



EMFF OP 2014-2020

Implementation plan Storage Aid Scheme

Priority	Union Priority 5 Marketing & Processing
Thematic Objective	TO3 - Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises
Specific Objective	SO1 – Improvement of market organisation for fishery and aquaculture products.
Scheme	Storage Aid 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	Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM)
Grant Rate	Up to 100%
EU Co-Financing Rate	100%
Legal Basis	Article 67 EMFF

1. Objective of Intervention

The Strategy for Union Priority 5 specified in section 3.1 of the EMFF Operational Programme specifies as an objective to support market prices of fish through a limited storage aid measure during periods of particular difficulty and as an exceptional measure.

2. Definitions

For the purposes of this document:

‘Competent authority’ means the Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine as the competent authority for the CMO Regulation in Ireland;

‘CMO’ means Regulation (EU) No. 1379/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 on the common organisation of the markets in fishery and aquaculture products, amending Council Regulations (EC) No 1184/2006 and (EC) No 1224/2009 and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 104/2000;

‘Financial Costs’ means the costs determined and published each year by the Competent Authority on the EMFF website www.agriculture.gov.ie/EMFF in accordance with Article 67

EMFF and applicable to all claims under this Scheme. Financial Costs are calculated each year using prevailing interest rates.

'Producer Organisation (PO)' means an officially recognised body established by fishery or aquaculture producers in accordance with the CMO.

'Technical Costs' means the costs determined and published each year by the Competent Authority on the EMFF website www.agriculture.gov.ie/EMFF in accordance with Article 67 EMFF and applicable to all claims under this Scheme. Technical Costs are calculated each year on the basis of direct costs relating to the actions required in order to stabilise and store fish for the purposes of this Scheme.

'Trigger Prices' means the prices determined and published by the competent authority on the EMFF website www.agriculture.gov.ie/EMFF in accordance with article 31 of the CMO Regulation for each species of fish listed in Annex II of the CMO and that will be the trigger mechanism for storage aid eligibility.

3. Description of Intervention

This Scheme will provide supports to Producer Organisations towards the technical and financial costs required for the stabilisation and storage of species of fishery products listed in Annex II of the CMO. Eligibility of products will be triggered when the products have been placed on the market by a producer organisation and no buyer for them has been found at the Trigger Prices. Support will be granted once products are released from storage and for human consumption only.

This Scheme will end on 31 December 2018 or earlier if the available budget is expended.

4. Eligible Beneficiaries

This Scheme is restricted to Producer Organisations.

5. Eligible Costs

The Technical Costs and Financial Costs applicable in respect of fishery products listed in Annex II of the CMO, stored and released for human consumption in accordance with this Scheme, Article 67 EMFF and Article 30 CMO.

The quantities eligible for storage aid shall not exceed 15 % of the annual quantities of the products concerned put up for sale by the Producer Organisation concerned.

6. Support

This Scheme will support 100% of eligible costs, subject to the budget available for this Scheme in the year concerned, and subject to maximum aid of €1,281,587 in total for all beneficiaries over the duration of the Scheme.

Support per beneficiary per year shall not exceed 2 % of the average annual value of the production placed on the market by the members of the Producer Organisation concerned in the period 2009-2011.

7. Selection Process

Projects will be selected for funding as follows.

Step	Description	Carried Out By
Trigger Price Set	Trigger prices determined and published by the competent authority each year.	Competent Authority
Application for Storage Aid	When no buyer for product is found at the Trigger Prices, PO member vessel concerned applies for Storage Aid by completing at the time of landing an 'Application for Storage of Fishery Products', countersigned by the SFPA.	PO / SFPA
Storage	Product placed in storage and certified by SFPA	PO / SFPA
Exit and Placing on market	Producer Organisation withdraws eligible product from storage for human consumption.	PO
Claim	Producer Organisation submits claim to BIM in the form specified and including all documentation required to verify the claim.	PO
Examination of claim	To ensure eligibility and ensure compliance with this Scheme, Article 67 EMFF and Article 30 CMO.	BIM
Project Selection	To select projects for funding and decide grant amounts and grant rates.	BIM
Grant approval & payment	BIM issues letter of award of EMFF funding and payment.	BIM

8. Conditions of eligibility

The following additional conditions shall apply to this Scheme:

- (a) The products have been placed on the market by fishery producer organisations and no buyer for them has been found at the Trigger Prices;
- (b) The products meet the common marketing standards established in accordance with Article 33 CMO and are of adequate quality for human consumption;
- (c) The products are stabilised or processed and stored in tanks or cages, by way of freezing, either on board vessels or in land facilities, salting, drying, marinating or, where relevant, boiling and pasteurisation, whether or not filleted, cut-up or, where appropriate, headed;
- (d) The products are reintroduced from storage into the market for human consumption at a later stage;
- (e) The products remain in storage for at least five days.

9. Selection criteria:

Operations will be selected for EMFF funding on the basis of compliance with the mandatory requirements of this Scheme, and subject to the budget available.

10. Procedure for dealing with appeals

BIM may specify a template for appeal of award decisions. Award decisions may be appealed to BIM, who will provide a written explanation for award decisions. Following receipt of that explanation, appellants may request that an appeal be considered by the Managing Authority.

11. 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.

12. Monitoring and Reporting arrangements

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 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.

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

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 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.