

Sustainable Fisheries Scheme

- Split into 3 integrated parts
 - Public Interest Projects (technical or scientific bodies)
 - Fleet Improvement Projects (vessel owners)
 - Quality and Added value (Groups of fishermen, co-ops, PO's)



Public Interest Projects

- 12 projects with EMFF Funding of €1.4 million
- Focusing on:
 - Implementation of the landing obligation
 - Assisting fishermen to operate to common standards of responsibility and best practice
 - Reducing environmental impacts of fishing on the ecosystem
 - Stakeholder education and awareness



Types of Project

- Testing of selective gears
- Reducing interactions of seals with fishing gears
- High survivability experiments
- Identifying potential uses for unwanted catches
- Delivery of a national certification programme
- Creation of stakeholder groups
- Improving waste management (Fishing for litter, Net recycling)
- Reducing parasitic worms in landed fish
- Educational Conferences/workshops



Fleet Improvement Projects

- 119 projects approved in 2017
- 64 completed with EMF grant aid of €800,000
- Provision of selective gears
- Equipment to improve:
 - hygiene, health and working conditions
 - fuel efficiency
 - fish quality and add value



Types of Project

- Selective and low impact fishing gears
- Improvements to common areas, equipment to reduce manual handling, insulation and ventilation
- Fuel monitoring, gear monitoring and fuel efficient fishing gears
- Temperature monitoring systems, weighing and labelling and fish handling systems



Quality and Added Value Projects

- 12 projects with total investment of €4 million and EMFF grant aid of €2.1 million
- €710,00 paid to date (8 projects)
- Two elements:
 - Investment in infrastructure to address the challenges of the landing obligation
 - Certification and promotion of sustainable fishery products



Marine Stewardship Council
Certified sustainable seafood



Types of Project

- 4 infrastructure projects
 - Co-ops and first-point of sale entities
 - Facilities and equipment for the handling and storing unwanted catches
 - Improving quality and adding value to fish under the landing obligation
- 8 certification projects
 - Certification of groups of vessels under national certification programme (RSS) and also for MSC fisheries



Actions for 2018

- Continued testing of selective gears
- Further high survivability studies for plaice and sole
- Continuation of projects which aim to enhance the sustainability credentials of Irish seafood in the marketplace (RSS, Origin Green)
- Continued support for industry-led change management projects (FIPs, NFDG, Women in seafood)
- Continued support for fleet improvement projects
- Introduction of an engine replacement scheme (vessels less than 12m)
- Completion of outstanding infrastructure projects (landing obligation)