemployed persons (apprentices) under 30 years of age involving on board training as fishermen by SSCF vessel owners of at least 50 years of age. Apprenticeships shall not exceed two years and shall be the subject of a standard contract between the apprentice and vessel owner. BIM shall specify the terms of this standard contract and the apprenticeship programme concerning the Core Themes specified in section 2 to be delivered by the vessel owner.

17. Eligible Costs

The following costs definitively borne by eligible beneficiaries may be eligible for support under this Scheme, where provided for under a particular call for applications:

- (a) Salary costs of apprentices.
- (b) Personal Protective Equipment provided to apprentices.
- (c) Educational materials.
- (d) Travel and subsistence costs², where deemed appropriate by BIM.

BIM shall, with the approval of the Managing Authority, specify fixed support amounts for eligible costs, in the form of standard scales of unit costs³, which shall not exceed €40,000 per beneficiary over the Programme period.

18. Ineligible Costs

- a) Computers, laptops, tablets, mobile phones or similar equipment.
- b) Vehicles.
- c) Value Added Tax unless non-recoverable by the beneficiary under law.

19. Support Rates

Beneficiary	Maximum Support Rate %
SSCF vessels owners	Fixed amount per apprentice per year

20. Selection Criteria

Beneficiaries will be selected on the basis of their meeting the mandatory criteria specified in calls for proposals and subject to budget.

Seafood Capacity Building Scheme

21. Eligible Beneficiaries

- a) Organisations¹ representing stakeholders in Fisheries, Aquaculture or Seafood Processing,
- b) Relevant public bodies.

22. Eligible Activities

Networking and Knowledge Transfer initiatives undertaken by eligible beneficiaries that specifically concern the Core Themes specified in section 2.

23. Eligible Costs and Support Rates

The following costs definitively borne by eligible beneficiaries may be eligible for support under this Scheme at the specified rates, where provided for under a particular call for applications:

(A) Staging Conferences or Workshops

- Venue hire⁴ and associated costs for staging conferences or workshops.
- Hire of equipment⁴ required in staging conferences or workshops.
- Preparation and provision of materials for participants in conferences or workshops.
- Expert speaker fees, and travel and subsistence², where charged by third party speakers.

Beneficiary	Maximum Support Rate %	Maximum support per year
Public bodies	100%	-
Other beneficiaries	60%	€50,000

⁴ Restricted to short term hire for the event

(B) Attendance at Expert Meetings

- Travel and subsistence² for attendance at expert meetings staged by third parties (including conferences and workshops).

Beneficiary	Maximum Support Rate %	Maximum support per year
Public bodies	N/A	N/A
Other beneficiaries	60%	€50,000

(C) Other Knowledge Transfer initiatives

- Preparation and provision of information materials.
- Website development.

Beneficiary	Maximum Support Rate %	Maximum support per year
Public bodies	N/A	N/A
Other beneficiaries	60%	€20,000

Fixed support amounts concerning the above, in the form of lump sums or standard scale of units costs³, may be specified by BIM, with the approval of the Managing Authority, in relation to the above eligible costs. These may be for general application or may be specific to a particular call for applications, a particular class of beneficiary or a particular form or item of eligible activity.

24. Ineligible Costs

- Standard operational costs of beneficiaries, including employee salaries.
- Computers, laptops, tablets, mobile phones or similar equipment.
- Travel and subsistence², except as provided above.
- Vehicles.
- Value Added Tax unless non-recoverable by the beneficiary under law.

25. Selection Process

With the exception of BIM projects, all projects will be selected for funding as follows. BIM will select all projects from seafood enterprises, or individuals, with eligible costs ≤ €50,000. The Project Approvals Board will select all other projects.

Step	Description	Carried Out By
Call for proposals	BIM will periodically invite applications.	BIM
Eligibility Check and evaluation	To ensure compliance and to assess validity.	BIM or Managing Authority as appropriate
Assessment / Appraisal	To appraise and score applications under competitive calls.	BIM
Final Project Selection	To select projects for funding and decide grant amounts and grant rates.	BIM, Managing Authority or PAB as appropriate
Grant Offer	BIM will issue letters of offer awarding EMFF funding.	BIM or Managing Authority as appropriate

26. Selection criteria

For BIM projects, the selection process will entail submission of project applications by BIM to the Managing Authority, and the approval by the Managing Authority having regard to the objectives of the Scheme and its contribution to supporting the priorities of the EMFF OP 2014-2020.

For non-competitive calls for applications, applications will be selected for funding based on their eligibility under the scheme, with the requirements of a particular call for applications and with the Core Themes specified in section 2 and subject to budget.

For competitive calls for proposals, the selection process will entail selection of projects based on the following criteria and subject to budget:

1. Demonstrated value of the proposal (40 marks).
2. Demonstrated capacity / competence of the applicant to deliver the proposed initiative (30 marks).
3. Demonstrated importance of the support sought to the delivery of the proposal (10)
4. Cost of proposal (20 marks).