

EMFF OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME

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1. PREPARATION OF THE OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME AND INVOLVEMENT OF PARTNERS

1.1 Preparation of the Operational Programme and involvement of partners

The European Maritime and Fisheries Fund Operational Programme for Ireland (EMFF OP) was prepared by the Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine. The Operational Programme was prepared in co-operation with a wide range of partners and stakeholders as required under Article 5 of the Common Provisions Regulation and as detailed in the ‘Code of Conduct on Partnership’.

Involvement of the partners occurred in a number of phases as follows.

Phase 1 Initial Stakeholder Consultation

The first phase of the preparation process was the issuing of a consultation paper to all partners and identified stakeholders in September 2013. This paper included the policy context for the 2014-2020 programmes, details on thematic objectives and investment priorities, implementation arrangements and programme requirements. Partners/stakeholders were invited to make submissions and to respond to 10 key questions which included the following topics:

- Problems / issues /opportunities for the period 2014-2020 that may be funded through EMFF OP
- Ways to reduce administrative burden under the EMFF OP
- Way to integrate Horizontal Principles into EMFF OP
- Specific needs concerning the environment, climate change mitigation and adaptation and innovation
- Specific needs to increase employment and contribute to economic recovery
- Specific needs to ensure the seafood sector in achieving its potential?

Submissions were also sought on structured questionnaires on the SWOT for each of the chapters under the EMFF. These included:

- Sustainable Development of Fisheries
- Sustainable Development of Aquaculture
- Sustainable development of Fisheries Areas/coastal communities
- Marketing & Processing Measures
- Control & Enforcement Activities
- Data Collection Activities

All submissions received were reviewed in detail in the context of the Needs Analysis and the identification of investment priorities and a summary of each was included in the draft EMFF Needs Analysis. All submissions received were published on the Department's website, along

with the draft SWOT Analysis tables and Needs Analysis linkages.

Phase 2 Workshop on draft EMFF SWOT Analysis

The EMFF SWOT Analysis process was presented at a stakeholder consultation meeting in Dublin on November 27th 2013. The attendees of this meeting included members of the existing EFF OP Monitoring Committee and other invited stakeholders. The outcomes of the analysis are detailed in Chapter 2 of this Operational Programme.

Phase 3 Workshop on SWOT Analysis, intervention logic and investment priorities

A stakeholder consultation workshop was held on the 20th May 2014 in Clonakilty, Co. Cork. The workshop facilitated engagement with stakeholders on the outcomes of the SWOT analysis, Needs Analysis, the proposed investment priorities and the ex ante evaluation process.

In total, 100 stakeholders representing various partners were invited to attend, of whom 51 attended, representing local authorities, regional authorities, state development agencies, higher education institutions, EFF OP Monitoring Committee members, Government Departments, representative organisations of the fisheries, aquaculture and processing sectors, Fisheries Local Action Groups, Environmental NGOs and economic and social partners.

Phase 4: Meetings with Government Departments and Agencies

Over the September to May 2014 period, bilateral meetings were held with relevant Government Departments and Agencies, Producer Organisations, environmental NGOs and representatives of the aquaculture sector. These meetings focussed on the preparation of the Operational Programme and potential actions for inclusion in the programmes and gave key stakeholders an opportunity to discuss in detail with the Managing Authority their views on priorities for the EMFF OP.

Roundtable meetings involving the Managing Authorities for all 4 ESIF funds were held with representatives of the horizontal principles of sustainable development, equality, gender equality and social inclusion in Dublin on 23rd January 2014 to review the proposals for the integration of these principles into the programmes.

Phase 5: Public Consultation on draft EMFF OP 2014-2020

The draft EMFF OP 2014-2020 was published for **public consultation** on 27 March 2015 and that process closed on 1 May 2015. Some 52 submissions were received (statutory consultees not included). The Managing Authority reviewed these submissions and took account of them in finalising its draft OP for submission to the Commission.

Contribution of the Partners

The involvement of the Partners in the preparation of the Programme over the 5 phases outlined above was essential to its successfully identifying the main issues and challenges facing the seafood sector in the coming years and identifying the most appropriate strategy and measures to address those challenges and make most effective use of EMFF supports.

The Partners contributed to the thoroughness and accuracy of the SWOT analysis and their contribution was particularly notable in respect of Union Priority 1 (UP1), UP2 and UP4. The Partners made important contributions to the Needs Analysis and this influenced the selection of measures and financial allocations. In particular, the Partners' involvement influenced the inclusion of energy efficiency measures under UP1 and the distribution of financial allocations between permanent cessation and engine replacement. The Partners' involvement helped identify the measures concerning Natura 2000 to be prioritised for implementation and the scale of financial allocations for this. Also under UP1, the partners' involvement influenced the inclusion of supports for a Mutual Fund. Under UP2, the Partner's involvement influenced the inclusion of measures to aid shellfish farmers affected by biotoxin episodes and for new entrants to the sector. The Partners significantly influenced the scale of financial allocation for FLAGS under UP4. In respect of both UP1 and UP5, the involvement of the Partners significantly influenced the approach to involvement of Producer Organisations in the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP).

1.2 Outcome of the ex-ante evaluation

1.2.1 Description of the ex-ante evaluation process

The ex-ante evaluation of the EMFF Operational Programme for Ireland was implemented by taking into account the guidance provided through the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) Draft Guidelines for the Ex-Ante Evaluation of 2014-2020 Operational Programmes, as well as drawing on the considerable experience of seafood development programmes within the evaluation team.

A 7 stage approach was implemented as follows:

- Preliminary Stage: Project Planning and Initiation;
- Stage 1: Ex ante Evaluation of EMFF OP 2014-2020 – Component 1: SWOT Analysis and Needs Assessment;
- Stage 2: Ex ante Evaluation of EMFF OP 2014-2020 – Component 2: Intervention Logic including Budgetary allocations, targets and performance framework
- Stage 3: Ex ante Evaluation of EMFF OP 2014-2020 – Component 3: Governance, Management and Horizontal Principles
- Stage 4: Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA);
- Stage 5: Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening & AA Relating to Natura 2000 Sites;
- Stage 6: Reporting and Dissemination of Findings.

The ex-ante evaluation was carried out by RSM McClure Watters and as the work on the operational programme progressed, the evaluators provided interim ex-ante reports based on the topic that the steering group was working on.

The Ex Ante Evaluation was conducted in accordance with the Guidelines for the Ex Ante Evaluation of 2014–20 that was provided by EU Commission. The Ex Ante Evaluators engaged from an early stage in the programme development process working in parallel with the EMFF OP Steering Group and providing feedback through its three main stages:

- The analysis the context, the SWOT and the identification of the needs; (Intermediate Reports provided by Ex-Ante Evaluators Nov 2014)
- The construction of the programme’s intervention logic including the budgetary allocations, establishment of targets and the performance framework; (Intermediate Reports provided by Ex-Ante Evaluators Mar 2015)
- The definition of the content of the measures and of the delivery mechanisms (Intermediate Reports provided by Ex-Ante Evaluators May 2015.
- Final Ex-Ante Evaluation Report provided by Ex-Ante Evaluators in June 2015.

As a result of the comments/recommendations in the Ex-Ante Evaluation report the managing authority with the assistance of the EMFF OP Steering Group responded and where required amended the EMFF OP on that basis.

Poiseidon Aquatic Resource Management Ltd. produced the environmental impact assessments for the EMFF OP, ensuring that the ex-ante evaluation and environmental impact assessments were compatible. The environmental report on the EMFF OP was circulated for comments together with the consultation document on the EMFF OP on 27 March 2015.

1.2.2 Overview of the recommendations of the ex-ante evaluators and brief description of how they have been addressed

Topic	Recommendation	How was the recommendation addressed, or why was it not taken into account
1 - SWOT analysis, needs assessment	DAFM take on board all recommendations and mitigation actions outlined in the Final SEA Report.	The SEA Report on the EMFF OP 2014-2020 outlined the mitigation and optimising measures in Chapter 7 and based on the measures selected by the MA the overall effect of the EMFF OP is expected to be positive, ensuring fisheries, aquaculture and wider seafood sector development on a sustainable basis. Chapter 8 of the the SEA Report does provide certain recommendations which the MA have considered and where possible have addressed within the Union Priority Strategies described in Chapter 3 of the EMFF OP.
2 - Construction of the intervention logic, including the contribution to the EU 2020, the internal coherence of the proposed programme and its relationship with other relevant instruments, the establishment of quantified targets and milestones and the distribution of budgetary resources	<p>1 - The source of data should be identified for all result/output indicators so that intermediary bodies are aware of the source of the monitoring information which should be collected to inform reporting against target.</p> <p>2 - The frequency of reporting needs to be specified for all indicators so that the intermediary bodies responsible for collecting data understand the frequency with which they need to report progress against target.</p> <p>3 - The MA develop Context Indicators for result indicators included in the programme under Priorities 4 and 5.</p>	<p>1 - The MA has indicated under each Context indicator table in Chapter 2 the relevant source of the data to allow MA to monitor the result indicators.</p> <p>2 - As part of the implementation of schemes/measures under the OP the intermediate bodies will develop an implementation plan which will outline the reporting requirements in consultation with MA</p> <p>3 - MA have removed result indicators where there are no context indicators present.</p> <p>4 -The MA has developed target values for UP5 in Chapter 3.</p> <p>5 - The MA has revised the result target for Permanent</p>

Topic	Recommendation	How was the recommendation addressed, or why was it not taken into account
	<p>4 - Target Values for Priority 5 need to be developed. These need to have a robust justification detailing the assumptions and data taken into consideration in the development of the target value.</p> <p>5 - Revise either the target value or milestone value for the output indicator under Priority 1 to clarify the issue regarding the milestone value being higher than the overall target value.</p>	Cessation to 25.
<p>3 - Consistency with the CSF, the Partnership Agreement, the relevant country specific recommendations adopted in accordance with Article 121(2) TFEU and where appropriate at national level, the National Reform Programme</p>	No Recommendations Made	
<p>4 - Rationale for the forms of support proposed in the programme (Article 66 CPR)</p>	No Recommendations made	
<p>5 - Human resources and administrative capacity and the management of the programme</p>	<p>1 - A robust set of selection criteria are developed in relation to the appointment of the FLAG members under CLLD and consider the different skill sets which will be required by FLAGs due to potential difficulties arising from the large population differentials between FLAG Areas.</p> <p>2 - A Training Needs Analysis should be carried out so that DAFM understands what training is required by whom and by</p>	<p>1 - A set of selection criteria has been developed which are described in Chapter 5 of the EMFF OP</p> <p>2 - MA will carry out a training needs analysis for all relevant bodies, and as a result of this develop a training plan also.</p> <p>3 - - MA as part of the final decision making process in relation to financial allocations under EMFF OP reviewed all figures and where appropriate figures revised accordingly. See Chapter 8.</p>

Topic	Recommendation	How was the recommendation addressed, or why was it not taken into account
	<p>when so they can adequately target training at particular groups and bodies involved in the programme.</p> <p>3 - Consider dedicating further EMFF monies to technical assistance.</p>	
<p>6 - Procedures for monitoring the programme and collecting the data necessary to carry out evaluations</p>	<p>1 - DAFM include the information on the data that will be required in order to carry out the monitoring and evaluation activities in the monitoring and evaluation plan.</p> <p>2 - DAFM include information on the specification and design of application forms in the Evaluation Plan to be developed after programme submission.</p> <p>3 - DAFM include information on specification and design of Project Reports in the Evaluation Plan to be developed after programme submission.</p> <p>4 - DAFM ensure that all bodies are involved in the set-up of the monitoring system after they have been appointed.</p>	<p>1 - MA will take on board this recommendation and following submission of OP will begin work to develop guidance for bodies to ensure that all required information will be available to all bodies. Also as part of the implementation plans for schemes/measures evaluation and monitoring activities will be described.</p> <p>2 - Following submission of OP MA will work with agencies to take on board this recommendation and capture all required basic data at the application stage.</p> <p>3 - Following submission of OP MA will work with agencies to take on board this recommendation and ensure project reports are designed so that is clear what information is required for completion of the report and which will capture progress of programme including contribution to output and result indicators.</p> <p>4 - MA will provide necessary guidance to ensure that bodies are aware of their roles in the set-up and implementation of the monitoring system for the EMFF OP 2014-2020.</p>
<p>7 - Measures to promote</p>	<p>1 - DAFM detail the</p>	<p>1, 2 & 3 - The MA will in</p>

Topic	Recommendation	How was the recommendation addressed, or why was it not taken into account
equal opportunities between men and women, prevent discrimination and promote sustainable development	<p>processes that are in place to monitor the promotion of equality and non-discrimination.</p> <p>2 - DAFM develop an Equality Action Plan, will ensure that the programme strategy addresses the particular needs of groups at risk of discrimination.</p> <p>3 - DAFM set out indicators which will be used to demonstrate the impact of the SDP on equality of opportunities between women and men and non-discrimination.</p>	consultation with the relevant agencies involved in equality and non-discrimination will develop processes to monitor these. These will also be included in Scheme/measure implementation plans.
8 - Measures taken to reduce the administrative burden on beneficiaries	No Recommendations Made	
9 - Requirements for the Strategic Environmental Assessment	DAFM consider and adopt all of the recommendations contained in the Final Environmental Report to ensure that maximum environmental benefit is achieved through the programme.	MA considered all recommendations in the final environmental report and where required amended the EMFF OP accordingly.

2. SWOT AND IDENTIFICATION OF NEEDS

2.1 Swot analysis and identification of needs

Union priority	1 - Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based fisheries
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Strengths

- Proximity to key fishing grounds.
- General quality of infrastructure at key ports (Fishery Harbour Centres).
- Increased exploitation of stocks at MSY.
- Strong Marine Science Capacity
- Integration of environmental and fisheries science in fisheries management.
- Relationship with stakeholders for TAC species (RAC's & IFSRP).
- Growing reputation of Irish seafood.
- Competitive modern fleet.

Weaknesses

- Overcapacity in fleet segments identified in 2014 Fleet Report.
- High levels of discards in some fisheries
- Limited management regime for inshore stocks.
- Need for better data on activities of <10m vessels.
- Need for better data on fishing pressure by EU fleets on protected habitats.
- Opportunistic rather than market led fishing sector.
- Possible need to strengthen infrastructure at some ports to facilitate landing obligation.
- Limited infrastructure generally at small/inshore ports
- Lack of succession planning and new entrants
- SMEs with limited capacity to develop fishing technology and practices and to maintain and improve skills levels
- Some stocks depleted

Opportunities

- Global demand for seafood is increasing
- Stock recovery through CFP reform
- Sustainable harvesting of inshore stocks
- Stock recovery through continued development of local management plans.
- Species and habitat and biodiversity conservation and recovery through good fisheries management.
- Improved selective gear technologies
- On-board quality and Environmental Management Systems
- Use of Financial Instruments to leverage Resources

- Increased co-operation between fishermen & scientists
- Promote skills development and training to allow fishermen to develop their sector in an innovative manner.
- To support implementation of conservation measures under the CFP and fishery related conservation measures under NATURA 2000 and MSFD.

Threats

- Health & Safety at sea.
- Increases in Fuel Prices
- Continued poor recovery of some key stocks in Irish Sea.
- Quota restrictions & reduced days at sea
- Risk of loss of biodiversity and protected habitats and species without adequate fisheries management.
- Risk of stock decline without adequate inshore fisheries management.
- Some restrictions on fishing opportunities to protect biodiversity and protected species and habitats and conserve stock.
- Constrained access to private finance.
- Constrained national public co-funding.
- Infrastructure at key fishery harbours not developed to meet evolving needs of industry.
- Impacts of climate change on distribution of stocks and recruitment

Identification of needs on basis of the SWOT analysis

- Facilitate provision of infrastructure and equipment as required at certain ports to facilitate the landing obligation.
- Help fishermen avoid juvenile, depleted and choke stocks and mitigate environmental impact, develop and deploy more selective fishing gear, equipment, processes, practices, and products.
- Restore / maintain balanced fleet segments through permanent cessation or other means where an imbalance is identified in a Fleet report and associated action plan.
- Promote good fisheries management and regional cooperation under the CFP.
- Promote protection of biodiversity in marine habitats, including species and habitats protected under Natura 2000, with acquisition and analysis of data, assessment of environmental impacts, preparation of plans, networking and capacity building, monitoring and reporting and collection of waste.
- Support the viability and sustainability of the inshore fleet through implementation of actions identified in the Small Scale Coastal Fisheries Action Plan
- Improve fleet profitability and competitiveness through -
 - improved quality and hygiene on board,
 - direct marketing of catch,
 - development and dissemination of fishing knowledge and technology,
 - training, skills development, advisory services and networking,
 - encouragement of younger fishermen to enter balanced fleet segments,

- improved energy efficiency on board, including but not limited to replacement of main or ancillary engines in balanced fleet segments.
- Where a Mutual fund for Adverse Climatic Events and Environmental Incidents is established by fishermen, support compensation for significant losses.
- Develop infrastructure at key fishing ports to meet evolving needs of fishing and aquaculture sectors.

SWOT analysis consistency with the Multiannual National Strategic Plan for aquaculture

N/A to Union Priority 1

SWOT analysis consistency with the progress to achieve good environmental status through the development and implementation of MSFD

A precondition for the good environmental status (GES) as defined in the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) is that the populations of commercially exploited fish and shellfish are within safe biological limits, exhibiting a population age and size distribution that is indicative of a healthy stock. This precondition acts as a buffer to alleviate the impacts of overfishing. Any increase in the demand for fish resources may result in a challenging situation when trying to reconcile the targets set out in the MSFD and the objectives of the fishing industry in Ireland.

In order to meet these challenges, work needs to be undertaken to support and contribute to the implementation of the MSFD which will involve the following actions:

- Evolve fisheries surveys to collect more data that can be used for the MSFD;
- Gear selectivity trials that reduce bycatch of undersized, over quota and protected marine organisms;
- Targeted approaches to reduction of wasteful fishing practices and conservation of protected species;
- Evaluate fishing mortality biomass against reference points in order to input to 2015 and 2020 MSFD targets;
- Enhance monitoring and mitigation of fisheries with high bycatch of marine mammals, seabirds and vulnerable fish species;
- Informatics in support of the CFP (Ecosystem based fisheries management and the IMP).

Specific needs concerning jobs, the environment, climate change mitigation and adaptation and promotion of innovation

Employment

Job creation and maintenance of existing jobs in the Irish fisheries sector is dependent on the opportunities available for fishermen and the employees on board vessels. In order to ensure that job creation is effective, the Operational Programme objective to improve the competitiveness and profitability of the Irish fishing sector which will lead to job opportunities, as only profitable and competitive businesses will be in a position to create new employment.

The introduction of measures to facilitate young fishermen purchase their own vessels and obtain the necessary training will also support these fishermen develop their businesses and the possibility of further job creation. The inshore sector and small-scale coastal fleet is a major contributor to employment in their communities. With the introduction of the inshore management measure it is hoped that by supporting inshore sector groups to develop their own needs, this will lead to further job creation in those areas through supports for infrastructural investment and co-operative marketing initiatives to enable more strategic marketing of live products and supports for diversification opportunities for SSCF vessels.

The implementation of the landing obligation poses significant challenges to the Irish fishing fleet. It will be possible, however, for vessel owners who adopt smart fishing practices resulting in reduced unwanted catches, to improve economic returns by accessing quota uplifts made available to account for the requirement to land all catches.

Environment

Increasingly environmental issues are coming to the fore in consumer consciousness and the revised CFP has a renewed focus on the ecosystem approach to fisheries management. The implementation of measures for the adoption of more environmentally friendly fishing methods by the industry is, therefore, essential to not only ensure the continued health of the ecosystems on which the fisheries depend but also to the continued demand for seafood by consumers. This will require investments to support the implementation of the landing obligation which may include studies and the development, trial and deployment of more selective gear technologies. The SSFC Action Plan identified the requirement to develop supports for the enhanced management and conservations of inshore stocks, including v-notching of lobster, more selective fishing gear and preparation and implementation of management plans for inshore stocks.

The MSFD has identified bycatch of vulnerable species mammals and seabirds by marine

fisheries as a pressure which must be monitored and mitigated if necessary. This is in line with the objectives of the newly reformed CFP to ensure that negative impacts of fishing activities on the marine ecosystem are minimised.

Compliance with the Habitats and Birds Directives is a key policy and regulatory consideration impacting in particular on aquaculture, but increasingly on fisheries, especially but not limited to inshore shellfish fisheries using towed gear. The priorities in this area in relation to marine and coastal habitats and species are detailed in the Prioritised Action Framework for Natura 2000 published in November 2014, including monitoring and surveying, sectoral management plans, management of fisheries, aquaculture and other activities surrounding sensitive habitats and species, and scientific studies to assess impact of fisheries, aquaculture and other activities and to support the design of mitigations against such impacts. Investment in implementation of the PAF will also address the findings against Ireland in ECJ case C418/04.

Climate Change

A number of measures directed at the fisheries sector development may also complement climate mitigation. For example, the improvement in the energy efficiency of vessels, in particular, SSCF and new fishing techniques and gear will reduce the use of non-renewable fuels.

Innovation

There is a need to encourage technology transfer relating to sustainable fishing methods to satisfy the expectations of civil society, maximise the economic and biological potential of fisheries and to maintain appropriate levels of husbandry and stewardship of the marine biological resources, which support coastal communities. The Operational Programme's ambition can be achieved through the synergistic engagement of professional fishermen, scientists and all other groups interested has been shown to provide the innovation necessary to develop solutions to new problems. The continued development of relationships already in place will foster the development of sustainable and practical solutions to the reduction of discards and by-catches and will continue to define the economic context, impact and implications of such innovation.

Union priority	2 - Fostering environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based aquaculture
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Strengths

- Nutrient rich waters
- Sheltered bays suitable for aquaculture production
- Environmentally sustainable production techniques.
- Global recognition as a leading producer of organic species.
- Established production capabilities.
- Experienced operators with proven track record.
- Technically advanced systems

Weaknesses

- Complex environmental requirements leading to delays in licensing process.
- Insufficient investment in R&D.
- Insufficient product availability to meet market demand.
- Limited business planning from smaller operations.
- Fragmentation within certain sectors and limited numbers of large businesses
- Lack of private investment.
- Narrow focus of skills base and lack of entrepreneurship in the sector
- Lack of scale in comparison to competitors and market size
- Uncertainty in seed supplies for oysters.
- Uncertain seasonal availability of mussel seed.
- Lack of support services and ancillary industries
- SMEs with limited capacity to develop improved technology and practices and to maintain and improve skills

Opportunities

- Employment potential in Coastal Communities
- Significant Export potential
- Global demand for high- quality seafood
- Off-shore aquaculture sites
- Cost / efficiency benefits from consolidation
- Underutilised aquaculture sites.
- Land and sea based nursery sites.
- Market gaps (e.g. oysters)
- Development of shellfish hatcheries.
- Novel species and niche products.
- Use of Financial Instruments.

Threats

- Fish diseases and parasites.
- Co-existence with other marine activities.
- Public opposition to industry.
- Natural occurring events such as algal blooms and diseases such as amoebic gill disease (AGD).
- Spatial restrictions on aquaculture activities.
- Increased competition from companies outside the EU.
- Competition in the organic salmon sector.
- Further revisions of regulatory limits for biotoxins.
- Lack of access to finance.
- Constrained national public co- funding.
- Impacts of climate change on aquaculture sector.
- Impact on biodiversity from alien species
- Impact on aquaculture due to eutrophication of marine water

Identification of needs on basis of the SWOT analysis

- Grow sustainable production, value and employment in the sector.
- Complete the process of progressing aquaculture licence determinations in full compliance with the Habitats and Birds Directives.
- Encourage the entry into the sector of new aquaculture enterprises.
- Support evolution of SME enterprises through scaling
- Develop and commercialise new and under-utilised species, develop new seed sources, new husbandry practices, new processes and products, new diseases management practices, new technology and equipment, and new ways to reduce the environmental impact of aquaculture.
- Promote through professional training, skills development, and networking of the uptake of best husbandry, environmental and disease management products and practices, adoption of innovative technology and scaling.
- Provision of advisory services in terms of health and safety, environmental management, animal welfare and professional business and marketing strategies.
- Assist shellfish producers affected by major biotoxin episodes, including in particular aid for losses incurred from prolonged harvesting suspensions.
- Promote organic aquaculture practices and certification.
- Promote development of multi-trophic aquaculture practices.
- Protect biodiversity in marine habitats, including species and habitats protected under Natura 2000, with acquisition and analysis of data, assessment of environmental impacts, preparation of plans, networking and capacity building, monitoring and reporting and alien species management.
- Support good governance of aquaculture and reduction of the administrative burden on operators through investment in support systems that facilitate online licence application and tracking and that facilitate spatial mapping of aquaculture sites and

exclusion areas, in particular areas protected under Natura 2000 and requiring spatial protection.

- Incorporate aquaculture into a proposed marine spatial planning process.

SWOT analysis consistency with the Multiannual National Strategic Plan for aquaculture

The SWOT Analysis for the National Strategic Plan for Aquaculture (NSPA) are based on the same background information, baseline data, studies and analysis of data. As regards the NSPA development process, key features of the aquaculture sector in Ireland and the most important development needs of the aquaculture sector and the selections of measures were identified. The two processes were mutually supportive, and their objectives and selection of measures are consistent.

The NSPA targets growth of the aquaculture industry by 45,000 tonnes to 81,700 tonnes by 2023. This level of projected increase is based a range of factors which have impinged on the output volume of the sector since 2000. The approach taken was to review the historic performance of each of the key species and production systems and to aim to restore each of those species to their previous peak production levels. It is intended that the future increase in production will be derived from a combination of increased and or restored productivity from the existing aquaculture licence portfolio and from a limited number of new licences. The makeup of this increased output will include shellfish, finfish, novel species and seaweed in a variety of different production systems, both intensive and extensive. This overall output increase will be largely dictated by market forces and site suitability for the cultivation of particular species.

The Plan proposes 24 actions to help address the challenges facing the industry and help it achieve its growth potential. These actions involve review and revision of the administrative processes and legal framework for aquaculture licensing and streamlining of procedures across Government, together with measures to be supported under the EMFF Operational Programme.

The Plan also includes 4 proposed actions to address the unsatisfactory situation concerning aquaculture licensing. Two of these will be supported through the EMFF OP.

Action 21: Progressively remove the current aquaculture licensing backlog

Based on the expectation that bay level appropriate assessments will be complete in 2016, together with the present timeframe of 30 weeks following receipt of an appropriate assessment, the backlog could be cleared by 2017.

Action 24: Develop a data management and information system, with online aquaculture licence application and tracking functionality, and spatial mapping of aquaculture sites

and exclusion areas

This proposed IT system will bring many benefits in terms of efficiency of licence processing, monitoring and enforcement and transparency for applicants and other stakeholders. It will spatially map aquaculture sites, and exclusion areas such as Natura 2000 features that may require the exclusion of particular aquaculture activities.

EMFF OP 2014-2020 identified supports on the basis of the needs identified in the NSPA, which in turn provided consistency in the approach taken in the development of Union Priority 2 measures.

SWOT analysis consistency with the progress to achieve good environmental status through the development and implementation of MSFD

The goal of water and marine area management is achieving a good environmental status (GES) of the waters impacted by aquaculture activity. In Ireland, the development of the aquaculture sector is based on promoting the sustainable and economic growth of the sector with environmental policy. If a balance is identified then this can lay a foundation for a sector that is environmentally, economically and socially sustainable and the security of its future.

The three main pressures exerted on the environment as a result of the activities associated with aquaculture are introduction of non-indigenous species, physical loss of habitat and nutrient and organic enrichment.

The SWOT analysis identifies several areas of consistency with progress to achieve GES.

Non-Indigenous Species (NIS): monitoring programme with risk assessment by National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) for pathways and vectors. SWOT identifies reliance on foreign seed. This could be a vector for NIS.

Sea bed integrity: generally considered good for Ireland. The use of licensing and consents infrastructure could be used to determine pressure footprints and inform management action. These tallies with the SWOT weaknesses of delays in licensing process and insufficient bay level management.

Eutrophication; this is both an effect by aquaculture and also an effect on aquaculture. The main activities contributing to eutrophication in Ireland's marine waters are agriculture, wastewater discharges and discharges from industry. Eutrophication can have large effects on aquaculture in the form of toxic algal blooms and reduction in of oxygen in the water.

Specific needs concerning jobs, the environment, climate change mitigation and adaptation and promotion of innovation

Employment:

In order for the aquaculture sector in Ireland to be in a position to develop new job opportunities then there is a need to develop capacity and encourage new farmers into aquaculture, this will have an obvious knock-on effect on increasing jobs. As aquaculture is located in coastal communities these jobs are especially valuable in maintaining social cohesion and preventing the “brain drain” of qualified people to cities and abroad.

To support job creation and to ensure that the aquaculture sector continues to be a viable industry, the aquaculture sector needs to grow employment, production and value. Sustainable growth in production and value will lead to improved business performance and ensure sustainable employment in rural and coastal communities whilst contributing to long term economic recovery. Growth in production will also assist in the drive for food security and the increasing demand for seafood both in the EU and beyond. Increasing business scale provides resilience against difficulties such as disease and extreme climatic events which leave businesses vulnerable in the event of substantial stock losses.

Another factor to be considered is that there is a narrow focus on skills in the aquaculture sector. In order to overcome this limitation, skills development in the sector need to be expanded to ensure that all who work in the sector will be able to contribute to the sustainable development of aquaculture

Environment:

Compliance with the Habitats and Birds Directives is a key policy and regulatory consideration for aquaculture management. The Directives place obligations on the Minister in licensing aquaculture activities to refuse consent for activities that may negatively impact on the conservation objectives for Natura 2000 areas. The priorities in this area in relation to marine and coastal habitats and species are detailed in the Prioritised Action Framework for Natura 2000 published in November 2014, including monitoring and surveying, sectoral management plans, management of fisheries, aquaculture and other activities surrounding sensitive habitats and species, and scientific studies to assess impact of fisheries, aquaculture and other activities and to support the design of mitigations against such impacts. Investment in implementation of the PAF will also help address the findings against Ireland in ECJ case C418/04.

Climate change:

The main threats to aquaculture from Climate Change from a marine perspective include

rising sea levels and temperatures, increased storm frequency, changes in seasonality and ocean acidification. Increase in storm frequency and intensity, changes in seasonality and freshwater availability are threats that are applicable from a freshwater perspective.

Possible Measures which may be considered as Climate Change Adaptation Measures or Climate Change Mitigation Measures to combat these threats include:

- Fuel Efficiency.
 - The main driver for improved fuel efficiency is cost to the operator. However, actions in this area from optimising engine revs to complete boat/engine replacement result in a reduction in emissions of greenhouse gases.
- Resource Efficiency.
 - Modernisation initiatives although often scorned by those outside of the sector can lead to vast improvements in resource efficiency including fuel efficiency. Some examples include the wide scale and ongoing changeover of rope mussel production to the continuous long line system. This operating method utilises reusable rope and biodegradable cotton mesh in place of the non-reusable individual plastic droppers. Another example is improvements in net washing systems thereby increasing the lifespan of salmon cage nets.
 - A final important although perhaps less tangible example is the Standard Unified Marking Scheme (SUMS) where voluntary co-ordinated planning at bay scale (most often through the Co-ordinated Local Aquaculture Management Systems (CLAMS) groups) results in a reduced number of navigation markers around licensed aquaculture sites while still meeting Marine Survey Office (MSO) and Commissioner of Irish Lights (CIL) requirements. Such actions result in a reduction in the amount of plastic and therefore oil and other materials used by the sector.
- Certification to voluntary standards and adoption of Environmental Management Systems
 - While there is no legal requirement to monitor fuel consumption and improve efficiency, it is a measure commonly adopted by scheme members. Monitoring at present is ad hoc and related to the individual management systems utilised by the members but it is a starting point for establishing an effective formalised process should it be required in the future. Other environmental aspects covered by the management systems include:
 - Environmental Monitoring, encouraging participation in existing programmes and individual recording of parameters such as water temperature,
 - Biodiversity, alerting members to species at risk and potential invasive species. Recording of these contributes to the recording of climate change impacts.
 - Energy Management, e.g. encouraging the use of long-life light bulbs, and where operators have land based facilities sourcing electricity from renewable energy providers.
 - Equipment Operation and Maintenance, ensuring that all equipment is operated responsibly and maintained regularly thereby increasing its lifespan.

- Biodiversity
 - Appropriate Assessment of all aquaculture licence renewals and new applications. The baseline data used to inform the assessments is a detailed analysis of the current habitat quality and distribution which can be used as a basis for recording future changes as a consequence of climate change and its mitigation among other factors.

Innovation:

Within the aquaculture sector, there are a large number of SMEs who do not have the individual capacity and capital to innovate and develop new techniques and species. Working with technical and research institutions will allow innovative products and investment in innovative technology and trialling such technology under commercial conditions to improve performance and competitiveness, whilst also assisting measures to improve long term environmental sustainability. *Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth – Irelands Integrated Maritime Plan* -identifies research, knowledge and technology as key drivers of the marine economy.

Although high-level academic research and development is well documented, applied, farm-scale research is more difficult to quantify. However, industry-wide issues such as disease management, technical development of oyster hatcheries, use of recirculation systems and water use, indicate that there are substantial gaps in the transfer of techniques from an academic format to solving problems encountered on farms. The EMFF will provide supports to the following:

- Development of technical, scientific or organisational knowledge in aquaculture farms, which, in particular, reduces the impact on the environment, reduces dependence on fish meal and oil, fosters a sustainable use of resources in aquaculture, improves animal welfare or facilitates new sustainable production methods;
- Development or introduction in the market new aquaculture species with good market potential, new or substantially improved products, new or improved processes, new or improved management and organisation systems;
- Exploration of the technical or economic feasibility of innovative products or processes.

Strengths**Data Collection -**

- State of the art fisheries laboratory infrastructure in Galway, Newport and fishing ports and two specifically design Fisheries Research vessels.
- Excellent relationships with stakeholders built through the sea going observer and port based sampling programmes and regular meetings with industry and environmental NGOs.
- Expert Staff fully trained in existing Data Collection protocols and procedures, data management, quality assurance, stock assessment and provision of scientific advice.
- Good working relationship with the EU Commission, data end users (ICES, STECF, OSPAR, ICCAT, RACs, universities) and institutes in other EU countries through our active participation in the DCF over the period 2002 to 2013.
- Proven track record in fisheries and marine Data Collection, data management and data provision.
- Efficient implementation of the Irish National Programmes over the period 2002 to 2012 with associated deliverables (annual reports and cost statements) and formal audits reviewed and accepted by the Commission.
- Proven track record with regard to fulfilling data calls from the Commission and data end users, e.g. ICES and RCMs.

Control & Enforcement -

- Single Control Authority
- Effective sea inspection and air surveillance regime
- Effective shore-based inspection regime
- Good inter-agency co-operation.
- Use of technology for control & enforcement activities
- Control Regulation

Weaknesses**Data Collection -**

- Access to detailed and reliable economic data is problematic, as supply of these data by industry is on a voluntary basis. Such data is critical to support managers in developing management strategies, for example economic implications of the new landings obligation.
- Reliance on the goodwill of vessel owners, crews and wider fishing industry.
- Biological data and their analysis in relation to inshore fisheries needs improvement,

especially those data related to non-quota stocks.

- Modelling and statistical capacity in Ireland is a gap area in relation to new CFP demands for regional discard plans, mixed fishery plans for the Celtic Seas and new models for data limited stocks.
- Absence of sufficient primary economic data for vessel under 10 metres and in a number other DCF segments.
- Limited staff capacity to conduct detailed economic analysis on available data to inform management decisions.

Control & Enforcement -

- Age of the Naval Service & Air Corps Fleet.
- Ability to establish common compliance levels with all Control requirements.
- Limited reporting requirements for inshore fleet.

Opportunities

Data Collection -

- Data provision for fisheries through new technologies e.g. VMS for inshore vessels & fully documented fisheries.
- Improved international data availability, quality, sharing and integration through the development of Regional Databases.
- Improved co-operation with other member states and new data uses through regionalisation and new management plans.
- Data provision for integrated assessment of fisheries interactions with EU directives.
- Expand research survey programme to support data limited assessments and collect data for the MFSD.
- Develop scientific capacity to deal with new demands of the CFP with particular focus on landings obligation, regionalisation.
- Fixed long-term budget will allow for even better planning.

Control & Enforcement -

- Development of Common Information Sharing Environment (CISE).
- Improve interaction with EU member states to encourage implementation of an effective shore-based inspection regime.
- Development of a culture of compliance throughout the EU.
- Further development of ICT tools to enhance fisheries protection.
- Implementation of Regionalisation.

Threats

Data Collection -

- Financial and staffing constraint to implement new requirements of the CFP.
- Industry's response to taking scientific observers in the context of a commercial spp discard ban.
- Lack of clarity and delay in relation to the new requirements for the DCF.
- 'Data limited assessments' for key species undermines credibility and perception of DC programmes within Ireland.

Control & Enforcement -

- Resource constraints
- Coping with expansion of EU control regime.
- Inconsistent implementation of IUU Regulation.
- Poor information sharing between Member States.
- Delay in full economic recovery.

Identification of needs on basis of the SWOT analysis

Data Collection

- Ensure existing scientific capacity is maintained and, where necessary, increase it to implement the new requirements of the reformed CFP (landings obligation; mixed fisheries management plans; regionalisation; alignment with environmental policies).
- Strengthen and broaden the data collection to fill identified gaps (economic data; biological data for key commercial species in the data limited category; biological and fisheries data on non TAC species and for vessel under 10m).
- Maximise the value from any data collected under the DCF, particularly those from research vessel surveys to support other EU Directives, particularly Habitats and Birds and MSFD.
- Continue a strong dialogue and interaction with stakeholders (including industry; Environmental NGOs; data end-users and regional partners).

Control & Enforcement -

- Enhanced monitoring, control and enforcement through implementation of improved technologies.
- Enhance the awareness of control and enforcement activities among fishermen and other stakeholders to further develop a culture of compliance
- Promote the implementation of Specific Control Inspection Programmes, inspectors visiting and travelling to other key EU ports to carry out inspections and supporting risk analysis systems which will lead to more effective sea inspection and air surveillance regime and aligned shore based regime, including training for Control Authority staff.
- Develop new technologies for managing data, conducting risk analysis and revamping Ireland's Integrated Fisheries Information System, Vessel Monitoring Systems, Automatic Identification Systems and Electronic Reporting Systems.
- Develop capacity to measure engine power.
- Renew and upgrade ships and aircraft, substantially deployed in fishery protection throughout the Irish EEZ.

SWOT analysis consistency with the Multiannual National Strategic Plan for aquaculture

One of the guiding principles identified in the NSPA for sustainable Aquaculture is the idea of a science-based approach. Planning, licensing and regulation of the sector are founded on the best available, impartial and objective science, as delivered by the national and international science community. This provides the highest level of confidence in the decision-making process and allows for the adoption of a risk and evidence-based approach to determining monitoring requirements that are subject to continuous improvement. UP3 in the EMFF OP through the DCF will provide some of the science and data in relation to aquaculture activities.

SWOT analysis consistency with the progress to achieve good environmental status through the development and implementation of MSFD

Ireland will maximise the value from all data collected under the DCF, particularly those from research vessel surveys to support other EU Directives particularly Natura and MSFD.

The MSFD, in line with the newly reformed CFP, is using pressure and state indicators (F and biomass reference points) against which commercially exploited fish stocks in the Irish 200 mile zone are assessed. Currently, more than a third of the commercial fish stocks that Ireland advises on, lack MSY reference points in relation to fishing mortality, while over half of the stocks lack reference points in relation to biomass (Marine Institute Stockbook, 2014). This limits the ability to monitor progress towards Good Environmental Status (GES). Ireland, in conjunction with ICES, will work towards establishing further reference points and conducting assessments which will identify the status of the stocks in relation to these. Work

on MSFD descriptors D3 (Fish indicators), D1 (Biodiversity), D4 (Food Webs), D6 (Sea floor integrity) can be addressed using DCF data.

Sampling at sea programmes under the current data collection framework are targeted at commercial fish species and do not provide adequate sampling effort to assess the impact of bycatch on other ecosystem components. Ireland will collect data on these bycatches to input to the development of mitigation measures .

Specific needs concerning jobs, the environment, climate change mitigation and adaptation and promotion of innovation

Employment

Not applicable

Environment

The environmental impacts of data collection are relatively minor but the development and use of new survey technologies and automated data collection systems may further reduce the environmental impact even further.

Control and enforcement activities cannot be seen to have any negative impacts on the environment. The main purpose for these activities is to ensure compliance with CFP rules, which in turn are enforced to ensure the protection of fish stocks, which can be closely linked to policy dealing with the protection of the marine environment.

Sampling at sea programmes under the current data collection framework are optimised for commercial fish species and do not provide adequate sampling effort to assess the impact of bycatch on other ecosystem components. In conjunction with other state agencies, the Marine Institute will assist with the collection of data on these bycatches and contribute to the development of mitigation measures.

Climate Change

Data collection activities do not as such have a climate impact but they can be seen to support decision-making in relation to climate through the collection of ecosystems indicators. Climate change may have an impact on fishing activities in that the fishing sector may have to adapt and adjust to changes in fish stocks and fishing conditions. These changing conditions will make fishing less predictable but data collection activities may allow to better assess the impact of climate change on fisheries and assist the fisheries sector in dealing with these challenges.

Climate change may also impact on control and enforcement activities due to increased rainfall and wind conditions.

Innovation

Data Collection activities and research are constantly examining and developing innovative solutions which would allow for acceptable data being collected in an efficient manner. For example new data collection instruments are being created and the data collection infrastructure is constantly being renewed and modernised. Future innovations can produce new systems that can facilitate data exploitation.

Throughout the lifetime of the EMFF OP 2014-2020 new electronic systems and risk-based analysis will continue to be developed and these new systems will be deployed to effectively plan and control all activities and support inspections. These areas for development can be focused on examining innovative ideas.

Union priority

4 - Increasing employment and territorial cohesion

Strengths

- Experienced gained through FLAGs and strategy development.
- Abundance of natural assets
- Strong cultural heritage
- Quality of infrastructure in key fishing ports.
- Cohesive social structure
- Proximity to rich fishing grounds.
- Experienced gained by members of National Implementation Board (NIB) network.

Weaknesses

- High unemployment.
- Low levels of entrepreneurship.
- Underuse of marine resource.
- Narrow fisheries focus skills base.
- Infrastructure not designed for marine tourism.
- Traditional Thinking.
- Resistance to innovation and diversification.

- Lack of organised representation of coastal communities.
- Fishing vessels prevented from engaging in marine tourism activities by passenger boat licensing rules.

Opportunities

- Promotion of marine leisure and tourism activities
- Diversification of local economies
- Promotion of local artisanal products
- Large Network of Natura 2000 Sites
- Marine spatial planning/ICZM
- Growth of new off-shore enterprises
- Use of Financial Instruments to leverage Resources
- Co-operation with other FLAG's within EU.
- Continued Co-operation with LEADER LAG's.
- Further support through other European Structural Investment Funds (ESIF)
- Promotion of the National Strategic Plan for Aquaculture (NSPA)

Threats

- Migration and emigration
- Lack of finance for investment in coastal/marine infrastructure.
- Limited regulation of marine leisure & eco-tourism activities could damage natural assets
- Local opposition/lack of agreement to proposals that disturb status quo
- Loss of traditions and culture associated with fishing.

Identification of needs on basis of the SWOT analysis

- Promote the economic, environmental and social sustainability of fisheries and aquaculture areas in order to maximise its contribution to jobs and growth in communities in these areas.
- Capitalise on the environmental, cultural, social, built and maritime heritage of fisheries and aquaculture areas.
- Capitalise on the well established relationship of fisheries and aquaculture areas with the food industry.
- Promote the business potential of the 1,313 small scale coastal fishing vessels operating in fisheries and aquaculture areas.
- Capture the potential of existing port infrastructure.
- Promote eco-tourism, making an advantage of biodiversity and protected habitats in fisheries and aquaculture areas.
- Promote diversification within and from fishing and aquaculture activities.
- Promote development of marine tourism and leisure in fisheries and aquaculture

- areas, leveraging synergies with the Wild Atlantic Way tourism initiative.
- Promote innovation and entrepreneurship in fisheries and aquaculture areas.
- Promote growth of services to new marine enterprises.
- Promote development of local artisanal products.
- Build community development capacity in fisheries and aquaculture areas through training, skills development, mentoring and networking.
- Taking advantage of opportunities presented by marine spatial planning.
- Leverage cooperation with LEADER LAG's.
- Develop potential of angling.

SWOT analysis consistency with the Multiannual National Strategic Plan for aquaculture

The NSPA identifies that the majority of aquaculture activities take place in coastal areas and it provides a vital source of employment and economic activity that contributes to the preservation of viable coastal/rural communities on a year-round basis. It is a relatively diverse sector encompassing a substantial shellfish farming element, combined with a significant finfish element. There are certain areas within Ireland that have higher concentrations of aquaculture, such as Co Donegal, Carlingford Lough, Co Wexford, Co Waterford, West Cork, Co Kerry, Co Galway and Co Mayo.

Therefore under UP4 in the EMFF OP, the FLAGs supported in the development of the Local Development Strategies for their defined areas will have to consider the impact of the implementation of the NSPA. This may be assisted through studies identified in the NSPA which would outline how aquaculture contributes to the societal benefits in the marine area, including the sustainable use of marine resources to address local social and economic issues, including:

- How properly planned aquaculture developments in the marine area can provide environmental and social benefits as well as drive economic development, provide opportunities for investment, employment and generate export and tax revenues.
- To provide data and information and methodology to assess the economic and social influences and benefits of aquaculture activities to inform decision making and trade off decisions.

SWOT analysis consistency with the progress to achieve good environmental status through the development and implementation of MSFD

One of the main objectives of Community Led Local Development (CLLD) is the creation of employment and economic growth. The main objective of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) is the ability to manage human-induced pressures so that a good

environmental status (GES) of the marine environment is achieved in areas in which these activities take place. Once GES has been achieved in these areas then this will enable these communities to reconcile the sustainable use of natural resources available to them with the objectives of environmental protection. As a whole, the impact on the achievement of GES is expected to be neutral or positive.

Specific needs concerning jobs, the environment, climate change mitigation and adaptation and promotion of innovation

Employment

Job creation will be one of the key objectives of the CLLD approach in fisheries and aquaculture areas and one of the core themes that should be contained in the Local Development Strategies (LDS) implemented by FLAGs. Therefore the activities funded through the LDS will promote sustainable and diversified local employment.

Environment

One of the challenges facing FLAGs is encouraging regional dialogue between various interest groups in line with the objectives of sustainable development and reconciling their views. Environmental impact is an important consideration in project selection for all funding applications under this OP. The environmental impacts of local development will mainly be positive, including an increased use of locally sourced resources and products.

Climate Change

Climate change will have an impact of the fish stocks and other flora and fauna which will require communities to have an ability to anticipate the future and to adjust to possible changes that may arise. The actors within the FLAGs willingness to change and ability to adapt will be one of the key factors of successful implementation of CLLD. The potential development of regional distribution and logistics, better co-operation between communities and more energy efficient fishing methods in these communities will be positive actions for the climate.

Innovation

Over reliance on any one income stream whether it is based on a particular fishery or activity is the greatest threat faced by those in the inshore fisheries or aquaculture sectors. It is imperative therefore that fishers and aquaculture operators develop as diverse a set of income streams as possible in order to make their incomes more resilient to difficulties that may be

encountered in any one activity.

A high proportion of seafood caught or produced in coastal communities contributes to those communities only in the form of primary production value, as it is exported from those areas for consumption or value adding elsewhere or abroad. Supporting mini and micro enterprises to add value to seafood in the coastal communities will increase the contribution of the sector and strengthen the local economy.

Coastal communities frequently suffer from the effects of fragmentation due to the lack of scale in fisheries and aquaculture enterprises. This can be overcome, particularly in the digital age, through better organisation and co-operation of local communities to better market their products and area.

Union priority

5 - Fostering marketing and processing

Strengths

- Strong appetite for investment.
- Government commitment & support.
- Sector scaling-up
- New Joint Venture Companies being formed.
- "Blue-Green" Seafood raw material brand provenance.
- State supports and infrastructure for new product development.
- Pioneer in organic production.
- Strong international marketing promotional network.
- Proximity to rich fishing grounds.

Weaknesses

- Constrained raw material supply: farmed and wild
- Commodity focus - limited value adding.
- Lack of joined-up R&D.
- Family ownership structures not "investment ready".
- Access to finance for small to micro SME's.
- Marketing skills & limited "in market" resources.
- Limited capacity of SMEs to attract graduates.
- Lack of structured route to market
- Time/Distance to market.
- Fragmentation and lack of scale in sector.

Opportunities

- Significant employment potential
- Significant export potential
- Build up scale and efficiency
- Promote the health benefits of seafood products
- Development of marine/seafood based nutraceuticals
- New markets in key seafood categories.
- Potential to grow new markets.
- Increased raw material supply from off-shore aquaculture sites
- Development of new processing technologies
- Development of strategic alliances with external route to market partners.
- Promotion of Green Seafood programmes
- Use of Financial Instruments.
- Role of Producer Organisations in promoting objectives of CFP and CMO regulations
- Under-Exploited Domestic Market.

Threats

- Failure to scale up.
- Cheaper costs associated with non-EU countries
- Impacts of climate change.
- Seafood product safety failures.
- Competitiveness in organic salmon sector.

Identification of needs on basis of the SWOT analysis

- Assist processors in developing international markets for Irish seafood.
- Grow production, value and sales in the processing sector and thus employment.
- Encourage secondary processing of fish to add value to raw material.
- Promote product and process innovation and new product development, including packaging and presentation.
- Promote economies of scale in the sector through scaling, industry cooperation, co-competition and shared route to market structures.
- Improve competitiveness in the sector through reduced operating costs, in particularly energy.
- Improve safety, health, quality, hygiene and traceability.
- Develop industry skills and in particular management skills in the industry and disseminate knowledge to industry through advisory services and networking.
- Support the preparation and implementation of Producer Organisations' production and marketing plans.
- Encourage development of PO's.
- Facilitate formation of new POs in certain circumstances, particularly in the aquaculture and inshore fisheries sectors.
- Provide a storage aid mechanism as a market price support for exceptional periods of

market volatility.

SWOT analysis consistency with the Multiannual National Strategic Plan for aquaculture

One of the weaknesses identified in the SWOT was the lack of raw material either wild or farmed that is available to the processing sector. To alleviate this weakness especially in relation to aquaculture products the NSPA proposes an action to build scale and capacity in the aquaculture industry which may lead to sustainable growth in both production and value in the sector, which in turn may improve the processing sector access to this raw material.

SWOT analysis consistency with the progress to achieve good environmental status through the development and implementation of MSFD

Fish processing and the operation of fish trade do not have significant impacts on the achievement of GES. Exploitation of less valued species and their side stream in processing would enable more intensive catching of these species.

Specific needs concerning jobs, the environment, climate change mitigation and adaptation and promotion of innovation

Employment:

Seafood Processing is one the most significant employers in the Irish Seafood sector. The impacts of supporting primary production will also be reflected on marketing and processing through a better supply of fish. More importantly the ability of seafood processors to add value to the primary product will improve their competitiveness and profitability which would create preconditions for providing further employment.

Environment.

The environment is a key pillar in relation to the primary production sectors of the industry, aquaculture and fisheries. This will increase the availability of environmentally accredited / certified raw material available to the processing sector This product in turn is needed to add value and provide differentiation in the market place. The efficient exploitation of the primary product in that as much of the catch that is landed and product that is farmed is processed for

human consumption is another focal point in the seafood processing sector.

Climate Change:

Climate change may have an indirect but significant impact on the processing and marketing of fish in that it may impact on the structure of fish stocks and aquaculture husbandry and thus the supply of raw materials available to seafood processors. The main climate change impacts potentially arising from the seafood processing sector are, similar to other manufacturing industries, those associated with energy consumption from the production process and transport and distribution. This OP will support increased energy efficiency in the processing sector and the development of more efficient route to market structures.

Innovation:

New Product development and innovation will play a key role in improving the cost-effectiveness, competitiveness and profitability of seafood processing companies. The objective of continually developing new products and technologies in parts of the value chain, including processing, logistics and marketing will be of prime importance in the programme.

Union priority | **6 - Fostering the implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy**

Strengths

- Ireland has sovereign or exclusive rights over one of the largest sea to land ratios (over 10:1) of any EU State.
- Ocean ecosystems are home to a rich and diverse range of species and habitats.
- Ireland has developed a system of coordinated and integrated marine/maritime governance through the Inter-departmental Marine Coordination Group.
- Commitment to Marine through publication of Ireland's first Integrated Marine Plan
- Ireland has an extensive seabed mapping programme providing knowledge for the conservation, management and sustainable use and development of Ireland's marine resources.
- Commitment to implementing Marine Spatial Planning (prior to adoption of MSP Directive)

Weaknesses

- Fragmented management and consenting of marine based activities.
- The underutilisation of Ireland's maritime space, goods and services
- Lack of access to real-time observations on activities.

- Lack of a comprehensive suite of indicators to measure progress relative to agreed targets and goals and access.
- Lack of overarching marine data architecture and collaborative framework to facilitate the multi-use of data and knowledge
- Data gaps particularly in relation to mobile and migratory marine species, water column habitats, effects of climate change/sea level fluctuations and effects of noise are essential for efficient decision making and establishing a coherent network of MPAs.
- Low public awareness of the potential of Ireland’s ocean wealth.
- Information sharing between Member States in the area of control, enforcement (as outlined in UP 3), and forward planning

Opportunities

- Ireland’s ocean economy ability to increase Ireland’s GDP, job creation and economic recovery
- Deliver coherent and integrated marine planning, management and public participation, aimed at delivering a thriving sustainable maritime economy based on healthy, clean and productive marine ecosystems
- Deliver a robust, evidence based forward planning approach to development in the marine.
- Better coordinate and align all marine related policies, legislation and consenting processes including at EU level within the CFP framework.
- Improve stakeholder and public engagement and participation in marine planning and decision-making.
- Develop robust environmental assessments of marine spatial plans
- Coordinate with marine spatial plans being prepared by UK, and other MS authorities for marine areas which adjoin our jurisdiction, in North Western waters.
- Strengthening collaboration and sharing of information and knowledge gathering across programmes supporting both MSFD and MSP Directives.
- Progress the development of a shared common maritime picture leading to more integrated surveillance.
- Strengthening the innovation value chain from research through to commercial activity.
- Tailored education and training programmes and research capacity building to meet the existing and future needs of the sectors.

Threats

- Ad hoc sectoral developer led development.
- Uncoordinated monitoring and scientific programmes leading to risk of failure to maximise the access, use, integration and sharing of data across programmes, sectors,

regulators, stakeholders, researchers and other Member States

- Inability to engage with neighbouring planning systems.
- Risk of failure to monitor, recognise and provide evidence to support implementation of measures to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change on the marine environment.
- Risk of failure to respond in a timely fashion to environmental, safety and security events due to lack of integrated and readily available spatial data and models.
- Risk of failure to protect Ireland's cultural heritage, such as underwater archaeology and Ireland's rich marine biodiversity and ecosystems.
- Lack of capacity to meet the needs of the existing and future maritime sector.
- Failure to fully understand the dynamics of Ireland's marine economy.
- Absence of forward looking marine spatial planning, synergies and opportunities between marine developments and land-based planning.

Identification of needs on basis of the SWOT analysis

- Improve data and knowledge generation, management and sharing including the development of new products and services (e.g Ireland Marine Atlas and delivery to EMODNET), in support of a range of policies and directives such as CFP, Natura, MSFD and MSP.
- Collect, collate and map accurate, up-to-date spatial and temporal information on marine ecosystems and human activities taking place within Ireland's maritime domain to support marine spatial planning.
- Develop strong modelling and decision support capabilities.
- Collect and collate better socio-economic data and modelling to ensure better understanding of the dynamics of Ireland's marine economy, informing policy and leading to informed decision making.
- Increase inter-agency cooperation and information sharing at national, EU and international level, together with industry and research collaboration.
- Develop integrated/coordinated marine and coastal planning and licensing in order to sustainably maximise the potential for Ireland's ocean economy.
- Better understand the implication of climate change on ecosystem goods and services and human activities through monitoring and modelling
- Deliver social and economic development objectives, consistent with our environmental obligations and Ireland's IMP.
- Effectively mobilise a range of mechanisms and state supports, enabling state and private sector investment required to achieve targets for Ireland's ocean economy as set out in Ireland's IMP and its implementation.
- Tailor education and training programmes and research capacity building to meet the existing and future needs of Ireland's IMP.

SWOT analysis consistency with the Multiannual National Strategic Plan for aquaculture

The European Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) Directive (2014/89/EU) is highlighted as an important factor in the NSPA and seeks to establish a framework for maritime spatial planning aimed at promoting the sustainable growth of maritime economies, the sustainable development of marine areas and the sustainable use of marine resources. It aims to ensure that growth of marine and coastal activities, as well as the use of resources at sea and on coasts, remain sustainable.

Co-ordinated Spatial Planning is more relevant than ever before given the increasing demands on the coastal resource. Emerging growth areas such as offshore energy added to increasing demand from existing sectors and acknowledging the need to protect the environment means that planning is essential. Utilising marine resources efficiently requires careful planning to ensure Ireland manages human use of the marine environment sustainably and that different demands and uses are appropriately sited within Ireland's waters and along its coastline.

Food security is an important policy objective and aquaculture makes an important and growing contribution to this [globally]. Aquaculture is an important, and in coming years a potentially more significant, contributor to employment and economic activity in coastal communities. These factors will be important considerations in the development of integrated marine plans.

The majority of marine aquaculture is currently related to Atlantic salmon and shellfish. The farming of seaweed as a food or fuel is a growing part of this sector, including as a part of polyculture processes such as sea fish production. The majority (>85%) of existing marine based finfish aquaculture activity has organic certification. Shellfish production is evenly spread throughout Ireland and is a potentially expanding activity. Trends in the industry are closely tied in with changes in wild fisheries, the availability of investment, and site availability. More intensive types of aquaculture can use space and resources more efficiently if they are carefully planned and managed. The overall outlook is dependent on site availability and environmental carrying capacity.

SWOT analysis consistency with the progress to achieve good environmental status through the development and implementation of MSFD

Much of the MSFD data assembled for Ireland's Marine Atlas is likely to prove of value in preparing marine spatial plans for Irish waters. MSP will begin by building on Ireland's Marine Atlas being constructed as part of the MSFD.

The programme of measures which the MSFD requires to be operational by 2016 in order to achieve or maintain good environmental status in marine waters "shall include spatial protection measures, contributing to coherent and representative networks of marine protected

areas, adequately covering the diversity of the constituent ecosystems” (Article 13.4). While the Directive does not require marine spatial plans, marine protected areas are a typical feature of such plans. A marine spatial plan may facilitate the achievement or maintenance of GES by specifying the environmental standards to be complied with in any activities or marine developments for which a licence or consent is granted in accordance with the plan.

From an assessment and data collection perspective, there are synergies between implementation of the MSFD and the establishment of a MSP system in Ireland. Of particular importance is the filling of the existing gap in water column monitoring using observation/sentinel monitoring buoys to collect data on climate change including acidification, sea level and tidal amplitude as well as noise.

Specific needs concerning jobs, the environment, climate change mitigation and adaptation and promotion of innovation

Both the EU’s Integrated Maritime Policy and Ireland’s IMP are cross cutting and cross sectoral addressing issues of jobs, environment, climate change and innovation. The Vision, Goals and many of the specific Actions of Ireland’s IMP address jobs, innovation, environment and climate change. To increase the %GDP derived from Ireland’s ocean economy from the present 0.8% to 2.4% compared to the range in other European countries (3-5%) an integrated, comprehensive plan led approach is needed to ensure the often conflicting social, economic and environmental needs and objectives of various different policy areas are reconciled in a transparent, participatory manner, taking into account the need for managing the long-term climate change risks. This requires new approaches, data and knowledge so that scenarios can be constructed and social, economic and environmental trade-offs modelled. Such a forward looking integrated plan-led approach will encourage and facilitate innovation and *entrepreneurship*. *Existing mechanisms for international co-operation such as Sea Basin Strategies, Member States Expert Groups, OSPAR, ICES and ESPON will enable exchange of information and knowledge and address the broad scale strategic needs.*

Employment:

Being an island nation, industries based on marine resources and technology are an important provider of employment in Ireland and maritime activities has great potential for strong economic and employment growth. Cross-Sectoral co-operation is a vital factor for increasing this potential growth and thus employment. Effective co-operation lays a foundation for the creation of innovative technologies and products.

Environment:

Ireland's marine ecosystems are home to a rich and diverse range of species and habitats. Ireland recognises the need to protect and conserve these ecosystems; ensuring development strategies and management practices do not impair the capacity of ecosystems to deliver market and non-market goods and services. As part of the initial assessment of Ireland's marine waters, the Marine Institute developed Ireland's Marine Atlas, which incorporates all the spatially relevant data and information compiled or identified during the Initial Assessment process for the MSFD. The atlas was launched in November 2013 and is updated regularly. Given the dynamic nature of the marine environment and the activities that take place in it, regional seas coordination is a fundamental part of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive. Through successful interdepartmental collaboration, significant progress has been made with regard to the implementation of EU Habitats Directive. This includes data collection activities, the setting of Conservation Objectives for 75 Natura sites, carrying out of Appropriate Assessments and adaptive licensing.

Climate Change:

By monitoring the status of the environment in the marine area, we can assess the impact of climate change on the marine environment, species and habitats. As climate changes progresses, pilot projects could be implemented to assess the impacts of different measures. Surveillance of the marine area will allow control and enforcement bodies to monitor intentional or involuntary emissions from vessels.

Innovation:

Maritime innovation may include the development of new technologies or new methods of operation. The creation of these innovative ideas can be promoted through the cross-sectoral approach taken in the implementation of IMP in Ireland.

2.2 Context indicators presenting the initial situation

Union priority		1 - Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based fisheries			
Context indicator presenting the initial situation	Baseline year	Value	Measurement unit	Source of information	Comment / Justification
1.1.a - Fishing fleet (number of vessels)	2014	2,202.00	number of vessels	2014 Annual Economic Report of the EU fishing fleet.	
1.1.b - Fishing fleet (kW)	2014	195,000.00	kW	2014 Annual Economic Report of the EU fishing fleet.	
1.1.c - Fishing fleet (GT)	2014	64,000.00	GT	2014 Annual Economic Report of the EU fishing fleet.	
1.2 - Gross value added per FTE employee	2013	83.10	thousand Euros per FTE employee	2014 Annual Economic Report of the EU fishing fleet.	
1.3 - Net profit	2013	64.50	thousand Euros	2014 Annual Economic Report of the EU fishing fleet.	
1.4 - Return on investment of fixed tangible assets	2013	20.70	%	2014 Annual Economic Report of the EU fishing fleet.	
1.5.a - Indicators of biological sustainability - sustainable harvest indicator	2014	1.00	number	2014 Irish Fleet report	There has been a general improvement in the Sustainable Harvest Indicator between 2010 and 2013. Almost all fleet segments have seen general reductions in the SHI value over this time period. Notable exceptions are the DFN VL2440; FPO VL1218; TM VL1012 and TM VL 1824. It is also acknowledged for the DTS fleet segments the SHI indicators are persistently >1 and recent analysis using the 2014 assessment data shows that this problem continues with all segments with the exception of vessels <12m.
1.5.b - Indicators of biological sustainability	2013	13.00	number	http://stecf.jrc.ec.europa.eu/documents/43805/747643/2014-06_STECF+14-09+-+Balance+indicators_JRC90403.pdf .	Data is broken down by Fleet Segment: IRL DFN VL12

Context indicator presenting the initial situation	Baseline year	Value	Measurement unit	Source of information	Comment / Justification
y - stocks-at-risk indicator					18 - (1) IRL_DTS_VL121 8 - (1) IRL_DTS_VL182 4 - (3) IRL_DTS_VL244 0 - (5) IRL_TBB_VL1824 - (2) IRL_TM_VL40X X - (1)
1.6 - Fuel efficiency of fish capture	2012	264.60	litres fuel/tonnes landed catch	2014 Annual Economic Report of the EU fishing fleet.	
1.7.a - Extent of the seabed significantly affected by human activities for the different substrate types	2014	15.00	%	Article 12 Technical Assessment of the MSFD 2012 obligations Ireland Feb 2014	In order to make this assessment, Ireland has used information reported under different processes and in particular OSPAR and the WFD between 2004 and 2011. It reports that less than 1% of the assessment area is affected by the pressure. The assessment made of the level of pressure from physical damage is equally detailed and quantitative. The main causes and activities responsible for physical damage are well described and include fisheries (in particular trawling), coastal defence and aquaculture. The area affected by physical damages is assessed to constitute 5-25% of the total assessment area.
1.7.b - Rates of incidental catches of cetaceans in fisheries	2013	0.08	by-catch per unit effort	Annual report on the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 812/2004 – (2013)	In setnet fishery,>10m monitored under regulation 812/2004 for the years 2011 to 2013
1.8.a - Number of employed (FTE) including	2013	2,280.00	FTE	2014 Annual Economic Report of the EU fishing fleet.	

Context indicator presenting the initial situation	Baseline year	Value	Measurement unit	Source of information	Comment / Justification
male and female					
1.8.b - Number of employed (FTE) female	2014	12.00	FTE	BIM	
1.9.a - Number of work-related injuries and accidents	2013	5.00	number	Marine Casualty Investigation Board Annual Report 2013	Figure includes both injuries and fatalities
1.9.b - % of work-related injuries and accidents to total fishers	2013	0.23	%	Marine Casualty Investigation Board Annual Report 2013	Figure is based on 5 fatalities/injuries within the Irish Fleet register of 2,204 i.e. (5/2202*100)
1.10.a - Coverage of Natura 2000 areas designated under the Birds and Habitats directives	2011	3,959.00	Km ²	PRIORITISED ACTION FRAMEWORK (PAF) FOR NATURA 2000 (Ireland)	
1.10.b - Coverage of other spatial protection measures under Art. 13.4 of the Directive 2008/56/EC	2014	4,135.00	Km ²	2014 Status Report on the OSPAR Network of Marine Protected Areas	
CII.1 - Volume of Fish Landed	2013	235,700.00	Tonnes	2014 Annual Economic Report of the EU fishing fleet.	
CII.2 - Value of Fish Landed	2013	248.70	million euro	2014 Annual Economic Report of the EU fishing fleet.	
CII.3 - Unwanted Catches	2013	11,856.00	Tonnes	Marine Institute Stock Book	This relates to the mean annual volume discarded of Irish demersal fleet in Area VI and VII for the years 2011 to 2013
CII.4 - Unwanted Catch as a % of Fish Landed	2013	33.00	%	Marine Institute Stock Book	This relates to the % of discards among fish landed over the period 2011-2013
CII.5 - % of unbalanced fleets	2013	16.66	%	Irish Fleet report 2014	In the 2014 Irish Fleet report 4 of the 24 Fleet segments have been highlighted as being imbalanced.

Union priority	2 - Fostering environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based aquaculture
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Context indicator presenting the initial situation	Baseline year	Value	Measurement unit	Source of information	Comment / Justification
2.1 - Volume of aquaculture production	2012	36,200.00	tonnes	2014 Report on the Economic Performance of the EU Aquaculture Sector	
2.2 - Value of aquaculture production	2012	130,300.00	thousand Euros	2014 Report on the Economic Performance of the EU Aquaculture Sector	
2.3 - Net profit	2012	12,000.00	thousand Euros	2014 Report on the Economic Performance of the EU Aquaculture Sector	
2.4 - Volume of production organic aquaculture	2013	13,870.00	tonnes	BIM	
2.5 - Volume of production recirculation system	2014	75.00	tonnes	BIM	This is an estimate as the production surveys do not record whether the system the fish are produced in a recirculation system or an open system.
2.6.a - Number of employed (FTE) including male and female	2012	956.00	FTE	2014 Report on the Economic Performance of the EU Aquaculture Sector	
2.6.b - Number of employed (FTE) female	2012	69.00	FTE	2014 Report on the Economic Performance of the EU Aquaculture Sector	

Union priority	3 - Fostering the implementation of the CFP
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Context indicator presenting the initial situation	Baseline year	Value	Measurement unit	Source of information	Comment / Justification
3.A.1 - Total number of serious infringements in the MS in the last 7 years	2011	531.00	number	Sea Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA)	Value presented is on the basis of total number of serious infringements in the period 2008-2011 inclusive. The SFPA was not officially formed until 2007 and begun collecting data in 2008. details for 2012 and 2013 to be confirmed.
3.A.2 - Landings that are subject to physical control	2013	15.00	%	Sea Fisheries Protection Authority	
3.A.3.a - Existing resources available for control - Control vessels and aircrafts available	2013	12.00	number	Sea Fisheries Protection Authority	The value presented includes 8 Ships , 2 Aircraft operated by the Naval Service and 2 RIBs operated by (SFPA)
3.A.3.b - Existing resources available for control - Number of employed (FTE)	2013	84.00	FTE	Sea Fisheries Protection Authority	
3.A.3.c - Existing resources available for control - Budgetary allocation (evolution last 5 years)	2013	9,990.00	thousand Euros	Sea Fisheries Protection Authority	Over the period 2007-2013 the budgets varied from a high of €13.34 million in 2008 to a low of €9.34 million in 2012. The main factor that impacted on budgetary resources over this period was the economic recession that occurred in Ireland over this period.

Context indicator presenting the initial situation	Baseline year	Value	Measurement unit	Source of information	Comment / Justification
3.A.3.d - Existing resources available for control - Vessels equipped with ERS and/or VMS	2013	480.00	number	Sea Fisheries Protection Authority	
3.B.1 - Data Collection Measures - Fulfilment of data calls under DCF	2012	95.00	%	Irish responses to Data Calls under DCF	

Union priority	4 - Increasing employment and territorial cohesion
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Context indicator presenting the initial situation	Baseline year	Value	Measurement unit	Source of information	Comment / Justification
4.1.a - Extent of coastline	2013	7,500.00	Km	Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth - An integrated Maritime Plan for Ireland	
4.1.b - Extent of main waterways	2014	84,755.00	Km	EPA.ie	
4.1.c - Extent of main water bodies	2013	1,693.00	Km ²	EPA.ie	

Union priority	5 - Fostering marketing and processing
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Context indicator presenting the initial situation	Baseline year	Value	Measurement unit	Source of information	Comment / Justification
5.1.a - N° of Pos	2013	5.00	number	DAFM	
5.1.b - N° of associations of POs	2014	0.00	number	Not Applicable	There are no associations of POs in Ireland
5.1.c - N° of IBOs	2014	0.00	number	Not Applicable	There are no IBOs in Ireland
5.1.d - N° of producers or operators per PO	2013	39.00	number	DAFM	This figure is average of the 5 PO's membership numbers. With the largest being 70 and smallest 6, so an average is very hard to insert here with these two outliers.
5.1.e - N° of producers or operators per association of POs	2014	0.00	number	Not Applicable	There are no associations of POs in Ireland
5.1.f - N° of producers or operators per IBO	2014	0.00	number	Not Applicable	There are no IBOs in Ireland
5.1.g - % of producers or operators member of PO	2013	10.00	%	DAFM	Enter Comment
5.1.h - % of producers or operators member of association of POs	2014	0.00	%	Not Applicable	There are no associations of POs in Ireland
5.1.i - % of producers or operators member of IBO	2014	0.00	%	Not Applicable	There are no IBOs in Ireland
5.2.a - Annual value of turnover of EU marketed production	2011	245,420.00	thousand Euros	DAFM	Base line period 2009-2011
5.2.b - % of production placed on the market (value) by POs	2011	69.85	%	DAFM	Baseline period is 2009-2011
5.2.c - % of production placed on the market (value) by association of POs	2011	0.00	%	Not Applicable	There are no associations of POs in Ireland

Context indicator presenting the initial situation	Baseline year	Value	Measurement unit	Source of information	Comment / Justification
5.2.d - % of production placed on the market (value) by IBOs	2014	0.00	%	Not Applicable	There are no IBOs in Ireland
5.2.e - % of production placed on the market (volume) by POs	2011	90.93	%	DAFM	
5.2.f - % of production placed on the market (volume) by association of POs	2014	0.00	%	Not Applicable	There are no associations of POs in Ireland
5.2.g - % of production placed on the market (volume) by IBOs	2014	0.00	%	Not applicable	There are no IBOs in Ireland

Union priority	6 - Fostering the implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy
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Context indicator presenting the initial situation	Baseline year	Value	Measurement unit	Source of information	Comment / Justification
6.1 - Common Information Sharing Environment (CISE) for the surveillance of the EU maritime domain	2013	70.00	%	EU Commission Group	
6.2.a - Coverage of Natura 2000 areas designated under the Birds and Habitats directives	2011	3,959.00	Km ²	PAF Ireland November 2014	
6.2.b - Coverage of other spatial protection measures under Art. 13.4 of the Directive 2008/56/EC	2013	4,135.00	Km ²	2014 Status Report on the OSPAR Network of Marine Protected Areas	

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE STRATEGY

3.1 Description of the strategy of the Operational Programme

The overall vision of the EMFF OP 2014-2020 is:

"To support the economic, environmental and social sustainability of the Irish seafood sector in order to maximise its contribution to jobs and growth in coastal communities and to the national economy."

The Irish seafood sector is a sector with long historic provenance and one which, today, collectively employs some 11,000 people with an annual output of over €850 million, and a significant weighting of activity in coastal communities. It operates to world-class standards in the areas of seafood safety and animal welfare and it has built an expanding export industry by engaging with the diverse demands of consumers and consistently meeting the exacting specifications of some of the world's most prestigious retailers and seafood service providers.

This acknowledged, the Irish seafood sector operates in an environment of considerable challenge. For fishermen and aquaculture farmers, the disparity between the cost of production and remuneration is a critical issue for ongoing viability and the environmental impacts of their activities are also required to be taken into consideration. At the processor and manufacturing level, a perceived lack of scale, fierce international competition, international retail consolidation and changing consumer demands are challenges which require concerted action.

While the years leading to 2020 will see a continuation of some of these challenges, the most compelling picture that emerges of the decade ahead is one of opportunity. In particular, the opportunity for the Irish seafood/aquaculture industry to grow and prosper sustainably through the delivery of high quality, safe and naturally based produce.

A sustainable fisheries/aquaculture sector requires that the highest possible returns are secured for the high-quality seafood that is sustainably produced. To achieve this, Ireland needs to address a number of structural challenges to meet the competitive challenge of the international marketplace. It also must focus particular resources on the opportunity presented by consumers who demand the highest quality in production and environmental standards, expect clear visibility on sustainability issues and, crucially, are willing to pay a premium for this.

In order to support and promote the vision outlined above, the strategy is structured on a three pillar approach involving National Strategic Priorities (NSP) described below as a result of the SWOT/needs analysis outlined in Section 2 of the programme. Grounded in facts and a careful analysis of industry, consumer and global trends, it identifies the opportunity for a dynamic, forward looking seafood/aquaculture industry. It envisages a sector that can reap considerable rewards if it works and acts 'smartly' so as to make the most productive use of Ireland's rich natural 'green' resources in a way that is both economically viable and

sustainable in the future.

National Strategic Priority 1: Act Smart -

The development of the smart economy is a foundation Government policy for economic renewal. To prosper and develop in the coming decade, the Irish seafood sector must itself become ‘smart’. This involves developing new working relationships in the seafood chain, piloting new product streams, targeting its resources at new markets, enhancing levels of productivity and competitiveness, and developing leadership positions in the fisheries/aquaculture sector.

In short, the seafood sector must invest in ideas, knowledge and skills, encourage innovation and creativity, and recognise new opportunities for collaboration across the seafood supply chain and with other competitors.

National Strategic Priority 2: Think Green –

Ireland’s historic association with the colour green is linked to our unspoilt landscape, surrounding waters and our temperate climate. Ireland’s needs to protect this image through the prioritisation of the protection of the marine environment and the sustainable utilisation of the available marine resources. This relationship must be refined and communicated effectively over the coming decade.

Through sustained investment, to develop environmentally sustainable fishing and aquaculture production methods to secure a sustainable resource base, and to underpin the development of a smart, green and clean image will contribute to the overall strategy for the seafood sector. By promoting a collaborative interdisciplinary approach to build environmental credibility through research and actions, Ireland’s seafood sector can become synonymous with the production of environmentally sustainable and welfare friendly products.

National Strategic Priority 3: Achieve Growth –

As Ireland’s seafood sector sets out to meet changing customer expectations and retailer demands in the coming decade, the rewards of a smart, green approach will be most clearly

measurable in sustainable growth.

Minimising input and distribution costs, while verifying the environmental credentials and fundamental quality of Irish seafood products are critical steps to the sector's overall ability to deliver long-term profitability. Sustainable growth will also depend on addressing fragmentation, consolidation at processing level, engaging in new product development, and coordinated and resourced marketing campaigns, including those under an umbrella brand for Ireland.

The development of a dynamic, consumer-responsive seafood sector, which can achieve sustainable growth despite the continuing challenges of volatility in input costs and world seafood prices. A seafood industry model that leverages innovation to deliver high quality, efficiently produced outputs is central to this.

The development of a skilled workforce will also provide the knowledge and expertise in the seafood sector to allow it to grow in an innovative manner.

Links between the national strategy and EMFF Union priorities

- *Union Priority One* – Sustainable Fishing

As provided for by the EMFF Regulation, support under UP1 for certain fleet measures is dependent on the conclusions of Ireland's Annual Fleet Report. The balance at fleet segment level determines the possibility of using certain EMFF measures: permanent cessation is only possible for unbalanced fleet segment, whilst engine replacement and start up support for young fishermen is only possible for balanced fleet segments. The Fleet Report must be in accordance with the requirements of article 22 of the CFP Regulation and in conformity with common guidelines prepared by the Commission under that article.

Ireland's EMFF strategy for the fishing fleet will focus on the following 3 priorities:

1. CFP Implementation

Support will be made available to facilitate storage and other facilities in certain ports as needed to support the landing obligation.

Fishermen will be helped to avoid juvenile, depleted and choke stocks through development of a change management process and deployment of more selective methods and other means to support individual change management plans.

Balance between fleet capacity and fishing opportunities will be kept under review through the annual fleet reports and Ireland will seek to avoid imbalances in the fleet arising by improving the profitability of the fleet. This will be done by enhancing the value of catch and reducing input costs. Catch value will be enhanced through improved quality and hygiene on board, promotion of innovation through the development and dissemination of fishing knowledge and technology, training and skills development, and encouragement of younger fishermen to enter balanced fleet segments and direct marketing of catch. Input costs will be reduced through improved energy efficiency on board, in particular through replacement of main or ancillary engines of vessels in balanced fleet segments. Where fishermen establish a Mutual fund for Adverse Climatic Events and Environmental Incidents, that Fund will be supported to provide assistance to affiliated fishermen to recover from significant economic losses.

Supports will be provided for engine replacement and purchase of first fishing vessels only where the Annual Fleet Report prepared in accordance with Article 22 of Regulation 1380/2013 (CFP) indicates that the relevant fleet segment is in balance.

The viability and competitiveness of the fleet will be assisted during a public health crisis through supports for temporary cessation.

2 - Reducing the Impact of Fisheries on the Marine Environment

Supports will be provided to promote good fisheries management, to protect biodiversity in marine habitats, to conserve and re-build stocks and to support efficient design and implementation of conservation measures and regional cooperation under the CFP. These measures will support implementation of the CFP, and the Habitats, Birds and Marine Strategy Framework Directives.

3 - Implementing the Small Scale Coastal Fisheries Action Plan

Actions identified in the Small Scale Coastal Fisheries Action Plan will be supported. This will help stabilise and aid recovery of stock biomass in inshore stocks, support ecosystems based management of those stocks, and support economic viability of the 1,313 SSCF vessels in the Irish fleet.

- *Union Priority Two – Sustainable Aquaculture*

Ireland is committed to sustainably growing its aquaculture sector and has set out in its *National Strategic Plan for Sustainable Aquaculture Development* the actions and initiatives that will be undertaken to further this objective. Timely licensing of aquaculture operations in full compliance with environmental law, most notably the Habitats and Birds Directives, will be central to the achievement of that objective. All supports to the aquaculture sector under the EMFF OP will be confined strictly to aquaculture enterprises that are fully compliant with

the terms and conditions of their aquaculture and foreshore licences. Supports under the EMFF OP for productive investments in aquaculture will be available only to sites that are fully licensed in compliance with the Habitats and Birds Directives.

Supports under UP2 will focus on three areas:

1. Sustainable growth of output, value and employment
2. Knowledge, Innovation and Technology
3. Governance and reduction of the administrative burden

Sustainable growth of output, value and employment will be promoted through supports for sustainably increasing the productive output of aquaculture enterprises, supporting new aquaculture enterprises entering the sector, scaling up of aquaculture enterprises to improve their competitiveness and efficiency, diversification into new species, more farming of under-utilised species and promotion of organic aquaculture. Particular attention will also be given to the diversification of aquaculture towards methods with significant commercial output. Compensation will also be provided for the impacts of Covid 19.

Knowledge, innovation and technology will be promoted through supports for:

- Applied research
- New species development and commercialisation
- Research into managing diseases and parasites
- The provision of environmental and business planning advice
- Training and networking opportunities for industry
- Knowledge transfer

Governance and reduction of the administrative burden will be supported through the development of data management and information systems, with online aquaculture licence application and tracking functionality, and spatial mapping of aquaculture sites and exclusion areas. This will also support development of marine spatial planning capacity under UP6. Support for appropriate assessments, habitat and species surveys, impact studies, management and monitoring activities in Natura 2000 areas will be funded through UP1.

The implementation of measures to support the aquaculture sector will also play an important role in the development of fisheries and aquaculture areas and therefore will complement the activities that may be outlined in the LDS that FLAGs will develop under UP 4.

- *Union Priority Three – Accompanying Measures for the CFP*

Data Collection resources will be primarily be allocated to support the implementation of the CFP through the provision of advice based on the collection, management and analysis of scientific data. In the lifetime of the EMFF OP, efforts will be made to further improve the

efficiency and timely collection and transmission of data by means of co-operation and effective and efficient 2-way communication with all stakeholders including data end users and regional partners. There is a need to ensure the flexibility of the Data Collection Framework to a changing environment (e.g. growing demand for data) and address any future revisions of the framework.

In broadening and strengthening data collection activities under UP3 it may be possible that relevant data may be collected which may lead to new types of indicators being developed to assist in achieving GES under MSFD and also capturing data which may be relevant to Natura 2000 and to measures that are implemented under UP1 and UP2.

Control and enforcement activities in Ireland will, with EMFF Funding, **further develop risked-based inspection and monitoring programmes** where we can combine effective and efficient compliance verification together with targeted enforcement, so as to protect the interests of those who uphold the rules for sustainable fishing. This will be both through land and sea based enforcement in one of the largest sea areas of any Member State, so as to ensure compliance with the CFP by all vessels operating in waters within the remit of the Irish Control Authorities. Ireland will enhance and future proof what are already well regarded **integrated electronic fishery management system and databases** which can deliver the highest quality data to both the Control and Data Collection Authorities and this will enhance cross compliance opportunities, data quality confidence and support the implementation of the Landing Obligation.

Ireland will seek to **enhance co-operation with other member States to address illegal fishing through SCIPS** and the timely exchange of vessel fishing data across fishery control partners while also improving interaction with other EU Member States.

- *Union Priority Four – Sustainable development of fisheries/aquaculture areas*

Ireland's strategy for implementation of UP4 will be focussed on promoting innovative approaches in fisheries and aquaculture areas to create growth and jobs in those areas, in particular by adding value to fishery and aquaculture products and diversifying the local economy towards new economic activities, in particular those offered by 'blue growth' and the broader maritime sectors.

The objectives of Ireland's strategy will be to promote the economic, environmental and social sustainability of fisheries and aquaculture areas, and to maintain and improve employment prospects in fisheries and aquaculture areas.

Ireland will seek to implement this strategy by encouraging communities involved in the fishery and aquaculture sectors to become drivers of the sustainable development of their areas through development and implementation of a Local Development Strategy. These Strategies will identify the best approach to the development of their respective areas, having regard to the 'Needs' identified in section 2.1. Strategies will prioritise actions within the

seafood sector and the broader maritime economy.

Actions supported through Local Development Strategies will be required to ensure complementarity with and avoid duplication of measures provided under the other Union Priorities of this Programme.

- Union Priority Five – Marketing and processing of seafood products

Support under UP5 will be focussed on a number of objectives:

1. Improving the competitiveness of seafood processing enterprises
2. Finding new markets for seafood products
3. Promoting the contribution of Producer Organisations (POs) to implementation of the CFP and development of the seafood sector.
4. Storage of fishery products to support market prices.

Supports will be provided to seafood processing enterprises to improve competitiveness through investments that -

1. Reduce energy costs,
2. Improve safety, health, quality, hygiene and traceability,
3. Add value to fish through processing, presentation and packaging, prioritising supports for secondary processing,
4. Promote innovation and new product development,
5. Promote economies of scale through scaling, industry cooperation, joint ventures and shared route to market structures.

Supports will be provided to implement a common interest seafood marketing programme that will seek to find new markets for Irish seafood and to enhance the value of seafood sales.

As part of an overall strategy under both UP1 and UP5 to support POs to implement the CFP, supports will be provided to POs to prepare Production and Marketing Plans and to support implementation of those Plans. Formation of new POs will be facilitated, in particular in the aquaculture and inshore fisheries sectors, while some consolidation in existing POs may arise.

A limited storage aid measure will be supported under UP5 up to 31 December 2018. Producer Organisations will be supported to temporarily store fishery products during periods of particular difficulty and only as an exceptional measure.

- Union Priority Six – Implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy

The implementation of UP6 will allow Ireland to improve the level of protection of marine resources and to create conditions for the sustainable exploitation of natural resources which can form the basis of a blue economic plan. The implementation is aligned with Ireland's IMP. The possibilities to co-ordinate maritime activities and sharing of information (including across Member States) will be supported as will the development of maritime spatial planning.

Ireland is developing improved sharing of information policies and practices to enhance Ireland's maritime picture. Ireland is participating in the pre-operational evaluation (POV) Common Information Sharing Environment (CISE). Ireland's engagement in the EU's MARSUR project is one example of a project which is leading to improved sharing of maritime information.

In relation to increasing our knowledge of the marine environment, the objective will be to harmonise data in support of a range of policies and directives such as CFP, MSFD and MSP. In addition data collected will be as up to date as possible and more accessible to all relevant stakeholders. In addition, the measures will also contribute to the objectives of the OSPAR Convention which include taking all possible steps to prevent and eliminate pollution and necessary measures to protect the maritime area against the adverse effects of human activities, conserve marine ecosystems and, where practical, restore marine areas which have been adversely affected. Environmental measures and projects that promote the achievement of Good Environmental Status (GES) will also be supported under this priority

Links between the EMFF OP 2014-2020 Strategy and the EU2020 Strategy

The EMFF OP 2014-2020 national strategic priorities closely mirror the objectives set out in the EU2020 strategy which aims to promote smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. These three priorities are described in the EU2020 strategy as follows:

- *Smart Growth*- promotes initiatives that improve the the EU's performance in education, research and innovation activities.
- *Sustainable Growth* - promotes initiatives that build a more competitive low-carbon economy that makes efficient, sustainable use of resources and also protect the environment by reducing emissions and preventing biodiversity loss
- *Inclusive Growth* - promotes initiatives that create more and better jobs, especially for women, young people and older workers, assist people of all ages anticipate and manage change through investment in skills & training and ensure the benefits of growth reach all parts of the EU

As described in the previous sections the EMFF OP 2014-2020 will have a strong focus on the following areas:

- investing in ideas, knowledge and skills, encouraging innovation and creativity, and recognising new opportunities for collaboration across the seafood supply chain and with other competitors.
- investing in activities that minimise the impact of fisheries and aquaculture activities on the marine environment, ensuring that real data is available that promote the sustainable management of fisheries stocks and controls that protect that marine environment and fisheries stocks around Irelands coast.
- Investing in coastal communities to develop local development strategies and projects that create new jobs and business opportunities, to assist communities in developing initiatives for inshore stocks that will ensure the sustainable development of these coastal communities for all members of the community.

3.2 Specific objectives and result indicators

Union priority	1 - Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based fisheries
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Specific objective	1 - Reduction of the impact of fisheries on the marine environment, including the avoidance and reduction, as far as possible, of unwanted catches		
Result indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Not applicable
1.4.a - Change in unwanted catches (tonnes)	-10,000.00000	tonnes	
1.4.b - Change in unwanted catches (%)	-85.00000	%	
1.5 - Change in fuel efficiency of fish capture	-50.00000	litres fuel/ tonnes landed catch	

Specific objective	2 - Protection and restoration of aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems
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Result indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Not applicable
1.5 - Change in fuel efficiency of fish capture	-50.00000	litres fuel/ tonnes landed catch	
1.10.a - Change in the coverage of Natura 2000 areas designated under the Birds and Habitats directives		Km ²	✓
1.10.b - Change in the coverage of other spatial protection measures under Art. 13.4 of the Directive 2008/56/EC		Km ²	✓

Specific objective	3 - Ensuring a balance between fishing capacity and available fishing opportunities		
Result indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Not applicable
1.3 - Change in net profits	6.50000	thousand Euros	
1.6 - Change in the % of unbalanced fleets	-100.00000	%	

Specific objective	4 - Enhancement of the competitiveness and viability of fisheries enterprises, including of small scale coastal fleet, and the improvement of safety or working conditions		
Result indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Not applicable
1.1 - Change in the value of production	23,000.00000	thousand Euros	
1.2 - Change in the volume of production	33,000.00000	tonnes	
1.3 - Change in net profits	6.50000	thousand Euros	
1.5 - Change in fuel efficiency of fish capture	-50.00000	litres fuel/ tonnes landed catch	
1.7 - Employment created (FTE) in the fisheries sector or complementary activities	1,200.00000	FTE	
1.8 - Employment maintained (FTE) in the fisheries sector or complementary activities	200.00000	FTE	
1.9.a - Change in the number of work-related injuries and accidents		number	✓
1.9.b - Change in the % of work-related injuries and accidents in relation to total fishers		%	✓

Specific objective	5 - Provision of support to strengthen technological development and innovation, including increasing energy efficiency, and knowledge transfer		
Result indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Not applicable
1.1 - Change in the value of production	23,000.00000	thousand Euros	
1.2 - Change in the volume of production	33,000.00000	tonnes	
1.3 - Change in net profits	6.50000	thousand Euros	
1.5 - Change in fuel efficiency of fish capture	-50.00000	litres fuel/ tonnes landed catch	

Specific objective	6 - Development of professional training, new professional skills and lifelong learning		
Result indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Not applicable
1.7 - Employment created (FTE) in the fisheries sector or complementary activities	1,200.00000	FTE	
1.8 - Employment maintained (FTE) in the fisheries sector or complementary activities	2,280.00000	FTE	
1.9.a - Change in the number of work-related injuries and accidents	-4.00000	number	
1.9.b - Change in the % of work-related injuries and accidents in relation to total fishers		%	✓

Union priority	2 - Fostering environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based aquaculture
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Specific objective	1 - Provision of support to strengthen technological development, innovation and knowledge transfer		
Result indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Not applicable
2.1 - Change in volume of aquaculture production	45,000.00000	tonnes	
2.2 - Change in value of aquaculture production	112,000.00000	thousand Euros	
2.3 - Change in net profit	47,800.00000	thousand Euros	

Specific objective	2 - Enhancement of the competitiveness and viability of aquaculture enterprises, including improvement of safety or working conditions, in particular of SMEs		
Result indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Not applicable
2.1 - Change in volume of aquaculture production	45,000.00000	tonnes	
2.2 - Change in value of aquaculture production	112,000.00000	thousand Euros	
2.3 - Change in net profit	47,800.00000	thousand Euros	
2.8 - Employment created	450.00000	FTE	
2.9 - Employment maintained	250.00000	FTE	

Specific objective	3 - Protection and restoration of aquatic biodiversity and enhancement of ecosystems related to aquaculture and promotion of resource efficient aquaculture		
Result indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Not applicable
2.4 - Change in the volume of production organic aquaculture	3,500.00000	tonnes	
2.5 - Change in the volume of production recirculation system	25.00000	tonnes	
2.6 - Change in the volume of aquaculture production certified under voluntary sustainability schemes		tonnes	✓
2.7 - Aquaculture farms providing	0.00000	number	

Specific objective	3 - Protection and restoration of aquatic biodiversity and enhancement of ecosystems related to aquaculture and promotion of resource efficient aquaculture		
Result indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Not applicable
environmental services			
2.8 - Employment created	450.00000	FTE	
2.9 - Employment maintained	250.00000	FTE	

Specific objective	4 - Promotion of aquaculture having a high level of environmental protection, and the promotion of animal health and welfare and of public health and safety		
Result indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Not applicable
2.1 - Change in volume of aquaculture production	45,000.00000	tonnes	
2.2 - Change in value of aquaculture production	112,000.00000	thousand Euros	
2.4 - Change in the volume of production organic aquaculture	3,000.00000	tonnes	
2.5 - Change in the volume of production recirculation system	25.00000	tonnes	
2.6 - Change in the volume of aquaculture production certified under voluntary sustainability schemes		tonnes	✓
2.7 - Aquaculture farms providing environmental services		number	✓

Specific objective	5 - Development of professional training, new professional skills and lifelong learning		
Result indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Not applicable
2.8 - Employment created	450.00000	FTE	
2.9 - Employment maintained	250.00000	FTE	

Union priority	3 - Fostering the implementation of the CFP
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Specific objective	1 - Improvement and supply of scientific knowledge and collection and management of data		
Result indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Not applicable
3.B.1 - Increase in the percentage of fulfilment of data calls	5.00000	%	

Specific objective	2 - Provision of support to monitoring, control and enforcement, enhancing institutional capacity and the efficiency of public administration, without increasing the administrative burden		
Result indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Not applicable
3.A.1 - Number of serious infringements detected	1,000.00000	number	
3.A.2 - Landings that have been the subject to physical control	17.00000	%	

Union priority	4 - Increasing employment and territorial cohesion
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Specific objective	1 - Promotion of economic growth, social inclusion and job creation, and providing support to employability and labour mobility in coastal and inland communities which depend on fishing and aquaculture, including the diversification of activities within fisheries and into other sectors of maritime economy		
Result indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Not applicable
4.1 - Employment created (FTE)	150.00000	FTE	
4.2 - Employment maintained (FTE)	10.00000	FTE	
4.3 - Businesses created		number	✓

Union priority	5 - Fostering marketing and processing
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Specific objective	1 - Improvement of market organisation for fishery and aquaculture products		
Result indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Not applicable
5.1.a - Change in value of first sales in POs	0.00000	thousand Euros	
5.1.b - Change in volume of first sales in POs	0.00000	tonnes	
5.1.c - Change in value of first sales in non-POs	20,000.00000	thousand Euros	
5.1.d - Change in volume of first sales in non-POs	30,000.00000	tonnes	

Specific objective	2 - Encouragement of investment in the processing and marketing sectors		
Result indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Not applicable
5.1.a - Change in value of first sales in POs	0.00000	thousand Euros	
5.1.b - Change in volume of first sales in POs	0.00000	tonnes	
5.1.c - Change in value of first sales in non-POs	20,000.00000	thousand Euros	
5.1.d - Change in volume of first sales in non-POs	30,000.00000	tonnes	

Union priority	6 - Fostering the implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy
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Specific objective	1 - Development and implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy		
Result indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Not applicable
6.1 - Increase in the Common Information Sharing Environment (CISE) for the surveillance of the EU maritime domain	20.00000	%	

Specific objective	1 - Development and implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy		
Result indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Not applicable
6.2.a - Change in the coverage of Natura 2000 areas designated under the Birds and Habitats directives		Km ²	✓
6.2.b - Change in the coverage of other spatial protection measures under Art. 13.4 of the Directive 2008/56/EC	4,135.00000	Km ²	

3.3 Relevant measures and output indicators

Union priority	1 - Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based fisheries
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Specific objective	1 - Reduction of the impact of fisheries on the marine environment, including the avoidance and reduction, as far as possible, of unwanted catches			
EMFF measure	Output indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Include in the Performance Framework
01 - Article 37 Support for the design and implementation of conservation measures	1.4 - N° of projects on conservation measures, reduction of the fishing impact on the marine environment and fishing adaptation to the protection of species	4.00	Number	✓
02 - Article 38 Limiting the impact of fishing on the marine environment and adapting fishing to the protection of species (+ art. 44.1.c Inland fishing)	1.4 - N° of projects on conservation measures, reduction of the fishing impact on the marine environment and fishing adaptation to the protection of species	2.00	Number	✓
03 - Article 39 Innovation linked to the conservation of marine biological resources (+ art. 44.1.c Inland fishing)	1.4 - N° of projects on conservation measures, reduction of the fishing impact on the marine environment and fishing adaptation to the protection of species	20.00	Number	✓
04 - Article 40.1.a Protection and restoration of marine biodiversity – collection of lost fishing gear and marine litter	1.6 - N° of projects on protection and restoration of marine biodiversity, ecosystems	2.00	Number	✓
05 - Article 43.2 Fishing ports, landing sites, auction halls and shelters – investments to facilitate compliance with the obligation to land all catches	1.3 - N° of projects on added value, quality, use of unwanted catches and fishing ports, landing sites, actions halls and shelters	30.00	Number	

Justification for the combination of the EMFF measures (supported by the ex-ante evaluation and the SWOT analysis)

Measures supported under Articles 37, 38 and 39 will contribute to good fisheries management and in particular to helping fishermen avoid catching juvenile, depleted and choke stocks and thus support implementation of the Discards Ban. They will help protect

biodiversity in marine habitats, and conserve and re-build stocks. They will support compliance with the Habitats, Birds and MSFD Directives and facilitate implementation of the SSCF Action Plan.

Collection of waste by fishermen supported under article 40.1(a) will help protect biodiversity in marine habitats.

Supports under article 43(2) will facilitate provision of storage and other facilities as necessary in fishing ports to facilitate the landing of unwanted catch, in particular its temporary storage.

Specific objective	2 - Protection and restoration of aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems			
EMFF measure	Output indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Include in the Performance Framework
01 - Article 40.1.b-g, i Protection and restoration of marine biodiversity – contribution to a better management or conservation, construction, installation or modernisation of static or movable facilities, preparation of protection and management plans related to NATURA2000 sites and spatial protected areas, management, restoration and monitoring marine protected areas, including NATURA 2000 sites, environmental awareness, participation in other actions aimed at maintaining and enhancing biodiversity and ecosystem services (+ art. 44.6 Inland fishing)	1.6 - N° of projects on protection and restoration of marine biodiversity, ecosystems	300.00	Number	✓

Justification for the combination of the EMFF measures (supported by the ex-ante evaluation and the SWOT analysis)

Measures under article 40(1)(b) to (g) will promote good fisheries management, help protect biodiversity in marine habitats, and help conserve and re-build stocks. They will in particular support compliance with the Habitats, Birds and MSFD Directives through supports for development, implementation and monitoring of fisheries management plans in Natura 2000 sites and Marine Protected Areas, including habitat and species surveys, impact assessments and other data collection and analysis. They will support specific actions identified in the SSCF Action Plan relating to inshore fisheries management, stock recovery and fisheries in Natura 2000. More generally, they will help fishermen implement the CFP through avoiding catching juvenile, depleted and choke stocks.

Specific objective	3 - Ensuring a balance between fishing capacity and available fishing opportunities
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EMFF measure	Output indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Include in the Performance Framework
02 - Article 36 Support to systems of allocation of fishing opportunities	1.2 - N° of projects on systems of allocation of fishing opportunities	1.00	Number	✓

Justification for the combination of the EMFF measures (supported by the ex-ante evaluation and the SWOT analysis)

Measures under article 36 will support the design, development, monitoring, evaluation and management of specific IT systems to facilitate allocation of fishing opportunities.

Specific objective	4 - Enhancement of the competitiveness and viability of fisheries enterprises, including of small scale coastal fleet, and the improvement of safety or working conditions			
EMFF measure	Output indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Include in the Performance Framework
01 - Article 27 Advisory services (+ art. 44.3 Inland fishing)	1.1 - N° of projects on innovation, advisory services and partnerships with scientists	35.00	Number	
03 - Article 31 Start-up support for young fishermen (+ art. 44.2 Inland fishing)	1.9 - N° of projects on promotion of human capital and social dialogue, diversification and new forms of income, start-ups for fishermen and health/safety	15.00	Number	✓
04 - Article 32 Health and safety (+ art. 44.1.b Inland fishing)	1.9 - N° of projects on promotion of human capital and social dialogue, diversification and new forms of income, start-ups for fishermen and health/safety	25.00	Number	✓
05 - Article 33 Temporary cessation of fishing activities	1.10 - N° of projects on temporary cessation	100.00	Number	
06 - Article 35 Mutual funds for adverse climatic events and environmental incidents	1.11 - N° of projects on mutual funds	1.00	Number	
08 - Article 42 Added value, product quality and use of unwanted catches (+ art. 44.1.e Inland fishing)	1.3 - N° of projects on added value, quality, use of unwanted catches and fishing ports, landing sites, actions halls and shelters	375.00	Number	
09 - Article 43.1 + 3 Fishing ports, landing sites, auction halls and shelters - investments improving fishing port and auctions halls	1.3 - N° of projects on added value, quality, use of unwanted catches and fishing ports, landing	6.00	Number	

Specific objective	4 - Enhancement of the competitiveness and viability of fisheries enterprises, including of small scale coastal fleet, and the improvement of safety or working conditions			
EMFF measure	Output indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Include in the Performance Framework
infrastructure or landing sites and shelters; construction of shelters to improve safety of fishermen (+ art. 44.1.f Inland fishing)	sites, actions halls and shelters			

Justification for the combination of the EMFF measures (supported by the ex-ante evaluation and the SWOT analysis)

Measures under article 27 will promote enhanced business, marketing and environmental planning by fishermen and Producer Organisations. Measures under article 31 will encourage young fishermen to enter balanced fleet segments. Measures under articles 32 and 42 will add value to catch through investments on board. Article 35 will help fishermen recover from significant economic shocks. Measures under article 33 will provide a safety net to fishermen during the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Article 27 will also help fishermen avoid catching juvenile, depleted and choke stocks through development and dissemination of fishing knowledge and technology. This article will be utilised in particular to support fishermen to develop change management plans to assist those fishermen in adapting fishing practices to the CFP.

Measures under article 43 will support development of key fishing ports to maintain safe and modern services to the fishing fleet.

Specific objective	5 - Provision of support to strengthen technological development and innovation, including increasing energy efficiency, and knowledge transfer			
EMFF measure	Output indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Include in the Performance Framework
01 - Article 26 Innovation (+ art. 44.3 Inland fishing)	1.1 - N° of projects on innovation, advisory services and partnerships with scientists	80.00	Number	
02 - Article 28 Partnerships between fishermen and scientists (+ art. 44.3 Inland fishing)	1.1 - N° of projects on innovation, advisory services and partnerships with scientists	50.00	Number	
03 - Article 41.1.a, b, c Energy efficiency and mitigation of climate change – on board investments; energy efficiency audits and	1.7 - N° of projects on energy efficiency,	15.00	Number	

Specific objective	5 - Provision of support to strengthen technological development and innovation, including increasing energy efficiency, and knowledge transfer			
EMFF measure	Output indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Include in the Performance Framework
schemes; studies to assess the contribution of alternative propulsion systems and hull designs (+ art. 44.1.d Inland fishing)	mitigation of climate change			
04 - Article 41.2 Energy efficiency and mitigation of climate change - Replacement or modernisation of main or ancillary engines (+ art. 44.1.d Inland fishing)	1.8 - N° of projects on replacement or modernisation of engines	10.00	Number	

Justification for the combination of the EMFF measures (supported by the ex-ante evaluation and the SWOT analysis)

Measures under articles 26 and 28, will help maintain a balanced fleet through promotion of innovation in fisheries. Measures will also help fishermen avoid catching juvenile, depleted and choke stocks. These two articles are expected to be the main focus of efforts to develop and disseminate knowledge concerning more selective fishing gear and equipment and fishing practices, involving partnership between State scientists and technical experts, academics, fishermen, Producer Organisations and other stakeholders.

Article 26 may also be utilised to support innovation and new product development in the seafood processing sector to add value to fish.

Measures under Article 41 will help maintain a balanced fleet by helping fishermen reduce input costs through improved energy efficiency. Supports for engine replacement will be limited to balanced fleet segments and will be prioritised towards vessels under 12 metres, aiding implementation of the SSCF Action Plan.

Specific objective	6 - Development of professional training, new professional skills and lifelong learning			
EMFF measure	Output indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Include in the Performance Framework
01 - Article 29.1 + 29.2 Promoting human capital and social dialogue - training, networking, social dialogue; support to spouses and life partners (+ art. 44.1.a Inland fishing)	1.9 - N° of projects on promotion of human capital and social dialogue, diversification and new forms of income, start-ups for fishermen and health/safety	205.00	Number	✓
02 - Article 29.3 Promoting human capital and social dialogue – trainees on board of SSCF vessels / social dialogue (+ art. 44.1.a Inland fishing)	1.9 - N° of projects on promotion of human capital and social dialogue, diversification and new forms of income, start-ups for fishermen and health/safety	5.00	Number	✓

Justification for the combination of the EMFF measures (supported by the ex-ante evaluation and the SWOT analysis)

Measures under articles 29.1 & 29.2 will support a balanced fleet by helping fishermen reduce input costs through improved efficiencies on board and greater innovation arising from measures supporting professional training, skills transfer, dissemination of knowledge, networking and exchange of best practices. Measures under this article will also help fishermen to avoid catching juvenile, depleted and choke stocks and to protect biodiversity in marine habitats through development of knowledge on environmentally friendly fishing practices and on use of more selective fishing gear. This measure will also help address the poor record of health and safety at sea.

Supports under Article 29.3 will support the development of a process to deal with succession planning and allowing new entrants to enter the Irish Fishing Fleet.

Union priority	2 - Fostering environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based aquaculture
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Specific objective	1 - Provision of support to strengthen technological development, innovation and knowledge transfer			
EMFF measure	Output indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Include in the Performance Framework
01 - Article 47 Innovation	2.1 - N° of projects on innovation, advisory services	150.00	Number	✓
02 - Article 49 Management, relief and advisory services for aquaculture farms	2.1 - N° of projects on innovation, advisory services	40.00	Number	✓

Justification for the combination of the EMFF measures (supported by the ex-ante evaluation and the SWOT analysis)

The NSPA recognises the need to foster knowledge, innovation and technology transfer. It recognises that SMEs which characterise the sector lack the capacity to develop and commercialise new species, and to develop new practices, processes and products to manage diseases and parasites and reduce environmental impact. Measures under article 47 will be key to developing and disseminating knowledge and promoting innovation in this area.

Measures under article 49 will complement article 47 through advisory services facilitating transfer to industry of knowledge and skills developed under that measure. Similar to above, enterprises in the sector lack the capacity for specialist knowledge in terms of health and safety, environmental management, animal welfare and professional business and marketing strategies. Article 49 will support professional advice in this fields, thus facilitating these enterprises to sustainably grow production, value and employment.

Specific objective	2 - Enhancement of the competitiveness and viability of aquaculture enterprises, including improvement of safety or working conditions, in particular of SMEs			
EMFF measure	Output indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Include in the Performance Framework
01 - Article 48.1.a-d, f-h Productive investments in aquaculture	2.2 - N° of projects on productive investments in aquaculture	110.00	Number	✓
02 - Article 52 Encouraging new sustainable aquaculture farmers	2.5 - N° of projects on promoting human capital of aquaculture in general and of new aquaculture farmers	65.00	Number	

Justification for the combination of the EMFF measures (supported by the ex-ante evaluation and the SWOT analysis)

Ireland's National Strategic Plan for Aquaculture has targeted significant sustainable growth in output, value and employment in the aquaculture sector. This will require equipping of more sites, more productivity within sites and investment in good management of safety, health, hygiene, quality and environmental impact. The sector is characterised by SMEs with limited capacity to fund productive investments and limited access to private finance because of perceived risk levels. Measures under article 48 will greatly improve the economics of capital investment projects in the sector and also reduce the risk levels for providers of private finance. Measures under article 52 will complement those under article 48 by encouraging the entry into the sector of new enterprises. New entrants face particular challenges because of the capital costs of establishing a new site.

Specific objective	3 - Protection and restoration of aquatic biodiversity and enhancement of ecosystems related to aquaculture and promotion of resource efficient aquaculture			
EMFF measure	Output indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Include in the Performance Framework
03 - Article 51 Increasing the potential of aquaculture sites	2.4 - N° of projects on increasing potential of aquaculture sites and measures on public and animal health	1.00	Number	
04 - Article 53 Conversion to eco-management and audit schemes and organic aquaculture	2.3 - N° of projects on limiting the impact of aquaculture on the environment (eco-management, audit schemes, organic aquaculture environmental services)	25.00	Number	

Justification for the combination of the EMFF measures (supported by the ex-ante evaluation and the SWOT analysis)

The National Strategic Plan for Aquaculture identifies a need to support good governance of aquaculture and a reduced administrative burden for operators through the development of a data management and information system with online aquaculture licence application and tracking functionality and spatial mapping of aquaculture sites and exclusion areas, in particular areas protected under Natura 2000 and requiring spatial protection. Measures under

article 51 will support implementation of this project.

The NSPA recognises the competitive and biodiversity benefits of organic aquaculture. Measures under article 51 will support efforts to encourage conventional producers to move to organic production and participate in EU eco-management and audit schemes.

Specific objective	4 - Promotion of aquaculture having a high level of environmental protection, and the promotion of animal health and welfare and of public health and safety			
EMFF measure	Output indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Include in the Performance Framework
02 - Article 55 Public health measures	2.4 - N° of projects on increasing potential of aquaculture sites and measures on public and animal health	150.00	Number	
03 - Article 56 Animal health and welfare measures	2.4 - N° of projects on increasing potential of aquaculture sites and measures on public and animal health	15.00	Number	

Justification for the combination of the EMFF measures (supported by the ex-ante evaluation and the SWOT analysis)

The NSPA recognises the impacts of sustained biotoxin closures on shellfish producers in terms of lost production, reduced harvest value and ensuing trading difficulties. Measures under article 55 will be utilised to provide a limited scheme of aid to producers affected by closures lasting more than 4 months, to assist those producers in recovery, thus preserving productive capacity and employment. Measures under article 55 will also be used to provide a compensation to enterprises impacted by Covid 19.

The NSPA recognises the economic impact of diseases and parasites on aquaculture sites and on animal health and welfare. It recognises that the SMEs which characterise the sector lack the capacity to develop and implement best husbandry and disease management practice. Measures under article 56 will support development and dissemination of best practice in this area.

Specific objective	5 - Development of professional training, new professional skills and lifelong learning			
EMFF measure	Output indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Include in the Performance Framework
01 - Article 50 Promoting human capital and networking	2.5 - N° of projects on promoting human capital of aquaculture in general and of new aquaculture farmers	10.00	Number	

Justification for the combination of the EMFF measures (supported by the ex-ante evaluation and the SWOT analysis)

Measures under article 49 will complement articles 47 and 49 through facilitating transfer to industry of specialist and technical knowledge and skills through training and skills development programmes for SMEs and arrangements for networking and exchange of best practice. These measures will assist SMEs in particular in sustainably growing production, value and employment.

Union priority | **3 - Fostering the implementation of the CFP**

Specific objective	1 - Improvement and supply of scientific knowledge and collection and management of data			
EMFF measure	Output indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Include in the Performance Framework
01 - Article 77 Data collection	3.2 - N° of projects on supporting the collection, management and use of data	2.00	Number	✓

Justification for the combination of the EMFF measures (supported by the ex-ante evaluation and the SWOT analysis)

The main justification for the implementation of this measure is to collect relevant biological, economic and environmental data required for the targeted management of marine resources and ecosystems. This measure is being implemented to meet the data collection obligations imposed under European legislation. Reliable data is required to inform fisheries-related decision making bodies. Where appropriate data collected may also be used to inform national fisheries policy and to anticipate possible changes in the fisheries sector operating environment.

Specific objective	2 - Provision of support to monitoring, control and enforcement, enhancing institutional capacity and the efficiency of public administration, without increasing the administrative burden			
EMFF measure	Output indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Include in the Performance Framework
01 - Article 76 Control and enforcement	3.1 - N° of projects on implementing the Union's control, inspections and enforcement system	10.00	Number	✓

Justification for the combination of the EMFF measures (supported by the ex-ante evaluation and the SWOT analysis)

The implementation of control and enforcement measures in the EMFF OP 2014-2020 will be focused on supporting a risk based approach to monitoring, control and surveillance of fisheries resources, in order to reduce the potential for illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, as well as to increase the incentive for responsible fishing practices in Irish waters. The measures will also strengthen compliance and promote awareness of compliance through the development of modern technologies which may assist control and enforcement activities.

Union priority	4 - Increasing employment and territorial cohesion
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Specific objective	1 - Promotion of economic growth, social inclusion and job creation, and providing support to employability and labour mobility in coastal and inland communities which depend on fishing and aquaculture, including the diversification of activities within fisheries and into other sectors of maritime economy			
EMFF measure	Output indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Include in the Performance Framework
01 - Article 62.1.a Preparatory support	4.2 - N° of projects on preparatory support	7.00	Number	
02 - Article 63 Implementation of local development strategies (incl. running costs and animation)	4.1 - N° of local development strategies selected	7.00	Number	✓
03 - Article 64 Cooperation activities	4.3 - N° of cooperation projects	7.00	Number	

Justification for the combination of the EMFF measures (supported by the ex-ante evaluation and the SWOT analysis)

The EMFF measure selected will provide effective supports for the need to promote the economic, environmental and social sustainability of fisheries and aquaculture areas in order to maximise its contribution to jobs and growth in communities in these areas. This will enable communities to create new and sustainable sources of income and to improve stakeholder quality of life.

Union priority	5 - Fostering marketing and processing
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Specific objective	1 - Improvement of market organisation for fishery and aquaculture products			
EMFF measure	Output indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Include in the Performance Framework
01 - Article 66 Production and marketing plans	5.1 - N° of producers organisations or associations of producers organisations supported for production and marketing plans	5.00	Number	
02 - Article 67 Storage aid	5.2 - N° of projects on marketing measures and storage aid	1.00	Number	
03 - Article 68 Marketing measures	5.2 - N° of projects on marketing measures and storage aid	70.00	Number	✓

Justification for the combination of the EMFF measures (supported by the ex-ante evaluation and the SWOT analysis)

Producer Organisations (POs) have an important role to play in implementing the CFP

through both UP1 and UP5. Supports will be provided under article 66 to POs to prepare Production and Marketing Plans and to support implementation of those Plans. Formation of new POs will be facilitated, in particular in the aquaculture and inshore fisheries sectors.

A storage aid mechanism has merit as a backstop during during periods of particular difficulty in market prices. Under article 67 measures will be put in place to support POs to temporarily store fishery products in exceptional circumstances.

Significant scope exists to grow seafood sales. However, SME processors lack the capacity to market their products internationally. Article 68 will fund such measures on a common interest basis. Art 68 will also support product innovation in terms of packaging and presentation.

Specific objective	2 - Encouragement of investment in the processing and marketing sectors			
EMFF measure	Output indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Include in the Performance Framework
01 - Article 69 Processing of fisheries and aquaculture products	5.3 - N° of projects on processing	100.00	Number	✓

Justification for the combination of the EMFF measures (supported by the ex-ante evaluation and the SWOT analysis)

Seafood sales and employment in the processing sector can be increased through improving the competitiveness of seafood processing enterprises. Capital investments are an important element in improving competitiveness, and in particular in increasing processed output. However, the Irish seafood processing sector is overwhelmingly characterised by SMEs with limited capacity to fund investments. Supports under article 69 will help improve competitiveness in the sector by supporting SMEs to implement investments that reduce energy costs, improve safety, health, quality, and hygiene, and add value to fish through secondary processing. Measures under article 69 may also improve competitiveness through promotion of innovation and new product development, scaling, industry cooperation and shared route to market structures.

Union priority | 6 - Fostering the implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy

Specific objective	1 - Development and implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy			
EMFF measure	Output indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Include in the Performance Framework
01 - Article 80.1.a Integrating Maritime Surveillance	6.1 - N° of projects on integrating maritime surveillance	1.00	Number	
02 - Article 80.1.b Promotion of the protection of marine environment, and the sustainable use of marine and coastal resources	6.2 - N° projects on the protection and improvement of knowledge on marine environment	10.00	Number	✓
03 - Article 80.1.c Improving the	6.2 - N° projects on the	30.00	Number	✓

Specific objective	1 - Development and implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy			
EMFF measure	Output indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Include in the Performance Framework
knowledge on the state of the marine environment	protection and improvement of knowledge on marine environment			

Justification for the combination of the EMFF measures (supported by the ex-ante evaluation and the SWOT analysis)

Ireland's marine ecosystems are home to a rich and diverse range of species and habitats. Achieving GES will be key to sustaining and enhancing Ireland's fisheries and aquaculture industries within these ecosystems. This will require scientific research support to ensure that activities are targeted and monitored.

In order to achieve this the EMFF measures selected provide effective supports for the needs to increase Ireland's Marine Data and Knowledge and the development of Marine Spatial Capacity in Ireland.

3.4 Description of the programme's complementarity with other ESI Funds

3.4.1 Complementarity and coordination arrangements with other ESI Funds and other relevant Union and national funding instruments of the EMFF

The basis for the complementarity of the EMFF with other ESI funds (namely the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund (ESF) and the European Agriculture fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) lies in the contribution of the EMFF across a range of the eleven thematic objectives set out in Annex I of the Common Provisions Regulation, including:

- improving the competitiveness of the seafood sector;
- supporting the shift to a low-carbon economy, promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention
- management, preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency; and
- promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination

Ireland's Partnership Agreement sets out the various ways in which EMFF OP measures will contribute to these thematic objectives. It is also clear from the Partnership Agreement that other ESI Funds in Ireland will also make contributions to the thematic objectives which the EMFF contributes to. Thus, the clear challenge is to ensure that, in each of these areas, the interventions supported through the EMFF will be implemented in a coordinated manner so as to avoid duplication of funding and create synergies with the other ESI funds and to ensure an integrated use of the funds.

This challenge is being addressed in a number of ways.

The National Coordination Committee for the Funds (NCCF) - at national level, the NCCF was established in order to ensure coordination of and complementarity between the ESI funds. DAFM participates in this Committee with representatives from:

- the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform;
- the Department of Education and Skills;
- the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government;
- the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation;
- the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources;
- the Border Midlands and West Regional Assembly;
- the Southern and Eastern Regional Assembly; and
- the Special EU Programme Body.

A sub-group of the NCCF, involving relevant Government Departments and representatives of the regional assemblies (the Managing Authorities for all the ESI Operational Programmes), meets on a regular basis in order to coordinate input from the various agencies to the development of Ireland's national Partnership Agreement. This mechanism allowed

DAFM's work on the consultation/design phase of EMFF OP 2014-2020 to be embedded in an overarching process designed to ensure an integrated use of the ESI funds.

The NCCF will continue this work during the finalisation of Operational Programmes, and will also work to ensure the necessary cooperation between all of the relevant bodies in addressing issues that arise in the course of programme implementation and in exploiting ongoing opportunities for greater synergies across the ESI funds.

Examples of how this structure has and can facilitate increased complementarity include:

- The investment priorities in the ERDF OPs will complement the Union Priorities addressed via the EMFF OP 2014-2020. For example, the ERDF will contribute to the competitiveness, innovation, capacity and sustainability of the regions, which cover extensive coastal areas.

These themes are also central to the intervention logic underlying the EMFF OP, including support for maritime-related research activities undertaken by the higher education research centres and the Marine Institute. It will also be complemented by supports for micro-enterprise establishment and expansion by the Local Enterprise Offices of local authorities across Ireland. The availability of high speed broadband supported by ERDF will also facilitate the establishment of knowledge economy enterprises in coastal Atlantic areas.

- ERDF investment for energy efficient investment in housing is clearly complementary to support for more energy efficient practices in coastal communities and possible interventions via FLAGs. Thus, the national challenge of increased energy efficiency and supporting a low-carbon economy is addressed in a multi-faceted way across different funding structures. This includes actions to exploit the potential of off-shore energy, one of the potential areas that may be supported by a proposed financial instrument focussed on the renewable energy sector. It will also be supported by research investment in the marine energies and biotechnology sectors under the ERDF.
- ERDF co-financed investment in next generation broadband in rural/coastal areas that have not been provided with such services by commercial operators will help to achieve the EMFF objectives of improving seafood sector competitiveness, and achieving balanced territorial development of coastal economies and communities. It will also help to achieve a further thematic objective, namely, the achievement of more efficient public administration, through the wider availability of online services and the encouragement of fishermen/aquaculture farmers to use web-based application/payment facilities.

- Similarly in relation to the ESF, there are clear complementarities with the investments set out in the EMFF OP. For example, support for upskilling of the labour force via ESF funding will complement various knowledge transfer measures within the EMFF OP and provide a coordinated approach to developing the knowledge base at the national level. In addition, the ESF investment in social inclusion measures will offer an opportunity for complementary support which will emerge via Local Development Strategies in CLLD.
- In certain cases, beneficiaries under the EMFF OP will be in rural communities which will also be the focus of EAFRD support. Possible synergies here include the coordination of activities between Fisheries Local Action Groups and LEADER Local Action Groups. Complementarity will be ensured via the Coordination Committee in place to manage the mono fund approach set out in Ireland's Partnership Agreement. Support for Natura 2000 via the EMFF and RDP will also ensure that a comprehensive and coordinated approach across funds is in place in addressing priorities relating both to marine and agricultural areas.
- 'Cross-Membership' of Monitoring Committees - although the precise membership of the Monitoring Committee for Ireland's EMFF OP is still to be finalised, as the Monitoring Committee is established it is intended that complementarity with the other ESI funds will be facilitated through DAFM being represented on the Monitoring Committees of the other Operational Programmes. Similarly, representatives of the other Operational Programme's Managing Authorities will participate in the EMFF OP Monitoring Committee.

This cross membership will further ensure that issues of complementarity and coherence of funding will continue to be addressed as Operational Programmes are finalised and implemented. The NCCF has also provided the forum to ensure that there is no double funding in place, and will continue to perform this function through the programming period. In addition, all the Managing Authorities will be members of the Partnership Agreement Monitoring Committee, providing a further channel to facilitate complementarity and coordination.

- The NCCF has also established linkages to the network of Cabinet Sub Committees and Senior Officials Groups chaired by the Department of An Taoiseach. Thus, issues

relating to ESI Funds have been considered by this high level central coordination structure, adding a further level of integration and complementarity.

Other Union financial instruments of particular relevance from an EMFF perspective are the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE+) fund and the Research and Innovation (Horizon 2020) fund.

Ireland's EMFF OP places particular emphasis on the sustainable development of the seafood sector. In doing so it aims to contribute to the EU cross-cutting objectives of environment, innovation, and climate change mitigation and adaptation. DAFM will therefore seek to ensure that investments made under the EMFF OP will complement, and build on, activities supported under each of these other financial instruments.

In relation to the LIFE Programme, DAFM will maintain close contact with the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government in order to monitor environmental and climate action projects that will either complement similar initiatives, or provide the basis for future investments, under the EMFF OP. LIFE 2014-2020 will incorporate a

specific sub-programme for Climate Action and the creation of a new type of 'integrated project.' In the event that new 'integrated projects' of the type foreseen in the LIFE programme are considered in Ireland, and particularly where these relate to Natura 2000 network management or climate change mitigation and adaptation activities, DAFM will work closely with DECLG to ensure that they complement similar measures under the EMFF OP.

Given its sheer scale the necessity for the development of synergies between the EMFF OP 2014-2020 and Horizon 2020, the EU framework programme for Research and Innovation, cannot be understated in order to blend the use of research and innovation funds with those of the EMFF fund.

In terms of the mechanics of blending the funds into joint approaches, the potential exists in relation to development of research infrastructure where EMFF may be deployed towards construction and fitting-out costs with Horizon 2020 being used for research and innovation programmes. The different funding sources could support different phases of the development of a technology over time, starting from basic research, to applied research, to demonstration or to pre-competitive market introduction.

In order to ensure that research and knowledge transfer activities implemented under the EMFF OP complement the activities being financed under Horizon 2020's 'Societal Challenge' pillar (under the heading 'Food security, sustainable agriculture and forestry, marine and maritime research and inland water research and the bioeconomy'), communication within DAFM between its intermediate bodies that implement the Knowledge Transfer and Innovation measures in the EMFF OP will occur on a regular basis from the measure design phase into the implementation and roll-out phase.

3.4.2 Main actions planned to achieve a reduction in administrative burden

Over the lifetime of the EMFF OP 2014-2020 an effort will be made by the Managing Authority and the Intermediate Bodies to reduce the administrative burden on final beneficiaries and to improve the efficiency of administration of the programme by making more effective the operation of the administrative roles. To achieve this the managing authorities and intermediate bodies will carry out the following activities to reduce the administrative burden associated in the implementation of EMFF funded schemes:

- To improve effective implementation of EMFF schemes operating under the EMFF OP 2014-2020 it is proposed that an online application and tracking system is put in place and explanatory brochures would be drafted to assist potential applicants in the understanding the application process and what is required of them.
- To assist final beneficiaries in retrieving information on supports available under the EMFF OP a dedicated website of information detailing supports available under the EMFF OP to the catching, processing and aquaculture sectors and to coastal communities through FLAGS will be available to potential beneficiaries.
- To improve administration in relation to the management, monitoring and reporting on the EMFF OP it is proposed that a dedicated website and IT system which would capture key data on all EMFF funded projects to facilitate efficient monitoring and timely reporting on the progress of the EMFF OP and the provision of information detailing funding provided to beneficiaries under the EMFF OP will be available to all bodies involved in the management of the EMFF OP.
- To assist final beneficiaries who received support under Union Priority 2 IT systems to spatially map licensed aquaculture sites and possibly potential areas available for aquaculture and areas where aquaculture should be excluded and the development of online licence application and tracking system for aquaculture and foreshore licensing will be in place. This would reduce the burden of providing information as part of the application process for EMFF support.
- In order to reduce the beneficiaries burden in relation to providing information to verify actual costs incurred as part of the implementation of a project it is proposed to introduce simplified costs as part of verification of expenditure.
- An effort will be made to shorten processing times of project and payment applications by providing clear guidance in relation to eligibility rules which would involve the provision of training for all bodies involved in implementing schemes in the EMFF OP. This will result in a more consistent administrative approach across all bodies, less difference in the interpretation of rules and regulations and providing equal treatment to all beneficiaries.
- The training provided to administrative bodies will be carried out in the form of networking events, formal training courses, etc. All these activities will be developed following a training needs analysis of the various bodies and the development of a training plan.

3.5 Information on the macro-regional or sea-basin strategies (where relevant)

Ireland, through the Inter-Departmental Marine Co-ordination Group and the dedicated Maritime Affairs Attaché, continues to play a significant role in shaping and defining EU Maritime Policy including the Atlantic Action Plan.

Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth (HOOW) is an Integrated Marine Plan (IMP) for Ireland, setting out a roadmap for Ireland's vision, high-level goals and integrated actions across policy, governance and business to enable its marine potential to be realised. Implementation of this Plan will see Ireland evolve an integrated system of policy and programme planning for its marine affairs. To support the implementation of HOOW the EMFF OP 2014-2020 will focus on supporting activities that increase the knowledge of the seas around Ireland's coast to assist in the development of marine spatial plan which is one of the priorities of HOOW. Through its investment in both fisheries and aquaculture sectors it will also support the high-level goals outlined in HOOW.

The **European Union Strategy for the Atlantic** (EUSA) is of specific interest to Ireland. The EUSA—involving Ireland, Spain, Portugal, France and the UK—identifies five priorities:

- ***implementing the ecosystem approach***—e.g. the Common Fisheries Policy and Marine Strategy Framework Directive;
- ***reducing Europe's carbon footprint***—e.g. climate change, ocean renewable energy and low-emission maritime transport;
- ***exploiting the Atlantic's seafloor natural resources***—e.g. marine raw materials for food, fuel and pharmaceuticals and marine knowledge;
- ***responding to threats and emergencies***—e.g. maritime safety, maritime crisis management and maritime surveillance; and
- ***socially inclusive growth***—e.g. coastal community initiatives, maritime clusters, training and tourism.

HOOW takes account of the opportunity for synergies with the EU Strategy for the Atlantic, and is a valuable contribution to getting the environment right for investment to drive the potential of Ireland's marine economy. The EMFF OP will implement measures which will support the priorities listed above with some examples as follows:

- Implementation of key priorities of the new Common Fisheries Policy. This may include studies, and development, trial and deployment of more selection gear technologies
- co-operation between the fisheries sector, scientists and environmental experts to ensure that all fisheries stakeholders understand the impacts of fishing activities in the marine environment.
- Reduction of carbon footprint through supports for engine efficiency in the Irish fleet.
- Development of a spatial mapping system which will identify licensed aquaculture sites, areas where aquaculture may be developed, and areas where aquaculture may be excluded in connection with requirements for the protection of species and habitats under the Habitats and Birds Directives.

- Development of new MSFD indicators by utilising data that is already collected as part of the DCF.
- Supporting Fisheries and aquaculture areas in developing local strategies which achieve social inclusive growth in these areas.
- Projects that support the blue growth strategy and the implementation of marine spatial planning which are objectives which will impact not only the seafood sector but all maritime sectors that utilise Atlantic waters.

4. REQUIREMENTS CONCERNING SPECIFIC EMFF MEASURES

4.1 Description of the specific needs of natura 2000 areas and the contribution of the programme to the establishment of a coherent network of fish stock recovery areas as laid out in Article 8 of the CFP Regulation

Natura 2000

Since 2009, Ireland has been addressing the judgement of the Court of Justice of the European Union in case C418/04 through a *Programme of Measures*. The POM has entailed a very significant financial, administrative and scientific investment by Ireland in resolving the CJEU judgement in the case. Ireland is now making aquaculture licence determinations in full compliance with the Habitats and Birds Directives. Completion of all bay-level appropriate assessment reports is expected in 2016. Risk assessments of fisheries activities in Natura 2000 areas have been completed in respect of all sites and where appropriate management measures are being developed with stakeholders to implement the findings.

Implementation of the Habitats and Birds Directives requires ongoing public investment and further investment is envisaged in the coming years to address issues identified in this OP.

Among the issues identified in the SWOT Analysis for this OP are:

- Need for better data on fishing pressure on protected habitats by EU fleets,
- Need for better data on the activities of under 10m vessels,
- Risk of loss of biodiversity and protected habitats and species without adequate fisheries management,
- Complex environmental requirements leading to delays in licensing process, and
- Spatial restrictions on aquaculture activities.

In response, the Strategy for UP1 proposes that supports will be provided to promote good fisheries management, to protect biodiversity in marine habitats, to conserve and re-build stocks and to support efficient design and implementation of conservation measures and regional cooperation under the CFP. These measures will support compliance with the Habitats, Birds and MSFD Directives. The Strategy for UP2 proposes the development of spatial mapping systems for aquaculture, while noting that other supports for Natura 2000 are funded through UP1.

The following priority actions have been identified for support from under this OP:

- Supports for Appropriate Assessment and Risk Assessment of fisheries and aquaculture activities in protected sites,
- A system for gathering spatial, temporal and outtake data for fishing by vessels <10m,
- Surveys and habitat mapping in protected sites,
- Programmes for monitoring of habitats and species in protected sites,

- Funding awareness raising mechanism for local structures.

Fish Stock Recovery Areas

The EU established the Biologically Sensitive Area (BSA) in the waters off the South and West coast of Ireland under Council Regulation (EC) 1954/2003. The CFP states that the Union should continue to give additional protection to the existing BSA.

Ireland will seek to:

- Strengthen the conservation benefits of the BSA working with the regional Members States to realise it's potential as a fish stock recovery area,
- Investigate within EU legal frameworks the potential of additional BSAs in the waters around Ireland that may be appropriate for fish stock recovery, and that may contribute to the conservation of living aquatic resources and marine ecosystems.

This OP will support a number of priority actions that will support the implementation of the ecosystem approach:

- Work on Marine Strategy Framework Directive descriptors which can be addressed using DCFdata
- Evolve fisheries surveys to collect more data for the MSFD
- Gear selectivity trials.
- Evaluate fishing mortality biomass against reference points.
- Enhance monitoring and mitigation of fisheries.
- Informatics in support of the CFP.

4.2 Description of the action plan for the development, competitiveness and sustainability of small-scale coastal fishing

There are 1,313 vessels in the Irish SSCF and they employ 1,528 people. In 2014 the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine announced the establishment of an Inshore Fisheries Forum initiative , comprising 6 Regional Inshore Fisheries Forums (RIFFs) feeding into a National Inshore Fisheries Forum (NIFF) to facilitate stakeholder engagement on fisheries inside the 6 mile limit. These groups contributed to the development of an action plan which focused on 3 areas. The full action plan is attached to this document

1. Development Action Plan

Challenges include dealing with poor representation to input to policy, poor data provision and limited infrastructure and facilities. Some actions proposed include supporting capacity-building, improving data provision and supporting investment in infrastructure and equipment on board.

2. Competitiveness Action Plan

Challenges identified include dealing with low market prices, high input costs and extreme weather conditions. Action proposed include supporting the development of management plans, investment in infrastructure and supporting diversification opportunities.

3. Sustainability Action Plan

Challenges identified include low stock biomass, reduced diversity of fishing opportunities, Natura & MSFD requirements and CFP, MSY and MSFD target. Some actions proposed to deal with challenges include supporting restoration of stocks, studies on impact of fisheries in Natura sites and the adoption of environmentally friendly fishing gear.

4.3 Description of the method for the calculation of simplified costs in accordance with Article 67(1)(b) to (d) of CPR Regulation

The payment of grants/support may be issued on the basis of the following:

- Applying a total cost model which issues payment on the basis of eligible casts actually incurred and paid
- Applying a standard scale of unit costs
- As lump sums not exceeding €100,000 of public contribution
- Using a flat rate financing model, determined by the application of a rate of 15% to one or more defined categories of costs.
- Using a flat rate financing model, determined by the application of a rate of 25% of eligible direct costs.
- Using a flat rate financing model, determined by the application of such other specified percentage rate of eligible direct costs.

The following section describe some eligible costs to which each model can be applied:

Total Cost Model

Eligible costs include all costs incurred for the implementation of the project which will be reimbursed by verifying individual costs items. In this model, various indirect cost items such as premises, utilities must be fairly and justifiably allocated to a project. This model is the main option that will be used in the EMFF OP.

Standard Unit of Costs

Can be applied to items such as travel costs, work performed in the implementers own enterprise and provision of training. National amounts as approved by the Revenue Commissioner for fringe benefits such as travel and subsistence rates.

Lump sum payments

Applicable to projects with a small number of cost items and a detailed budget, a specific output and low risk of failure. When applied the applicant must submit a detailed project budget with clear justifications for costs and an estimate of third party purchases to allow for quantification of support. The project may be broken into phases and a reasonable share of the total payment can be made after each phase has been completed.

Flat-rate financing

A flat rate support to indirect costs may be allowed based on a rate of up to 15 % of eligible direct staff costs, without any requirement for a calculation methodology, or for supporting documents from the beneficiary other than evidence of the value of the direct staff costs for the project concerned.

A flat rate support to indirect costs may be allowed at a rate of up to 25 % of eligible direct costs, on the basis of a fair, equitable and verifiable methodology calculated in advance demonstrating the case for support of indirect costs at the selected rate, or on the basis of a method applied under other nationally funded schemes for similar operations and beneficiaries, and without any requirement for supporting documents from the beneficiary other than evidence of the value of direct costs for the project concerned.

A flat rate support to indirect costs may be allowed at a particular percentage rate of eligible direct costs, on the basis of existing methods and corresponding rates applicable in Union policies for similar operations and beneficiaries, and without any requirement for supporting documents from the beneficiary other than evidence of the value of direct costs for the project concerned.

In-Kind Contributions

In the EMFF OP in-kind contributions in the form of salaries and allowances by a third party for the benefit of the participants in an operation are eligible provided they satisfy the following conditions:

1. Incurred in accordance with national rules, including accountancy rules;
2. Do not exceed the cost borne by the third party, and;
3. Meets the criteria set out under Article 69(1) of CPR 1303/2013.

4.4 Description of the method for the calculation of additional costs or income foregone in accordance with Article 97

Not being implemented under EMFF OP

4.5 Description of the method for the calculation of compensation according to relevant criteria identified for each of the activities deployed under Article 40(1), 53, 54, 55, 67 and 69(3) of Regulation (EU) No 508/2014

Biotoxin Compensation

Suspension for public health reasons of harvesting of shellfish during periods of raised biotoxin levels can in some cases lead to lost production and ensuing trading difficulties. Harvesting suspensions for extended periods can be compounded by stock exceeding market size, becoming fouled with marine organisms and losses of stock from over-capacity on long lines. The main objective of this action is to put in place a contingency for aid to farmers affected by these toxic algal blooms.

It is proposed that aid will be granted only where a harvesting suspension persists for more than 4 months. Aid will be prioritised for operators affected by the longest suspensions and will be limited to a maximum total aid to all farmers of €500,000 per year. Individual beneficiary limits may be implemented to ensure a fair distribution of funds. Individual beneficiaries will be limited to one aid payment over the period of the Programme.

Storage Aid

The EMFF OP may support compensation to recognised producer organisations, or associations of producers organisations, which store fishery products listed in Annex II to Regulation (EU) No 1379/2013, provided that those products are stored in accordance with Articles 30 and 31 of that Regulation. Support for Storage Aid will cease by 31 December 2018. Storage Aid will only be granted once the products are released for human

consumption.

Ireland will set annual trigger prices for its entire territory as laid down in Article 31 of CMO Regulation 1379/2013. The trigger prices will activate the storage mechanism laid down in Article 30 of that Regulation. Storage Aid will be granted once the products stored for at least five days are reintroduced from storage into the market for human consumption. Quantities eligible for storage aid must not exceed 15% of annual quantities of the species put up for sale by the Producer Organisation.

The amount of Storage Aid granted is based on the quantity placed in storage (A) multiplied by the technical and financial cost per kg (B) of the action required for the stabilisation and storage of the product in question. Technical costs are calculated on the basis of expenses related to labour, energy, transport and other operational costs arising from storage (i.e. live storage, freezing, salting, drying, marinating and boiling). Financial cost shall be calculated each year based on Ireland's national interest rate.

The formula for calculation of the payments to POs is as follows:

$$1. (\text{Quantity placed in Storage}) \times B. (\text{Technical \& Financial Cost Per Kg})$$

The above is subject to certain conditions as follows:

- Quantities concerned may not exceed 15% of the annual quantity of concerned products put up for sale by the PO;
- Annual financial support must not exceed 2% of the average annual turnover of the production placed on the market by the Producer Organisation in the period 2009 - 2011;
- Products must be subsequently released for human consumption.

The Managing Authority shall implement controls to ensure that the products benefiting from Storage Aid fulfil the conditions of Storage Aid and for the purposes of these controls, beneficiaries of Storage Aid shall keep stock records for each category of products entered into storage and later reintroduced onto the market for human consumption.

Article 55 aid for Covid 19

A simplified cost approach will be taken. Using official data held by BIM from the Annual Aquaculture Production and Employment Survey on production levels at an individual enterprise level in previous years and on average cost of production, together with CSO data on volume of exports for the period concerned by the aid, the average loss per business will be calculated for each of three enterprise size classes based on their historic production

levels: 0 to < 50 tonnes, 50 to < 100 tonnes and \geq 100 tonnes. Aid will be based on this average loss per business but may be capped at a lower rate depending on budget availability. Aid will be paid in the form of one-off fixed payments.

4.6 As regards the measures for the permanent cessation of fishing activities under Article 34 of Regulation (EU) No 508/2014, such description shall include the targets and measures to be taken for the reduction of the fishing capacity in accordance with Article 22 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013. A description of the method for the calculation of the premium to be granted under Articles 33 and 34 of Regulation (EU) No 508/2014 shall also be included

Temporary Cessation under Article 33(1)(d)

Description of the method for the calculation of the premium to be granted

Ireland's temporary cessation scheme under article 33(1)(d) will provide a set premium to vessel owners participating in the scheme. The scheme monthly premium will be separately defined by each of 8 vessel size categories, as follows:

<6 metres

6 < 8 metres

8 < 10 metres

10 < 12 metres

12 < 15 metres

15 < 18 metres

18 < 24 metres

> 24 metres

The premium will be payable for a one calendar month tie-up period. The premium will aid 100% of typical fixed costs per month of participating vessels. Fixed costs in the fishing industry include insurance, legal fees, accountancy fees, loan interest and other fixed costs. These must be paid by business owners even if they are unable to fish. Loan interest will be excluded from the fixed costs aided under the scheme as a moratorium is operating by the

banks.

The typical fixed costs of vessels in each of these length categories will be derived from official data from the National Seafood Survey (NSS), Sentinel Vessel Programme and questionnaire data accompanying grant applications. The NSS provides data to comply with the EU Data Collection Framework, and targets all active fishing vessels over 10m in the target sample year. Data collected in the NSS include details on income, expenditures costs, capital values, employment and gear usage. Costs are identified in two distinct categories; fixed and variables cost. Fixed costs are identified as costs that are generated by a business independent of the level of production. As the NSS does not cover vessels under 10 metres, other official data will be used to establish the typical fixed costs of such vessels. A Sentinel Vessel Programme managed by BIM and the Marine Institute collects biological and economic data from approximately 70 inshore vessels. In addition, vessels owners applying to BIM for grant assistance are required to return an economic and social questionnaire.

The typical annual fixed costs for each vessel category of 8 metres or more will be divided by 12 and rounded to give the monthly premium. For vessel categories under 8 metres, these vessels are more weather dependent and their fishing activities are thus highly concentrated in the more settled periods between late Spring and early Autumn, with their earnings likewise deriving overwhelmingly from these mid-year months. These earnings pay for the fixed costs for the year. To calculate the monthly premium payable, a 4 month activity period will be assumed for vessels under 6 metres and a 5 month activity period for vessels in the size category $6 < 8$ metres. Thus, the typical annual fixed costs of vessels under 6 metres will be divided by 4 rather than 12, and rounded to establish the premium payable per month and the typical annual fixed costs of vessels in the category $6 < 8$ metres will be divided by 5.

4.7 Mutual funds for adverse climatic events and environment incidents

Fisheries Fund

Article 35 EMFF provides for the establishment by fishermen or Producer Organisations of a mutual fund allowing affiliated fishermen to insure themselves against losses arising from severe storm events, environmental incidents similarly impacting on the fishing sector and for the rescue costs for fishermen or fishing vessels in the case of accidents at sea during fishing expeditions. Subject to expressions of interest from the sector, Ireland will facilitate this by defining in accordance with article 35(5) detailed rules for the establishment and management of such a Fund, for the granting of compensation payments from such a Fund and for eligibility for support under this OP. These rules will provide that payments will be net of any insurance or other compensation payments from any source for the loss concerned.

The prospects for the establishment of such a Fund by fishermen will depend on the extent to which it may attract subscriptions from fishermen, as the EMFF rules provide only for a contribution from this EMFF OP and not to the initial capital stock. This will require a high

number of subscriptions or high subscription premia for the Fund to be viable.

4.8 Description on the use of technical assistance

4.8.1 Technical assistance at the initiative of the MS

Technical Assistance will be used to support the preparatory, management, monitoring, administrative and technical support, evaluation, information, networking and co-ordination activities, complaint resolution and control and audit measures necessary for the effective implementation the Operational Programme under the EMFF.

Technical Assistance will, subject to the limits set down in Article 59 (1) of the CPR, support areas such as:

- Preparation, selection, appraisal and monitoring of programmes and operations which are the subject of co-funded assistance
- Meetings of the OP Monitoring Committee and any related sub-committees
- Financial management and control, audit and verification activities on co-funded operations
- OP-level information actions including costs of the development and operation of programme-related web-sites
- Evaluations of the programme.
- Actions for the reduction of the administrative burden on beneficiaries, including the establishment and operation of the computerised system for data exchange and e-cohesion system
- Provision of guidance and training to Intermediary Bodies and beneficiaries to reinforce the capacity of Member State authorities and beneficiaries to administer and use those Funds and participation by Managing Authority staff in appropriate training programmes
- Cost of establishment and administration of complaint resolution procedures
- Study visits and attendance at meetings and conferences related to European Maritime and fisheries fund Policy
- Networking, co-ordination and other activities in support of complementarities, with other EU funded programmes, including attendance at Steering and Monitoring Committee meetings
- The EMFFF may be used to support actions to reinforce the capacity of relevant partners in accordance with Article 5(3)(e) of the CPR and to support exchanges of good practices between such partners
- Any other activities deemed appropriate by the Certifying and Managing Authority
- Any monitoring and evaluation activities that are implemented to support the National Aquaculture strategy.

Technical Assistance may also be used to cover the appropriate costs of the EMFF Audit Authority, as well as the costs of the management controls undertaken by the Managing

Authority.

4.8.2 Establishment of national networks

In the 2007-2013 EFF OP under axis 4 the National Implementing Board was formed to carry out the roles of providing networking activities for the Fisheries Local Action Groups formed under Axis 4. It is intended that in the EMFF 2014-2020 a similar type network would be formed which would contain representative of the FLAGS selected under UP 4 and other bodies that have a role in implementing CLLD over the lifetime of the programme. It is expected that this network will be officially formed in early 2016 following the selection process of the FLAGS and their respective strategies.

The objective of the network would be to ensure co-ordination between the FLAGS and the Managing Authority and BIM and also to ensure a consistent approach across all FLAGS in the implementation of CLLD in their areas. The national network will periodically convene meetings of representatives of the FLAGS to facilitate and encourage the exchange of experience and best practice in order to stimulate co-operation between the groups and disseminate information. It will also coordinate representation of Ireland's CAGs at European Fora.

The networks tasks will include planning and organising training events, seminars and other events, promoting the internal and external networking of CLLD groups, participation in international events and networks, and communication and information activities related to the implementation of CLLD in fisheries and aquaculture areas. The national network in partnership with the FLAGS will promote the implementation of projects within their respective local development strategies and the dissemination of information related to projects and best practices. Thematic working groups will be set up to discuss and develop various aspects of its activities.

The Network will seek to establish a relationship with rural networks that operate under LEADER. This will ensure a cost-effective operating method and synergies between the EARDF and the EMFF.

5. SPECIFIC INFORMATION ON INTEGRATED TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT

5.1 Information on the implementation of CLLD

5.1.1 A description of the strategy for CLLD

Strategy

Ireland's strategy for implementation of CLLD in fisheries and aquaculture areas will be focussed on promoting innovative approaches in fisheries and aquaculture areas to create growth and jobs in those areas, in particular by adding value to fishery and aquaculture products and diversifying the local economy towards new economic activities, in particular those offered by 'blue growth' and the broader maritime sectors.

The objectives of Ireland's Strategy will be to promote the economic, environmental and social sustainability of fisheries and aquaculture areas, and to maintain and improve employment prospects in fisheries and aquaculture areas.

Ireland will seek to implement this Strategy by encouraging communities involved in the fishery and aquaculture sectors to become drivers of the sustainable development of their areas through development and implementation of a Local Development Strategy. These Strategies will identify the best approach to the development of their respective areas, having regard to the 'Needs' identified in section 2.1 for Union Priority 4. Strategies will prioritise actions within the seafood sector and the broader maritime economy.

Actions supported through Local Development Strategies will be required to avoid duplication of or competition with measures provided under the other Union Priorities of this Programme.

Approach to implementation

The implementation of CLLD will take a multi-stage approach as follows.

Stage 1 – Call for Expressions of Interest

Community groups will be invited to express an interest in developing a local development strategy for a fisheries and aquaculture area as proposed by them. Prospective FLAG areas will be required to meet a number of mandatory criteria to be considered eligible to submit expressions of interest, as detailed in section 5.1.2. The territory for each FLAG area will be

required to be unique, so where more than one proposal is received concerning any particular area, the Irish authorities will liaise with the groups concerned to ensure the integrity of each FLAG area proposed.

Stage 2 – Selection of FLAG areas for preparatory support

A Selection Committee will recommend a maximum of 7 expressions of interest for approval of preparatory support under this OP to develop a Local Development Strategy for their area. Areas will be selected for support on the basis of the Selection Criteria set out in section 5.1.2. Preparatory support will assist approved groups to prepare a Local Development Strategy through supports for the costs of developing the LDS, training and capacity building and engagement with the communities in their area.

It is expected that the preparation of Local Development Strategies will take approximately six months from date of approval.

Stage 3 – Evaluation and Approval of Local Development Strategies

A Selection Committee will evaluate draft Local Development Strategies on the basis of the Selection Criteria outlined in section 5.1.3. Local Development Strategies meeting a required standard in this evaluation will be recommended by the Committee for approval as FLAG groups and for supports under this OP for implementation of their Strategy.

Stage 4 – Implementation of approved Local Development Strategies

Approved FLAGs will implement their Local Development Strategies by issuing calls for projects that meet the objectives set out in the Strategy.

5.1.2 A list of criteria applied for selecting the fisheries areas

Mandatory criteria to be considered eligible to submit an expression of interest

- The area proposed must have at least one boundary comprising the coastline.
- The area must have a significant level of employment in fisheries or aquaculture.

- The population of Coastal Electoral Districts for proposed area must be over 70,000
- The area must have a minimum of 150 vessels between all fleet segments on the Fleet Register and preferably not more than 400.
- The area proposed must have no more than one National Fishery Harbour Centre.

Selection Criteria to be used to select proposals for preparatory support

- Size and importance of the fishing and aquaculture sector in the area (employment, numbers and size of boats, nature and type of fishing, landings/production size, value).
- Character of the area: contiguity, coastal, estuary, protected areas, maximum and minimum population sizes, population density, population decline, remote areas.
- Extent of representation of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors in the group.
- Group's proposals for local engagement in strategy development.

5.1.3 A list of selection criteria for local development strategies

In considering draft local development strategies prepared for approved areas, the following criteria will be used to evaluate the strategy to ensure it meets set minimum standards before groups are allocated funding to implement the strategy.

- Is the LDS consistent with the overarching strategy set out in this Programme, in particular for CLLD as set out in section 5.1.1?
- Clear objectives and vision, based on a SWOT analysis and clear needs definition
- Demonstrated value added of forming a FLAG with EMFF support
- Extent to which the local development strategy addresses its objectives and vision .
- To what extent is the strategy focused on issues of greatest relevance for the area?
- To what extent does the strategy respond to the needs and challenges of the area?
- Is the analysis of the area based on reliable data and indicators?
- Does the strategy demonstrate clearly the links between SWOT, needs, objectives, activities and outcomes? (Intervention logic)
- Are the objectives measurable and realistically achievable within the available budget and time frame?
- Is there evidence of the involvement of key local actors, including the fisheries sector?
- Does the strategy provide for strengthening links between different sectors and

different types of actors, in particular fisheries? Does it create synergies?

- Is there evidence of the applicant's capacity to deliver the outcomes? Is the action plan clear and robust?
- Is the use of resources (human, financial) justified in relation to the proposed action? What mobilisation of other resources (including private funding) is envisaged?
- How have horizontal issues (environment, gender equality) been addressed?
- Extent of representation of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors in the group.
- Experience and track record of the group in the fisheries and wider seafood area and demonstrated understanding in the strategy of the issues that have affected the communities in the area.
- Strategy's proposals concerning support to coherent sub-areas.
- Strategy for local engagement in strategy implementation.

5.1.4 A clear description of the respective roles of the FLAGs, the managing authority or designated body for all implementation tasks relating to the strategy

Fisheries Local Action Groups

The role of FLAG will include:

- Build capacity of local actors to develop and implement the Local Development Strategy for their fisheries and aquaculture area.
- Draft a Local Development Strategy consistent with the objectives of the EMFF OP, CFP and EU2020.
- As part of the of the LDS development process, develop a finance plan and an evaluation and monitoring plan for the LDS.
- Develop non-discriminatory and transparent selection procedures and objective criteria for selection of operations under the LDS.
- Animate and promote through information and publicity activities the LDS in their defined fisheries and aquaculture areas.
- Monitor, evaluate and report on the progress of the LDS over its lifetime.
- Assess projects that meet the objectives and vision of the LDSs for their defined fisheries and aquaculture area.
- Select projects for funding and fix the amount of support.
- Co-operation activities at a regional and transnational level.
- Support the activities implemented by the National FLAG Network and EU FLAG network (FARNET).

Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM)

As an Intermediate Body delegated tasks by the Managing Authority and as a lead partner in

relation to financial and administrative matters for Union Priority 4, BIM will carry out the following roles in the implementation of CLLD.

- Issue a call for expressions of interest for FLAG areas
- Technical evaluation of expressions of interest received.
- Act as secretariat to the Selection Committee.
- Participate in the Selection Committee.
- Approve groups for preparatory support on the basis of recommendations of the Selection Committee.
- Technical evaluation of draft Local Development Strategies.
- Approve groups as FLAGs and for support for implementation of a Local Development Strategy on the basis of the recommendations of the Selection Committee.
- Provide administrative support to all selected FLAGs.
- Approve projects for funding on the basis of the assessment and project selection carried out by the FLAGs and on the basis of their eligibility for support under the LDS, EMFF OP and EMFF Regulation.
- Issue letters of offers to project beneficiaries on behalf of the FLAGs.
- Issue payment of claims made by project beneficiaries on behalf of FLAGs
- Ensure that there is a clear audit trail for all expenditure associated with CLLD implementation carried out by FLAGs that is made available to all auditing bodies.

Selection Committee

The Selection Committee will comprise the Managing Authority for the Programme, BIM, a representative of the Rural Development Programme (LEADER), and other relevant external experts. Its role will be to:

- Evaluate expressions of interest and make recommendations for approval of groups for preparatory support.
- Evaluate draft Local Development Strategies and make recommendations on strategies to be approved.

5.1.5 Information on advance payments to FLAGS

No advance payments will be made to FLAGS

5.2 Information on integrated territorial investments

EMFF measures covered
Article 37 Support for the design and implementation of conservation measures
Article 38 Limiting the impact of fishing on the marine environment and adapting fishing to the protection of species (+ art. 44.1.c Inland fishing)
Article 39 Innovation linked to the conservation of marine biological resources (+ art. 44.1.c Inland fishing)
Article 40.1.a Protection and restoration of marine biodiversity – collection of lost fishing gear and marine litter
Article 43.2 Fishing ports, landing sites, auction halls and shelters – investments to facilitate compliance with the obligation to land all catches
Article 40.1.b-g, i Protection and restoration of marine biodiversity – contribution to a better management or conservation, construction, installation or modernisation of static or movable facilities, preparation of protection and management plans related to NATURA2000 sites and spatial protected areas, management, restoration and monitoring marine protected areas, including NATURA 2000 sites, environmental awareness, participation in other actions aimed at maintaining and enhancing biodiversity and ecosystem services (+ art. 44.6 Inland fishing)
Article 36 Support to systems of allocation of fishing opportunities
Article 27 Advisory services (+ art. 44.3 Inland fishing)
Article 31 Start-up support for young fishermen (+ art. 44.2 Inland fishing)
Article 32 Health and safety (+ art. 44.1.b Inland fishing)
Article 33 Temporary cessation of fishing activities
Article 35 Mutual funds for adverse climatic events and environmental incidents
Article 42 Added value, product quality and use of unwanted catches (+ art. 44.1.e Inland fishing)
Article 43.1 + 3 Fishing ports, landing sites, auction halls and shelters - investments improving fishing port and auctions halls infrastructure or landing sites and shelters; construction of shelters to improve safety of fishermen (+ art. 44.1.f Inland fishing)
Article 26 Innovation (+ art. 44.3 Inland fishing)
Article 28 Partnerships between fishermen and scientists (+ art. 44.3 Inland fishing)
Article 41.1.a, b, c Energy efficiency and mitigation of climate change – on board investments; energy efficiency audits and schemes; studies to assess the contribution of alternative propulsion systems and hull designs (+ art. 44.1.d Inland fishing)
Article 41.2 Energy efficiency and mitigation of climate change - Replacement or modernisation of main or ancillary engines (+ art. 44.1.d Inland fishing)
Article 29.1 + 29.2 Promoting human capital and social dialogue - training, networking, social dialogue; support to spouses and life partners (+ art. 44.1.a Inland fishing)
Article 29.3 Promoting human capital and social dialogue – trainees on board of SSCF vessels / social dialogue (+ art. 44.1.a Inland fishing)
Article 47 Innovation
Article 49 Management, relief and advisory services for aquaculture farms
Article 48.1.a-d, f-h Productive investments in aquaculture
Article 52 Encouraging new sustainable aquaculture farmers
Article 51 Increasing the potential of aquaculture sites
Article 53 Conversion to eco-management and audit schemes and organic aquaculture
Article 55 Public health measures
Article 56 Animal health and welfare measures

EMFF measures covered
Article 50 Promoting human capital and networking
Article 77 Data collection
Article 76 Control and enforcement
Article 62.1.a Preparatory support
Article 63 Implementation of local development strategies (incl. running costs and animation)
Article 64 Cooperation activities
Article 66 Production and marketing plans
Article 67 Storage aid
Article 68 Marketing measures
Article 69 Processing of fisheries and aquaculture products
Article 80.1.a Integrating Maritime Surveillance
Article 80.1.b Promotion of the protection of marine environment, and the sustainable use of marine and coastal resources
Article 80.1.c Improving the knowledge on the state of the marine environment

Indicative financial allocation from EMFF (€)

6. FULFILMENT OF EX-ANTE CONDITIONALITIES

6.1 Identification of applicable ex-ante conditionalities and assessment of their fulfilment

6.1.1 Applicable EMFF specific ex-ante conditionalities

Ex-ante conditionality	Union priorities to which conditionality applies	Fulfilled
1 - Report on fishing capacity has been submitted in accordance with Article 22(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013	1	Yes
2 - The establishment of a multiannual national strategic plan on aquaculture, as referred to in Article 34 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013, by 2014	2	Yes
3 - Administrative capacity: administrative capacity is available to comply with the data requirements for fisheries management set out in Article 25 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 and Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 199/2008	3	Yes
4 - Administrative capacity: administrative capacity is available to comply with the implementation of a Union control, inspection and enforcement system as provided for in Article 36 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 and further specified in Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009	3	Partially

6.1.1 Criteria and assessment of their fulfilment

Ex-ante conditionality	Criterion	Fulfilled	Reference	Explanation
1 - Report on fishing capacity has been submitted in accordance with Article 22(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013	1 - The report is made in accordance with common guidelines issued by the Commission	Yes	Report was submitted to the Commission in accordance with the guidelines in May 2015.	
1 - Report on fishing capacity has been submitted in accordance with Article 22(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013	2 - Fishing capacity does not exceed the fishing capacity ceiling set up in Annex II to Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013	Yes	Fleet Report 2014 submitted	

2 - The establishment of a multiannual national strategic plan on aquaculture, as referred to in Article 34 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013, by 2014	1 - A multiannual national strategic plan on aquaculture is transmitted to the Commission at the latest by the day of transmission of the operational programme	Yes	Ireland's National Strategic Plan for Sustainable Aquaculture Development submitted to Commission 23 October 2015	
2 - The establishment of a multiannual national strategic plan on aquaculture, as referred to in Article 34 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013, by 2014	2 - The operational programme includes information on the complementarities with the multiannual national strategic plan on aquaculture	Yes	Ireland's EMFF OP 2014-2020 and National Strategic Plan for Sustainable Aquaculture Development	
3 - Administrative capacity: administrative capacity is available to comply with the data requirements for fisheries management set out in Article	1 - A description of the administrative capacity to prepare and apply a multiannual programme for data collection, to be reviewed by STECF and accepted by the	Yes	<p>(STECF Evaluation of Data Collection Programmes of Member states for 2009 and 2010 (09-02_SG-ECA/RN 09-01), Feb 2009).</p> <p>(STECF Evaluation of National Programmes (NPs) linked to the Data Collection Framework (DCF) and review of surveys (SG-ECA/RN 09-04), Dec 2009)</p> <p>STECF Evaluation of 2011-2013 National Programmes linked to the Data Collection Framework SG-RN 10-01, Jun 2010).</p> <p>(STECF Evaluation of 2012 National Programmes (NPs) related to the Data Collection Framework (DCF), (EWG 11-19), Nov 2011)</p>	The Marine Institute (MI) was designated as the National Correspondent Agency for the DCF on behalf of the Department of Agriculture,

<p>25 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 and Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 199/2008</p>	<p>Commission</p>			<p>Marine and Food and has carried out this function since the initiation of the Advisory procedure by the EU in 2002.</p> <p>The MI and Board Iascaigh Mhara (BIM) have the scientists and technical staff available to participate in the execution of DCF National programmes including the aquaculture, fish processing and the economic requirements of the National Programme. Together the organisations have access to approx</p>
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				<p>30 senior scientific staff, an economist and 42 technical staff to deliver the national programme and annual reports.</p> <p>The MI and BIM have to date demonstrated they have the capacity to comply with the data requirements for fisheries management. Since 2002 the MI has ensured that all timeframes set out in the Regulation(s) were consistently met, including submission of the National Programmes, Budget Forecasts, Annual Report</p>
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				and Cost Statement.
3 - Administrative capacity: administrative capacity is available to comply with the data requirements for fisheries management set out in Article 25 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 and Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 199/2008	2 - A description of the administrative capacity to prepare and implement work plans for data collection, to be reviewed by STECF and accepted by the Commission	Yes	<p>2009 Annual report was submitted 25 May 2010. Clarifications were sought by CION on the 29 Sept 2010 and these were answered on the 14/21 of Oct and 10 Nov 2010.</p> <p>2010 Annual report was submitted 25 May 2011. Clarifications were sought by CION on the 3 Nov 2011 and these were answered on the 18 Nov 2011.</p> <p>2011 Annual report was submitted 29 May 2012. Clarifications were sought by CION on the 6 Nov 2012 and these were answered on the 12 Nov 2012.</p> <p>2012 Annual report was submitted 24 May 2013.</p>	<p>Data deficiencies that have been highlighted by the Commission as part of the shortcomings in overall system have been addressed to best effect with a view to improving the overall system.</p> <p>For Data calls in 2010 a 2% reduction amounting to €52,491 was applied in relation to SGECA (1%) and ICES (1%) WG's. DG Mare submitted a query with financial reduction on the</p>

				<p>24 Mar 2011 and the NC responded on the 19 Apr 2011. The financial reduction was set aside on the basis of the explanations provided and paid all remaining balance.</p> <p>For Data calls in 2011 a 3% reduction amounting to €80,599 was applied in relation to JRC (2%) and ICES (1%) WG's. DG Mare submitted a query with financial reduction on the 12 Jul 2012 and the NC responded on the 24 Jul 2012.</p>
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				<p>The financial reduction was set aside on the basis of the explanations provided and paid all remaining balance.</p> <p>For Data calls in 2012 there were no issues with data transmissions by Ireland.</p>
<p>3 - Administrative capacity: administrative capacity is available to comply with the data requirements for fisheries management set out in Article 25 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 and Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 199/2008</p>	<p>3 - A description of the capacity in human resources allocation to undertake bilateral or multilateral agreements with other Member States if the work to implement the data collection obligations is shared</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Bilateral agreements 1-3 described in the Explanation column are outlined in Ireland's Annual Report 2013, 29th May 2014, as Annex 1. Agreements 4-7 are informal agreements focused on internationally co-ordinated surveys.</p>	<p>Ireland has 7 bilateral agreements in place which are all working successfully. These agreements include the following:</p> <p>Ireland and Marine Scotland on age, length and maturity of</p>

				<p>demersal and pelagic fish, including UK pelagic vessels landing in Ireland.</p> <p>Between Ireland and France for - French vessels landing into Ireland and transported for first sale in France; for four Irish Pelagic vessels who may land for first sale in France.</p> <p>Between Ireland and Denmark for pelagics landed by Danish Vessels into Ireland.</p> <p>Working agreements under the DCF for the annual joint</p>
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						<p>survey of Blue Whiting in cooperation with UK, Spain, NL, DK, France, Faeroes, Norway & Russia.</p> <p>Working agreements under the DCF for Triennial Mackerel Egg Survey with UK, Denmark, and Netherlands.</p> <p>With N. Ireland for Nephrops in Irish Sea (VII).</p> <p>Joint IRL staff participation with Denmark on the International Ecosystem Survey of the Nordic Seas /Atlanto Scandian Herring Survey.</p>	
4	-	1	-	A	Yes	2012 European Communities (Late Payments in Commercial	The

<p>Administrative capacity: administrative capacity is available to comply with the implementation of a Union control, inspection and enforcement system as provided for in Article 36 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 and further specified in Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009</p>	<p>description of the administrative capacity to prepare and implement the section of the operational programme pertaining to the national control financing programme as referred to in point (o) of Article 18(1)</p>		<p>Transactions) Regulations</p> <p>2004 Procurement Guidelines produced by the NPPPU</p> <p>2005 Guidelines for Appraisal and Management of Capital Expenditure Proposals in the Civil Service</p> <p>2006 Guidelines of Engaging Consultants and Other External Support in the Civil Service</p> <p>2013: Circular 1/2013 Payment of Funds by Electronic Transfer</p> <p>2014: Circular 10/2014 Increasing Access of SME's by Public Service Contracts</p> <p>www.etenders.gov.ie</p>	<p>SFPA administrators Control funding provided under the current arrangements and is subject to national and EU rules regarding finance and procurement. The SFPA has submitted requests every year by the deadline since 2008. All its activities are subject to both internal and external Audits. In 2010 the SFPA was also been subject to a finance audit of Control Funding by the EU Commission.</p>
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				<p>Human Resources Available:</p> <p>Finance Unit of the SFPA:</p> <p>3 FTE, one graduate (Accounts Payable) and one temporary agency worker (payroll)</p> <p>Procurement Unit:</p> <p>1 FTE</p> <p>External Human Resources:</p> <p>Comptroller and Auditor General; Internal Audit Practitioners and the Authority's Audit Committee (required under Corporate Governance rules). The e-tenders website is used for the</p>
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				overall majority of our procurement exercises . It enables the Authority to maintain transparency during its procurement process and also to create a full audit trail of the procurement activity for the purposes of audit etc.
4 - Administrative capacity: administrative capacity is available to comply with the implementation of a Union inspection and enforcement system as provided for in Article 36 of Regulation (EU)	2 - A description of the administrative capacity to prepare and implement the national control action programme for multiannual plans, as provided for in Article 46 of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009	Yes	<p>Ireland's National Control Programme This is an internal SFPA document that is produced annually in consultation with our Control Partners.</p> <p>Cod Control Programme</p> <p>http://www.sfpa.ie/Portals/0/Users/020/20/20/2013%20COD%20National%20Control%20Programme.pdf</p> <p>Hake Control Programme</p> <p>http://www.sfpa.ie/Portals/0/Sea-Fisheries%20Conservation/Control%20Programs</p> <p>Pelagic Control Programme</p> <p>http://www.sfpa.ie/Portals/0/Sea-Fisheries%20Conservation/Control%20Programs</p>	The SFPA produces National Control Action Programme in partnership with our Control Partners the Naval Service and Air Corps for these species each year and is published on the secure part of

<p>No 1380/2013 and further specified in Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009</p>				<p>Ireland's Website.</p> <p>The NCAP, which is one element of Ireland Control Plan, sets out specific inspection benchmarks for inspections on land, inspections at sea, aerial surveillance and commitment to Joint Deployment Plans, the progress of which is reviewed and report on quarterly . The elements of the plan are developed using risk management strategies for the specific fishery. This includes activities such as collecting data and</p>
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				<p>information, analysing and assessing risk, prescribing and taking action and regular monitoring and review of this process and its outcomes. The NCAP is also reviewed as part of monthly operational meetings of the Control Partners. This risk management process will be based on international, community, or national sources and strategies.</p>
<p>4 - Administrative capacity: administrative capacity is available to comply with the</p>	<p>3 - A description of the administrative capacity to prepare and implement a common control programm</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Ireland's National Control Programme</p> <p>This is an internal SFPAs document that is produced annually in consultation with our Control Partners.</p>	<p>Since 2012 Ireland, United Kingdom, France and Spain have carried out an</p>

<p>impleme ntation of a Union control, inspectio n and enforcem ent system as provided for in Article 36 of Regulatio n (EU) No 1380/201 3 and further specified in Regulatio n (EC) No 1224/200 9</p>	<p>e that may be developed with other Member States, as provided for in Article 94 of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009</p>			<p>annual Commo n Control Program me in relation to the Hake fishery in ICES Sub Area VII and VIII.</p> <p>This SFPA produces and annual documen t for this CCP followin g consultat ion with the United Kingdo m, France and Spain. The documen t outlines the scope of the program me and includes details on proposed patrols, exchang es of inspecto rs and sharing of informat ion.</p> <p>The followin g</p>
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				number of patrols were undertaken by the MS involved in the relevant years ; 2012 – 11 patrols, 2013 – 9 patrols and in 2014 there are 11 patrols scheduled.
4 - Administrative capacity: administrative capacity is available to comply with the implementation of a Union control, inspection and enforcement system as provided for in Article 36 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 and further specified in Regulation (EC) No	4 - A description of the administrative capacity to prepare and implement the specific control and inspection programmes, as provided for in Article 95 of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009	Yes	<p>References</p> <p>Ireland's National Control Programme</p> <p>This is an internal SFPA document that is produced annually in consultation with our Control Partners.</p> <p>Cod SCIP</p> <p>http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32013D0328&qid=1422442139393&from=EN</p> <p>2014 Joint Deployment Plans under the auspices of the European Fisheries Control Agency</p> <p>http://efca.europa.eu/pages/home/jdp_north_2014.htm</p>	Ireland participates in three SCIP's for Cod, Hake and Pelagic Species. Ireland also participates in the Joint Deployment Plans associated with those SCIP's. Inspections of fishing vessels takes place in accordance with agreed benchmarks for specific control &

1224/2009				<p>inspection programmes and in accordance with a sampling methodology based on risk management as defined in Article 4 (18) of regulation (EC) No 1224/2009. The SFPA and NAVAL SERVICE will continue to operate and develop a capacity for analysis of the received data to inform the risk assessment of the specific fleets and fleet segments. This data will inform the patrol targeting or operational profiling in</p>
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				conjunction with the other defined risk analysis parameters.
4 - Administrative capacity: administrative capacity is available to comply with the implementation of a Union control, inspection and enforcement system as provided for in Article 36 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 and further specified in Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009	5 - A description of the administrative capacity to apply a system of effective, proportionate and dissuasive sanctions for serious infringements, as provided for in Article 90 of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009	Yes	Sea Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006 http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/2006/en/act/pub/0008/index.html	Criminal proceedings within the Jurisdiction provide penalties of up to €100000 and on conviction the automatic forfeiture of the catch and the gear from the fishing vessel involved or its monetary equivalent on lieu. The capacity to bring infringements detected to a successful conclusion rest within the judicial system and the partner

				<p>enforce ment agencies of police and prosecuti on services. The maximu m penalties available for each offence are set in law but the level of fine imposed is at the discretio n of the presidin g judge. There is no specific capacity for the State to demand a particula r minimu m sanction other than to outline the gravity of the infringe ment in evidence .</p> <p>A register of all infringe ments detected is maintain ed by the single authority</p>
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				and contains identification details of the natural and legal persons liable for infringements, the identification of any vessel the nature of infringements and the outcome of any investigation or criminal prosecution.
4 - Administrative capacity: administrative capacity is available to comply with the implementation of a Union control, inspection and enforcement system as provided for in Article 36 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 and	6 - A description of the administrative capacity to apply the point system for serious infringements, as provided for in Article 92 of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009	No	Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 404/2011 SI 3 of 2014 European Union (Common Fisheries Policy)(Point System) Regulation	National legislation is in place to provide for the imposition of the prescribed penalty points (Annex XXX) from the determination of a serious infringement following detection but in keeping with national legal requirements will

<p>further specified in Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009</p>				<p>afford the license holder the facility of an appeal of the application of points to their license to an independent appeals officer and onwards to the court system if they so desire. The SFPA has a Legal Case management Unit that oversees the management of the point system. This system is currently in development.</p>
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6.1.2 Applicable general ex-ante conditionalities and assessment of their fulfilment

Ireland's Partnership Agreement provides an overview of the assessment of all general Ex-ante conditionalities that are applicable to the ESIF funds in Section 2.3 and outlined in Table 14 of that section. The ex-ante conditionalities applicable to the EMFF, namely on public procurement, State Aid, Environmental legislation relating to environmental impact assessment (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), and Statistical Systems

and Result Indicators, have been fulfilled by Ireland.

6.2 Description of the actions to be taken, the bodies responsible and the timetable for their implementation

6.2.1 Actions envisaged to achieve the fulfilment of the EMFF specific ex-ante conditionalities

Ex-ante conditionality	Criterion	Actions to be taken	Deadline	Bodies responsible for fulfilment
4 - Administrative capacity: administrative capacity is available to comply with the implementation of a Union control, inspection and enforcement system as provided for in Article 36 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 and further specified in Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009	6 - A description of the administrative capacity to apply the point system for serious infringements, as provided for in Article 92 of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009	Step 1: Examine the issues raised following stakeholders consultation with a view to addressing, where appropriate, concerns raised, which would not undermine the overarching intent for enhanced control capabilities. Outcome: Legislative proposal Submitted To Government	30-Nov-2015	Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine.
4 - Administrative capacity: administrative capacity is available to comply with the implementation of a Union control, inspection and enforcement system as provided for in Article 36 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 and further specified in Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009	6 - A description of the administrative capacity to apply the point system for serious infringements, as provided for in Article 92 of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009	Step 2: Process legislation through the Legislative process (Dail and Seanad) Outcome: Passing of the Bill	30-Jun-2016	Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine.
4 - Administrative capacity: administrative capacity is available to comply with the implementation of a Union control, inspection and enforcement system as provided for in Article 36 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 and further specified in Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009	6 - A description of the administrative capacity to apply the point system for serious infringements, as provided for in Article 92 of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009	Step 3: Legislation to implement a points system which will apply to the masters of fishing vessels engaged in serious infringements is adopted. Outcome: Copy of the legislation is notified to the Commission	30-Jun-2016	Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine.
4 - Administrative capacity: administrative capacity is available to comply with the implementation of a Union control, inspection and enforcement system as provided for in Article 36 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 and further specified in Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009	6 - A description of the administrative capacity to apply the point system for serious infringements, as provided for in Article 92 of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009	Step 4: Set up the necessary administrative measures and arrangements for enforcement of the point system. Outcome: Copy of the administrative measures are notified to the Commission	30-Jun-2016	Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine
4 - Administrative capacity: administrative capacity is available to comply with the implementation of a Union control, inspection and enforcement system as provided for in Article 36 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 and further specified in Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009	6 - A description of the administrative capacity to apply the point system for serious infringements, as provided for in Article 92 of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009	Step 5: Enforce the point system. To be verified during Commission audits.	31-Jul-2016	Sea Fisheries Protection Authority

6.2.2 Actions envisaged to achieve the fulfilment of the general ex-ante conditionalities

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7. DESCRIPTION OF THE PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK

7.1 Table: Performance framework

Union priority	1 - Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based fisheries
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Indicator and measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Targets for 2023
Financial indicator	14,000,000.00	64,056,124.00
1.2 - N° of projects on systems of allocation of fishing opportunities	1.00	1.00
1.4 - N° of projects on conservation measures, reduction of the fishing impact on the marine environment and fishing adaptation to the protection of species	25.00	26.00
1.6 - N° of projects on protection and restoration of marine biodiversity, ecosystems	18.00	302.00
1.9 - N° of projects on promotion of human capital and social dialogue, diversification and new forms of income, start-ups for fishermen and health/safety	30.00	250.00

Union priority	2 - Fostering environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based aquaculture
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Indicator and measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Targets for 2023
Financial indicator	5,000,000.00	31,582,310.00
2.1 - N° of projects on innovation, advisory services	50.00	190.00
2.2 - N° of projects on productive investments in aquaculture	25.00	110.00

Union priority	3 - Fostering the implementation of the CFP
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Indicator and measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Targets for 2023
Financial indicator	40,000,000.00	84,924,202.00
3.1 - N° of projects on implementing the Union's control, inspections and enforcement system	1.00	10.00
3.2 - N° of projects on supporting the collection, management and use of data	1.00	2.00

Union priority	4 - Increasing employment and territorial cohesion
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Indicator and measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Targets for 2023
Financial indicator	3,750,000.00	12,000,000.00
4.1 - N° of local development strategies selected	7.00	7.00

Union priority	5 - Fostering marketing and processing
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Indicator and measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Targets for 2023
Financial indicator	10,500,000.00	31,000,000.00
5.2 - N° of projects on marketing measures and storage aid	3.00	70.00
5.3 - N° of projects on processing	40.00	100.00

Union priority	6 - Fostering the implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy
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Indicator and measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Targets for 2023
Financial indicator	2,000,000.00	10,669,344.00
6.2 - N° projects on the protection and improvement of knowledge on marine environment	2.00	40.00

7.2 Table: justification for the choice of output indicators to be included in the performance framework

Union priority	1 - Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based fisheries
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Rationale for the selection of output indicators included in the performance framework , including an explanation of the share of financial allocation represented by operations, which will produce the outputs, as well the method applied to calculate the share, which must exceed 50% of the financial allocation to the priority	<p>The EMFF OP objectives for UP1 were set out on the basis of the National Strategic Priorities. The allocation of programme funds will be based on the achievement of these objectives, which will also be reflected in the selection of indicators and objectives in the performance framework. Supporting the Irish fishing fleet and implementing environmental measures will be emphasised in programme funding. Sustainable fishing is a priority.</p> <p>In UP1 the emphasis on support for the design and implementation of conservation measures and regional cooperation , Limitation of the impact of fishing on the marine environment and adaptation of fishing to the protection of species , Innovation linked to the conservation of marine biological resources, Protection and restoration of marine biodiversity and ecosystems and compensation regime. It is estimated that approx. 62% of the funds will be on these measures.</p>
Data or evidence used to estimate the value of milestones and targets and the calculation method (e.g. unit costs, benchmarks, standard or past rate of implementation, expert advice, conclusions of ex-ante	The financial allocations and target levels for output indicators included in the performance framework were set as estimates of experts in the fisheries area. In relation to UP1 this was based on experience gained by Bord Iascaigh

evaluation)	<p>Mhara during the execution of previous programmes in 2000-2006 and 2007-2013. Funding under this priority is expected to develop at a relatively steady rate during the programming period, except for permanent cessation which is required to be completed by end of 2017. The milestone was lower than the calculated half-way level, as the launch of the majority of measures under this priority will not occur until the start of 2016.</p> <p>The targets for projects besides decommissioning are low due to the fact that we are indicating completed projects and it is envisaged that some of these projects may be implemented on a multi-annual basis and therefore may not be completed by 2018.</p>
Information on how the methodology and mechanisms to ensure consistency in the functioning of the performance framework have been applied in line with the provisions of the Partnership Agreement	Ireland's Partnership agreement describes at a general level the manner in which the performance framework will be applied in the ESI funds. The performance framework presented in the EMFF OP 2014-2020 is consistent with the general principles set out in the Partnership Agreement.

Union priority	2 - Fostering environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based aquaculture
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Rationale for the selection of output indicators included in the performance framework , including an explanation of the share of financial allocation represented by operations, which will produce the outputs, as well the method applied to calculate the share, which must exceed 50% of the financial allocation to the priority	<p>The EMFF OP objectives for UP2 were set out on the basis of the National Strategic Priorities. The allocation of programme funds will be based on the achievement of these objectives, which will also be reflected in the selection of indicators and objectives in the performance framework. Supporting the Irish aquaculture and implementing environmental measures will be emphasised in programme funding. Sustainable aquaculture will be a clear priority in programme implementation.</p> <p>In UP2 the emphasis on expenditure will be on measures concerning innovation, productive investments in aquaculture, management, relief and advisory services for aquaculture farms and increasing the potential of aquaculture sites . It is estimated that approx. 77% of the funds will be on these measures.</p>
Data or evidence used to estimate the value of milestones and targets and the calculation	The financial allocations and target levels for output indicators included in the performance

<p>method (e.g. unit costs, benchmarks, standard or past rate of implementation, expert advice, conclusions of ex-ante evaluation)</p>	<p>framework were set as estimates of experts in the aquaculture sector. In relation to UP2 this was based on experience gained by Bord Iascaigh Mhara during the execution of previous programmes in 2000-2006 and 2007-2013.</p> <p>Funding under this priority is expected to develop at a relatively steady rate during the programming period. The milestone was lower than the calculated half-way level, as the launch of the majority of measures under this priority will not occur until the start of 2016.</p> <p>The targets for projects are low due to the fact that we are indicating completed projects and it is envisaged that some of these projects may be implemented on a multi-annual basis and therefore may not be completed by 2018.</p>
<p>Information on how the methodology and mechanisms to ensure consistency in the functioning of the performance framework have been applied in line with the provisions of the Partnership Agreement</p>	<p>Ireland's Partnership agreement describes at a general level the manner in which the performance framework will be applied in the ESI funds. The performance framework presented in the EMFF OP 2014-2020 is consistent with the general principles set out in the Partnership Agreement.</p>

Union priority	3 - Fostering the implementation of the CFP
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<p>Rationale for the selection of output indicators included in the performance framework, including an explanation of the share of financial allocation represented by operations, which will produce the outputs, as well the method applied to calculate the share, which must exceed 50% of the financial allocation to the priority</p>	<p>The funding allocations for both Data Collection and Control & Enforcement under Union Priority 3 was determined by the Commissions decision. The performance framework is targeted at data collection actions under Article 77 and control and enforcement specifically Article 76.2 (e) which will involve the acquisition of a new patrol vessel which will be available for control and enforcement activities in the Irish EEZ. The funding share allocated to these areas under Union Priority 3 accounts for 63% of the overall allocation for Union Priority 3.</p>
<p>Data or evidence used to estimate the value of milestones and targets and the calculation method (e.g. unit costs, benchmarks, standard or past rate of implementation, expert advice, conclusions of ex-ante evaluation)</p>	<p>The financial allocations and target levels for output indicators included in the performance framework were set as expert estimates. In relation to Data Collection this was based on experience gained by the Marine Institute of Ireland during the execution of previous data collection</p>

	<p>programmes under Council regulation 199/2008 and EU council regulation 1543/2000. It uses expenditure incurred under the previous programmes and includes an estimation of additional costs required to broaden the data collection programme to fill identified gaps and expand capacity to address the newly emerging requirements of the reformed CFP.</p> <p>Control and enforcement indicators are focused on the acquisition of a patrol vessel which will be in service by the end of 2017 and leading to estimated expenditure of €18.5 million.</p>
Information on how the methodology and mechanisms to ensure consistency in the functioning of the performance framework have been applied in line with the provisions of the Partnership Agreement	Ireland's Partnership agreement describes at a general level the manner in which the performance framework will be applied in the ESI funds. The performance framework presented in the EMFF OP 2014-2020 is consistent with the general principles set out in the Partnership Agreement.

Union priority	4 - Increasing employment and territorial cohesion
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Rationale for the selection of output indicators included in the performance framework , including an explanation of the share of financial allocation represented by operations, which will produce the outputs, as well the method applied to calculate the share, which must exceed 50% of the financial allocation to the priority	<p>The EMFF OP 2014-2020 objectives were selected on the basis of national strategic priorities, which are to act smart, achieve growth and think green. The allocation of programme funds in Union priority 4 will be based on the achievement of these objectives, which will thus also be reflected in the selection of performance framework indicators and goal setting.</p> <p>The performance framework will be targeted at a measure concerning the implementation of Local Development Strategies (LDS). This is the only measure to be introduced under Union Priority 4 and therefore 100% of the finance is allocated accordingly to this priority in the performance framework.</p>
Data or evidence used to estimate the value of milestones and targets and the calculation method (e.g. unit costs, benchmarks, standard or past rate of implementation, expert advice, conclusions of ex-ante evaluation)	The financial allocation and target levels for output indicators included in the performance framework for Union Priority 4 were set as expert estimates based on experience on the implementation of Axis 4 under the EFF 2007-2013.
Information on how the methodology and mechanisms to ensure consistency in the	Ireland's Partnership agreement describes at a general level the manner in which the

functioning of the performance framework have been applied in line with the provisions of the Partnership Agreement	performance framework will be applied in the ESI funds. The performance framework presented in the EMFF OP 2014-2020 is consistent with the general principles set out in the Partnership Agreement.
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Union priority	5 - Fostering marketing and processing
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Rationale for the selection of output indicators included in the performance framework , including an explanation of the share of financial allocation represented by operations, which will produce the outputs, as well the method applied to calculate the share, which must exceed 50% of the financial allocation to the priority	<p>The EMFF OP objectives for UP5 were set out on the basis of the National Strategic Priorities. The allocation of programme funds will be based on the achievement of these objectives, which will also be reflected in the selection of indicators and objectives in the performance framework. Due to the fact that a majority of the activities in adding value to fish and aquaculture products occur in the processing sector funding for UP5 was targeted accordingly.</p> <p>In UP5 the emphasis on expenditure will be on measures concerning production and marketing plans, marketing measures and the processing of fishery and aquaculture products . It is estimated that approximately 82% of the funds will be on these measures.</p>
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Data or evidence used to estimate the value of milestones and targets and the calculation method (e.g. unit costs, benchmarks, standard or past rate of implementation, expert advice, conclusions of ex-ante evaluation)	<p>The financial allocations and target levels for output indicators included in the performance framework were set as estimates of experts in the aquaculture sector. In relation to UP5 this was based on experience gained by Bord Iascaigh Mhara during the execution of previous programmes in 2000-2006 and 2007-2013. Funding under this priority is expected to develop at a relatively steady rate during the programming period. The milestone was lower than the calculated half-way level, as the launch of the majority of measures under this priority will not occur until the start of 2016.</p> <p>The targets for projects are low due to the fact that we are indicating completed projects and it is envisaged that some of these projects may be implemented on a multi-annual basis and therefore may not be completed by 2018</p>
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Information on how the methodology and mechanisms to ensure consistency in the functioning of the performance framework have been applied in line with the provisions of the Partnership Agreement	Ireland's Partnership agreement describes at a general level the manner in which the performance framework will be applied in the ESI funds. The performance framework presented in the EMFF OP 2014-2020 is consistent with the general principles set out in the Partnership Agreement.
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Union priority	6 - Fostering the implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy
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Rationale for the selection of output indicators included in the performance framework , including an explanation of the share of financial allocation represented by operations, which will produce the outputs, as well the method applied to calculate the share, which must exceed 50% of the financial allocation to the priority	The level of EU funding for UP6 was determined by a Commissions decision. The performance framework of this priority will be applied to all measures.
Data or evidence used to estimate the value of milestones and targets and the calculation method (e.g. unit costs, benchmarks, standard or past rate of implementation, expert advice, conclusions of ex-ante evaluation)	The implementation of Integrated Maritime Policy is an new emerging area and therefore it was not possible to rely on experts to provide estimates for financial allocations and targets for output indicators for UP 6. Evidence arising from two Task Force Reports under the auspices of Ireland's IMP provide the basis for the indicators presented. The funding levels are expected to develop rather steadily during the implementation of the programme and as bodies become aware of the funding available this may steadily increase over the lifetime of the OP. The milestone was set low as it is expected that projects under UP 6 will not being until 2016 at the earliest.
Information on how the methodology and mechanisms to ensure consistency in the functioning of the performance framework have been applied in line with the provisions of the Partnership Agreement	Ireland's Partnership agreement describes at a general level the manner in which the performance framework will be applied in the ESI funds. The performance framework presented in the EMFF OP 2014-2020 is consistent with the general principles set out in the Partnership Agreement.

8. FINANCING PLAN

8.1 Total EMFF contribution planned for each year (€)

Year	EMFF main allocation	EMFF performance reserve
2014	0.00	0.00
2015	38,278,731.00	2,443,323.00
2016	19,436,907.00	1,240,654.00
2017	19,751,939.00	1,260,762.00
2018	20,211,546.00	1,290,099.00
2019	20,349,749.00	1,298,920.00
2020	20,716,988.00	1,322,361.00
Total	138,745,860.00	8,856,119.00

8.2 EMFF contribution and co-financing rate for the union priorities, technical assistance and other support (€)

Union priority	Measure under the Union Priority	Total support			Main allocation (total funding less performance reserve)		Performance reserve		Performance reserve amount as proportion of total Union support $h = f / a * 100$
		EMFF contribution (performance reserve included)	National counterpart (performance reserve included)	EMFF co-financing rate	EMFF support	National counterpart	EMFF Performance reserve	National counterpart	
		a	b	$c = a / (a + b) * 100$	d = a - f	e = b - g	f	g = b * (f / a)	
1 - Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based fisheries	1 - Article 33(1)(a),(b),(c), Article 34 and Article 41(2) (Article 13(2) of the EMFF)	500,000.00	500,000.00	50.00%	475,000.00	475,000.00	25,000.00	25,000.00	5.22%
1 - Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based fisheries	1b - Article 33(1)(d) and Article 44(4a)	145,575.00	48,525.00	75.00%	145,575.00	48,525.00	0.00	0.00	
1 - Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based fisheries	2 - Financial allocation for the rest of the Union priority 1 (Article 13(2) of the EMFF)	31,431,012.00	31,431,012.00	50.00%	29,780,412.00	29,780,412.00	1,650,600.00	1,650,600.00	
2 - Fostering environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based aquaculture	-	15,791,155.00	15,791,155.00	50.00%	15,046,155.00	15,046,155.00	745,000.00	745,000.00	4.72%
3 - Fostering the implementation of the CFP	1 - the improvement and supply of scientific knowledge and collection and management of data (Article 13(4) of the EMFF)	32,557,058.00	8,139,265.00	80.00%	30,218,664.00	7,554,666.00	2,338,394.00	584,599.00	6.82%
3 - Fostering the implementation of the CFP	2 - the support to monitoring, control and enforcement, enhancing institutional capacity and an efficient public administration without increasing the administrative burden (Article 76(2)(a) to (d) and (f) to (l)) (Article 13(3) of the EMFF)	28,233,662.00	3,137,074.00	90.00%	25,812,776.00	2,868,087.00	2,420,886.00	268,987.00	
3 - Fostering the implementation of the CFP	3 - the support to monitoring, control and enforcement, enhancing institutional capacity and an efficient public administration without increasing the administrative burden (Article 76(2)(e)) (Article 13(3) of the EMFF)	9,000,000.00	3,857,143.00	70.00%	9,000,000.00	3,857,143.00			
4 - Increasing employment and territorial cohesion	-	6,000,000.00	6,000,000.00	50.00%	5,700,000.00	5,700,000.00	300,000.00	300,000.00	5.00%
5 - Fostering marketing and processing	1 - Storage aid (Article 67) (Article 13(6) of the EMFF)	0.00			0.00				7.16%
5 - Fostering marketing and processing	2 - Compensation for outermost regions (Article 70) (Article 13(5) of the EMFF)								
5 - Fostering marketing and processing	3 - Financial allocation for the rest of the Union priority 5 (Article 13(2) of the EMFF)	15,500,000.00	15,500,000.00	50.00%	14,390,645.00	14,390,645.00	1,109,355.00	1,109,355.00	
6 - Fostering the implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy	-	5,334,672.00	5,334,672.00	50.00%	5,067,788.00	5,067,788.00	266,884.00	266,884.00	5.00%
7 - Technical assistance	-	3,108,845.00	3,108,845.00	50.00%	3,108,845.00	3,108,845.00			
Total		147,601,979.00	92,847,691.00		138,745,860.00	87,897,266.00	8,856,119.00	4,950,425.00	6.00%

8.3 EMFF contribution to the thematic objectives of the ESI funds

Thematic objective	EMFF contribution (€)
03 - Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises, the agricultural sector (for the EAFRD) and the fisheries and aquaculture sector (for the EMFF)	42,067,742.00
04 - Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	500,000.00
06 - Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency	92,625,392.00
08 - Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility	9,300,000.00

9. HORIZONTAL PRINCIPLES

9.1 Description of the actions to take into account the principles set out in articles 5*, 7 and 8 of the CPR

9.1.1 Promotion of equality between men and women and non- discrimination

The following arrangements will be made to ensure the integration of gender equality/non-discrimination and accessibility/people with disabilities principles in the EMFF OP 2014-2020:

- Invite bodies in charge of gender equality and disability bodies to participate at all stages (preparation, implementation, monitoring, evaluation), which would mainly include the provision of advice on gender equality and accessibility, inclusion and impacts for people with disabilities in fund-related activities;
- Pursue the objective of gender and disability mainstreaming through the integration of a disability and universal design perspective at all stages of the implementation of the funds, including preparation, project selection criteria, implementation, monitoring and evaluation;
- Identify particular target groups which may have a reduced access to support or are at risk of discrimination, and identify measures to mitigate this risk;
- Include specific actions to promote gender equality and accessibility and inclusion of people with disabilities, including engagement with relevant structures;
- Take appropriate steps in the implementation of the programme to prevent discrimination as provided for in Irish equality legislation
- Take careful account of how the implementation of projects may affect women and men and those with disabilities;
- Ensure that the project selection criteria will, as appropriate, assess projects on the basis of their compliance with gender equality/accessibility requirements and inclusion of people with disabilities
- Allocate specific responsibility for gender equality/accessibility and inclusion of people with disabilities to a named individual.
- Make arrangements for training of relevant staff in the fields of law and policy on gender equality accessibility, disability mainstreaming and universal design related to the implementation of the funds, in accordance with the general ex ante conditionality.
- Incorporate accessibility for disabled persons as a criterion to be observed in co-funded public services and facilities including in project specifications, as appropriate;
- Promote gender equality/inclusion of people with disabilities on the monitoring committees;
- Ensure data disaggregated by gender/disability is captured and reported where relevant;
- Develop meaningful indicators to track gender outcomes for people with disabilities, results and impacts.
- Set disability targets where appropriate. These need to be related to the baseline position (not necessarily 50:50);
- Monitor and evaluate the application of the principle and have regard to the results of

such monitoring and evaluation actions; and,

- Make arrangements, where deemed necessary, for the provision of training and guidance to relevant staff in the fields of disability law and policy, including accessibility and the practical application of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities, in accordance with the general ex ante conditionality. The National Disability Authority has produced a number of resources in this regard
- Promote equality of access for women and men, including those with disabilities, in practical ways by identifying and removing barriers to their participation through:
 - information, publicity and communication
 - flexible provision and delivery
 - childcare supports
 - transport and facilities.

These commitments should be additional to legal obligations which apply in relation to gender equality and disability/non-discrimination. This is consistent with the mechanisms in the National Women's Strategy to foster gender mainstreaming and the National Disability Strategy Implementation Plan to mainstream disability in all government policy and actions. The mainstream approach, gives the responsibility to address gender equality and disability/accessibility to the lead Department which is responsible for implementing the particular measure/activity. The Equality and Human Rights Commission and the National Disability Authority, will be engaged to offer support to intermediary bodies in assessing the impact of their measures on the nine equality grounds and incorporating an equality/disability dimension, as appropriate, in project design and delivery.

9.1.2 Sustainable development

This Operational Programme will contribute to the enhancement of the environmental, economic and social sustainability of the seafood sector and the marine environment. Its contribution is examined in the context of each Union Priority.

Union Priority 1

Measures under UP1 will benefit implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), the Habitats Directive, the Birds Directive, the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD), biodiversity and climate change.

Measures under UP1 will support implementation of the CFP through a range of supports to fishermen to implement the landing obligation, to maintain fleet capacity in balance with fishing opportunities, to aid fish stock recovery and avoid incidental by-catch through development and adoption of more selective fishing methods and to sustainably manage fisheries and reduce environmental impact.

Measures under UP1 will support implementation of the Habitats and Birds Directives through supports for assessment of impact of fisheries and aquaculture on protected habitats and for surveying and mapping fisheries and aquaculture interaction with habitats and species. Measures under UP1 will contribute to implementation of the MSFD through supports for collection and analysis of data and monitoring of the marine environment. These measures will contribute positively biodiversity and climate change. In addition, supports for energy efficiency on board will benefit climate change.

Measures under UP1 will contribute to the economic and social sustainability of the fishing fleet and coastal communities through supports for new entrants to balanced fleet segments, to improved cost competitiveness of the fleet through investments on board in quality and hygiene and through measures to support the Action Plan for the development, competitiveness and sustainability of small-scale coastal fishing.

Union Priority 2

Measures under UP2 will fund implementation of investment measures identified in the National Strategic Plan for Sustainable Aquaculture Development, which focus on increasing the economic and social contribution of aquaculture to coastal communities and to its increased sustainability. Measures will seek to develop improved knowledge and technology to minimise the environmental impact of aquaculture. Measures will also seek to improve disease management in aquaculture and to avoid introduction of invasive alien species.

Measures under UP2 will promote implementation of good production methods and practices seeking to achieve and maintain proper water quality in a manner consistent with the objectives of the Water Framework Directive and MSFD. Measures will seek to enhance positive effects and minimise the impact of aquaculture activities on the environment.

Union Priority 3

Measures under UP3 will support enforcement of the CFP and will fund the EU data collection framework in Ireland, which supports policy decision making on the sustainable management of fisheries.

Union Priority 4

Measures under UP4 will support the economic and social sustainability of coastal

communities through funding supports for the development and implementation of local development strategies for fisheries and aquaculture areas. These strategies will be focussed on promoting innovative approaches in fisheries and aquaculture areas to create growth and jobs in those areas, in particular by adding value to fishery and aquaculture products and diversifying the local economy towards new economic activities, in particular those offered by ‘blue growth’ and the broader maritime sectors.

Union Priority 5

Measures under UP5 will contribute to the economic and social sustainability of coastal communities through supports for the development and growth of the seafood processing sector, which is predominantly located in peripheral coastal communities. Supports will facilitate the adding of value to fish landings and increased economic returns to those communities through increased seafood sales. Supports to the processing sector will also aid investment in improved energy efficiency aiding climate change.

Union Priority 6

Measures under UP6 will support implementation of the Habitats and Birds Directives, the MSFD, and the Integrated Maritime Policy and will aid biodiversity and climate change. Measures will be focussed on supports for development of scientific data and other measures to support implementation of a system for maritime spatial planning.

9.2 Indication of the indicative amount of support to be used for climate change objectives

EMFF measures contributing to the climate change objectives	Coefficient %
01 - Article 37 Support for the design and implementation of conservation measures	0.00
02 - Article 38 Limiting the impact of fishing on the marine environment and adapting fishing to the protection of species (+ art. 44.1.c Inland fishing)	40.00
03 - Article 39 Innovation linked to the conservation of marine biological resources (+ art. 44.1.c Inland fishing)	40.00
04 - Article 40.1.a Protection and restoration of marine biodiversity – collection of lost fishing gear and marine litter	0.00
05 - Article 43.2 Fishing ports, landing sites, auction halls and shelters – investments to facilitate compliance with the obligation to land all catches	0.00
01 - Article 40.1.b-g, i Protection and restoration of marine biodiversity – contribution to a better management or conservation, construction, installation or modernisation of static or movable facilities, preparation of protection and management plans related to NATURA2000 sites and spatial protected areas, management, restoration and monitoring marine protected areas, including NATURA 2000 sites, environmental awareness, participation in other actions aimed at maintaining and enhancing biodiversity and ecosystem services (+ art. 44.6 Inland fishing)	40.00
02 - Article 36 Support to systems of allocation of fishing opportunities	40.00
01 - Article 27 Advisory services (+ art. 44.3 Inland fishing)	0.00
03 - Article 31 Start-up support for young fishermen (+ art. 44.2 Inland fishing)	0.00

04 - Article 32 Health and safety (+ art. 44.1.b Inland fishing)	0.00
05 - Article 33 Temporary cessation of fishing activities	40.00
06 - Article 35 Mutual funds for adverse climatic events and environmental incidents	40.00
08 - Article 42 Added value, product quality and use of unwanted catches (+ art. 44.1.e Inland fishing)	0.00
09 - Article 43.1 + 3 Fishing ports, landing sites, auction halls and shelters - investments improving fishing port and auctions halls infrastructure or landing sites and shelters; construction of shelters to improve safety of fishermen (+ art. 44.1.f Inland fishing)	40.00
01 - Article 26 Innovation (+ art. 44.3 Inland fishing)	0.00
02 - Article 28 Partnerships between fishermen and scientists (+ art. 44.3 Inland fishing)	0.00
03 - Article 41.1.a, b, c Energy efficiency and mitigation of climate change – on board investments; energy efficiency audits and schemes; studies to assess the contribution of alternative propulsion systems and hull designs (+ art. 44.1.d Inland fishing)	100.00
04 - Article 41.2 Energy efficiency and mitigation of climate change - Replacement or modernisation of main or ancillary engines (+ art. 44.1.d Inland fishing)	100.00
01 - Article 29.1 + 29.2 Promoting human capital and social dialogue - training, networking, social dialogue; support to spouses and life partners (+ art. 44.1.a Inland fishing)	0.00
02 - Article 29.3 Promoting human capital and social dialogue – trainees on board of SSCF vessels / social dialogue (+ art. 44.1.a Inland fishing)	0.00
01 - Article 47 Innovation	0.00
02 - Article 49 Management, relief and advisory services for aquaculture farms	0.00
01 - Article 48.1.a-d, f-h Productive investments in aquaculture	0.00
02 - Article 52 Encouraging new sustainable aquaculture farmers	0.00
03 - Article 51 Increasing the potential of aquaculture sites	40.00
04 - Article 53 Conversion to eco-management and audit schemes and organic aquaculture	0.00
02 - Article 55 Public health measures	0.00
03 - Article 56 Animal health and welfare measures	0.00
01 - Article 50 Promoting human capital and networking	0.00
01 - Article 77 Data collection	0.00
01 - Article 76 Control and enforcement	0.00
01 - Article 62.1.a Preparatory support	0.00
02 - Article 63 Implementation of local development strategies (incl. running costs and animation)	40.00
03 - Article 64 Cooperation activities	0.00
01 - Article 66 Production and marketing plans	0.00
02 - Article 67 Storage aid	0.00
03 - Article 68 Marketing measures	0.00
01 - Article 69 Processing of fisheries and aquaculture products	0.00
01 - Article 80.1.a Integrating Maritime Surveillance	0.00
02 - Article 80.1.b Promotion of the protection of marine environment, and the sustainable use of marine and coastal resources	40.00
03 - Article 80.1.c Improving the knowledge on the state of the marine environment	40.00

The indicative EMFF contribution (€)	Share of the total EMFF allocation to the operational programme (%)
13,750,000.00	9.32%

10. EVALUATION PLAN

Objectives and purpose of the Evaluation Plan

The overall purpose of this Evaluation Plan is to outline how Ireland will undertake effective monitoring and evaluation to support the successful management and delivery of the EMFF OP and to build an evidence base to inform future programmes. The Plan also explains how Ireland will comply with EC Regulations to monitor and evaluate the Programmes.

The Evaluation Plan is developed to help to ensure the effective expenditure of EU and national exchequer funding in Ireland's EMFF OP over the period 2014-2020, and in doing so, to ensure that the EMFF OP contributes to the achievement of CFP objectives, the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy and the ambitions set out at national level.

From a national perspective, the "Public Spending Code" requires economic appraisal of projects and schemes. The Public Spending Code is a set of rules and procedures that apply to ensure that public funds are treated with care, and to ensure that the best possible value-for-money is obtained whenever public money is being spent or invested. The Code brings together in one place all of the elements of the value-for-money framework that has been in force up to now, updated and reformed in some respects.

The scale of appraisal required varies in relation to the expected cost of the project or scheme, these appraisals may incorporate a simple assessment, single appraisal, Multi Criteria Analysis (MCA), Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA) or Cost Effectiveness Analysis (CEA).

The formulation of an Evaluation Plan is an integral part of programme development and will help to identify, in advance, the key information and resources required to ensure effective implementation and, in turn, help to ensure the achievement of EU and national objectives in the most cost effective way possible.

In more detail, the objectives of this Evaluation Plan are to:

- clearly set out the arrangements necessary to carry out effective monitoring and evaluation of Ireland's EMFF OP activities.
- outline how sufficient and appropriate evaluation activities will be undertaken,
- outline how the commensurate resources will be assigned to these activities, and
- demonstrate how the evaluation activities undertaken will ensure the availability of the information at the time and in the format required to effectively manage and monitor the progress of the programme.

It is expected that the formulation of this Evaluation Plan will also give rise to beneficial effects in areas such as:

- the supporting of a more rigorous monitoring and evaluation process,
- the generation of added value in a policy-making context through the incorporation of evaluation into EMFF OP implementation from the outset, which will help to provide ongoing, valuable information on the performance of the programme and facilitate more meaningful review.

Governance and coordination

The responsibility for the co-ordination of the monitoring and evaluation process in the EMFF OP 2014-2020 will rest with the Marine Agencies and Programmes Division as the Managing Authority for the programme.

The critical need for effective monitoring and evaluation of the expenditure of EMFF funds, and the comprehensive nature of the monitoring and evaluation requirements set out by the EMFF Regulation, requires a specific focus on the part of the MA. For example, in addition to the challenge of ensuring that data is captured as part of measure design, there is also the considerable challenge of ensuring that the MA's IT systems are able to manage and interrogate this data efficiently, regardless of whether it comes from internal or external sources.

As part of the process of designing the EMFF OP, a Steering Group was put in place to coordinate the preparation of the Programme as described in Section 1.1. This group will remain in place following the formal agreement of the EMFF OP and will then focus on ensuring a coordinated approach to monitoring and evaluation activities in the EMFF OP. This group will be known as the EMFF Evaluation Steering Group and will be supplemented by other implementing agencies to ensure the central importance of monitoring and evaluation in the EMFF OP, the Steering Group will be focused on monitoring and evaluation requirements. It is expected that the input of other actors may be required in relation to specific issues as they arise.

This steering group will feed back into the EMFF OP Monitoring Committee through the MA and ensure that monitoring and evaluation issues remain at the centre of the implementation process and are dealt with in a systematic manner.

The MA's evaluation activities may be augmented by the engagement of external evaluation assistance on tasks such as the measurement of progress against result indicators and the preparation of the enhanced Annual Implementation Reports in 2017 and 2019, and will be reviewed by the Monitoring Committee as required under the EMFF Regulation. In all cases, the work of such evaluators will be overseen by the steering group. All activities for evaluation and monitoring will be supported through technical assistance for the programme.

Evaluation topics and activities

The main purpose of **monitoring** is to assess the progress of projects, schemes and programmes. This includes financial progress (such as commitment and spend) and physical progress (e.g. numbers of businesses and individuals assisted by the EMFF OP). Good monitoring data are also crucial for evaluation.

Evaluations have several purposes but ultimately these can be summarised in one word: 'learning'. Evaluations are undertaken to learn something about a project, scheme or programme, in other words, to answer questions (often referred to as 'research questions') about a project or programme.

Monitoring and Evaluation activities will be planned across what is essentially a two-step process. The first step is the preparation phase, during which DAFM has set the basis for the evaluation that will take place over the EMFF OP programming period. Work undertaken here includes linkage of common evaluation questions and indicators to Union Priorities and measures, identification of data needs and sources, and the areas in which external evaluators or other technical assistance will be required. This step has been integrated into the EMFF OP design process. The second step is the programme implementation phase, during which substantive evaluation will be carried out. Work to be undertaken here will include ongoing assessment of progress towards the achievement stated objectives, via the submission of Annual and Enhanced Annual Implementation Reports and other evaluative activities.

Monitoring -

The main audience for EMFF monitoring and evaluation information will be the EMFF OPMC. The MA will produce detailed EMFF Monitoring reports at each meeting of the OPMC to assist it in reviewing the progress of the EMFF OP. These reports will outline progress based on data for the indicators, finance, project approval and pipeline and a qualitative account of issues in implementation. The MA will also take account of the recommendations of the EMFF Evaluation Steering group in developing new approaches that reflect wider measures of progress.

The other major audience for EMFF OP monitoring and evaluation information will be the European Commission (EC). The main monitoring tool for the EC is the Annual Implementation Report (AIR). The AIRs will report on the implementation of the EMFF OP based on the indicators (including the result indicators) and financial data and will highlight any issues affecting the performance of the EMFF OP.

As well as the reports for the OPMC and the AIRs which will be published on the EMFF website, the MA will regularly produce summary monitoring information to be published on the EMFF website. As part of its reporting function the MA will produce the monitoring data required to report against the performance framework. The Partnership Agreement sets out how the Managing Authorities will work together to ensure consistency of data and the EMFF MA will be actively involved in this work.

In order for the monitoring activities described above to be carried out, the following will be put in place:

- Data Collection-

All data for ESIF funds will be collected through the Data Exchange for European Funds (DEEF), which is being developed to ensure that all data required by the ESI regulations will be collected. Although there is a derogation for e-cohesion under the CPR for EMFF, Ireland intends to participate in the development of DEEF to ensure that proper systems are in place to collect all relevant data. All projects and schemes will be required to collect data against their indicators. These datasets are critical because they provide a sampling frame for evaluations and can be used to link to other datasets to obtain further information on the outcomes of the EMFF OP. The MA will work with project sponsors and scheme managers to ensure the quality of the monitoring data.

- Indicators

The monitoring indicators are set out at Union Priority level in the EMFF OP 2014-202. The indicators are based on Common indicators set out by the EC. The indicator system has been developed to reflect the key activities and objectives of the Union Priorities.

Evaluation

The MA with the support of the EMFF Evaluation steering group will be responsible for EMFF OP evaluations. A major component of the MA's EMFF OP evaluation schedule will be regular surveys of projects who benefitted from support under the EMFF OP. The MA will share the datasets for these surveys with schemes and projects so that they can be used in project / scheme level evaluations. All Intermediate bodies (IB) will agree a monitoring and evaluation plan with MA. The MA will provide advice and guidance to these bodies on their evaluations. Furthermore, the MA will provide training sessions to IB on commissioning project level evaluations. In the majority of cases at EMFF OP level, external consultants will be commissioned to undertake evaluation due to the independence and expertise provided by such an arrangement.

Evaluation Topics/Activities

The first tranche of evaluation topics/activities has been undertaken during the preparation phase.

DAFM has engaged with its ex-ante evaluators in order to establish a robust evaluation plan and an efficient structure to support the plan's implementation. Activities here include:

- data requirements for the assessment of progress against output, result and other indicators,
- anticipated sources of data and the means by which data gaps will be addressed,
- linkages between common evaluation questions and common indicators (given the particular requirements of the enhanced AIRs in 2017 and 2019).,
- Identifying possible areas which may require the engagement of external evaluators and the use of technical assistance at key stages of EMFF OP implementation.

The following evaluation topics have been undertaken as part of the EMFF OP design and associated ex ante evaluation:

- whether the range of EMFF OP implementing measures are adequately addressing the EMFF OP Priorities identified in the Intervention Logic.
- policy effectiveness of implementing measures.
- value for money of implementing measures.
- contribution of EMFF OP measures to the cross-cutting objectives set out in the CFP of innovation, environment, and climate change mitigation and adaptation
- extent to which effective complementarity with other ESI funds is being achieved.

The second tranche of evaluation topics/activities will be those associated with programme implementation. It is in this phase that the contribution of the various measures towards stated objectives will be evaluated. Key activities during this phase will include:

- The adoption of suitable evaluation methodologies.
- Planning and execution of AIRs, and enhanced AIR's.

Key topics may include:

- The Impact of EMFF funds under the OP.
- Effectiveness of schemes under the EMFF OP
- Types of Jobs created under the EMFF OP
- Effectiveness of information and publicity activities under the EMFF OP

Further topics will be developed as EMFF OP progresses.

Data and information strategy

The provision of efficient data management systems to record, maintain, manage and report statistical information on the EMFF OP, and to provide monitoring data for evaluation purposes, requires action at four levels:

- identification and capture of the appropriate statistical and monitoring data at the earliest opportunity, i.e. during action/scheme design and implementation (application processing, control and payment processing),
- enhancement/re-design of existing internal IT systems to enable processing of action/scheme-based statistical and monitoring data - including through compatibility and/or efficient communication with external sources of information in the case of some measures and indicators,
- identification of other potential methods to collect statistical and monitoring data in accordance with evaluation requirements and
- the efficient incorporation of these additional methods/sources into DAFM's data management systems.

Each of these activities will also be informed by the range of requirements in relation to:

- the recording of context indicators,
- the measurement of outputs and results in accordance with the Common List of Indicators provided under the EMFF
- the linkage of indicators to focus areas and measures as set out in the Indicator Plan,
- Annual Implementation Reports (AIRs), including in relation to outputs, progress towards targets and achievement of the Performance Framework indicators,
- the focus area-related common evaluation questions that will be addressed in the enhanced AIRs in 2017 and 2019.

At this stage, it is envisaged that DAFM's overall data management system for statistical information and monitoring data is likely to be comprised of three elements:

- capture and processing of application/measure data, including monitoring data (in respect of output indicators, and some result and Performance Framework indicators, as required in particular for the completion of AIRs) through IT systems and data sources that are still to be defined.
- capture and processing of application/measure data, including monitoring and evaluation data from external sources, including:
 - Bord Iascaigh Mhara
 - Údarás Na Gaeltachta
 - Marine Institute
 - Sea Fisheries Protection Authority
 - Others to be identified
- capture of other, more qualitative, monitoring data (primarily in respect of the common evaluation questions to be addressed in the enhanced AIRs in 2017 and 2019) through alternative means or from other external sources, such as may be provided via the use of external expertise.

While much of the statistical and monitoring data will be generated externally through the intermediate bodies via the systems established to support the implementation of individual schemes, there will be a need these external sources of data to a centralised system and database. In addition, a range of additional indicator and monitoring data will have to be generated, stored and reported upon given the requirements in relation to the drafting of an Indicator Plan, and the compilation of the AIRs and enhanced AIRs. Further needs in this area are likely to arise depending on whether evaluation topics and activities anticipated by DAFM change over time.

The satisfaction of all of these requirements - in addition to requiring a particular focus from intermediate bodies during action/scheme design - will require the establishment of a separate evaluation project within DAFM's IMT Division. Among other issues, the question of whether the management and generation of additional or large volumes of, statistical information and monitoring data will require the use of a data warehousing facility will have to be addressed.

In addressing issues relating to monitoring and evaluation, and data requirements in particular, the Department has been particularly cognisant of the need to take into account the experience gained in monitoring and evaluation in previous programming period. Thus, a number of issues have been specifically addressed in the EMFF OP design process and in the formulation of this evaluation plan, including

- the clear identification of responsibilities in intermediate bodies and divisions across the department and the identification of the required resources to support monitoring and evaluation
- the need to put in place an efficient and coordinated approach to the collation of data for reporting requirements for the EMFF OP, and
- the benefits to be derived from designing at an early stage of SDP design a common electronic system for identification and recording required data.

To ensure that the data strategy can be implemented and an effective IT system is put in place the MA is working with other ESIF MAs to develop a Data Exchange for European Funds (DEEF) which will provide a structured IT system to capture and store all relevant data requirements.

Timeline

This section outlines the major evaluation milestones over the programming period. It is intended that as many as possible of the data requirements and indicators will be satisfied/agreed, and the development of the IMT data management systems will be complete, in advance of programme commencement.

1. Commencement of EMFF OP - Draft EMFF OP submitted Q3 2015. Schemes coming on line following approval of the EMFF OP.
2. First Annual Implementation Report (2014/2015) - Submission 31 May 2016 Work on collation etc commencing February 2016
3. Second Annual Implementation Report (2016) (Enhanced) - Submission 31 May 2017 Work on collation etc commencing January 2017
4. Third Annual Implementation Report (2017) - Submission 31 May 2018 Work on collation etc commencing February 2018
5. Fourth Annual Implementation Report (2018) (Enhanced) - Submission 31 May 2019 Work on collation etc commencing January 2019
6. Fifth Annual Implementation Report (2019) - Submission 31 May 2020 Work on collation etc commencing February 2020
7. Sixth Annual Implementation Report (2020) - Submission 31 May 2021 Work on collation etc commencing February 2021
8. Final Annual Implementation Report (2021/2022) - Submission 31 May 2023 Work on collation etc commencing January 2023
9. Ex-Post Evaluation Report - Not Defined. Co-operate with EU Commission in preparation of the report.

In relation to other evaluation topics the MA intends to carry out the following:

1. Interim Evaluation of EMFF OP - This evaluation will be carried out in 2018. This will involve the evaluation of the EMFF OP in the period 2014-2017. This will be used to ensure successful implementation as regards the performance framework.
2. Annual Evaluations on identified evaluation topics beginning in 2017.
3. Scheme surveys on projects will begin in 2017 with annual surveys after this.
4. Other evaluations will take place on pilot schemes which may be implemented under the EMFF OP.

Specific requirements for evaluation of CLLD

In the design stage each of the successful Fisheries Local Action Groups (FLAGS) chosen to develop a Local development Strategy (LDS) for their defined area will be required to attend training organised by the Managing Authority on Evaluation & Monitoring of their own LDS. This will enable the FLAGS to develop an Evaluation Plan as part of their LDS.

In the implementation stage, each of the FLAGS will be required to develop an annual implementation report based on a template provided by the Managing Authority, which will then be presented and discussed at both the National FLAG Network and the EMFF OP Monitoring Committee on an annual basis.

Communication

The main aim of communicating evaluation findings is to increase the visibility of EMFF OP evidence bases and the impact of its research and publications among policy makers, key stakeholders, coastal communities and academics. The secondary aim is to exploit the full range of data to deliver better evidenced policies and more relevant and robust outcomes for the EMFF OP areas. The communication objectives are listed below:

- A targeted seminar strategy to ensure the information reaches policy makers;
- Publish regular highlight reports to improve accessibility of research to a wider audience;
- Participate in DG MARE Evaluation Partnership events to promote research and build links with practitioners through direct engagement;
- Produce and publish literature to promote research within the coastal communities;
- Maintain and develop the EMFF website;
- Develop a style of communication to ensure clear understanding of subject matters to the widest audience; and
- Proactive engagement with the media ensuring that relevant data and research is publicised in an appropriate and timely way.

Communication and dissemination activities will use existing resources where possible. Under the EMFF, the MA is charged with identifying good practice from research and promoting it to stakeholders through participating in and organising seminars. The MA is

tasked with providing and presenting evidence to support effective policy making. The MA will ‘dovetail’ its communications and dissemination activities with similar initiatives organised within the Intermediate Bodies.

The EMFF OP highlights the core audience for research advice as being “a wide range of policy makers, local action groups, practitioners and other partner bodies”, but it also includes project sponsors as a key group in the target audience. The MA may capitalise on opportunities to co-operate with CION and other member states through FAME and FARNET. Evaluation findings will be disseminated to a range of recipients on an ongoing basis. The Steering Group will oversee this process.

From an outward-looking perspective, it is intended that communication and follow-up activities will mainly revolve around the submission of the Annual Implementation Reports (including enhanced reports) to the European Commission and the Monitoring Committee.

From an internal perspective, the Steering Group will facilitate discussion and application of monitoring and evaluation results across the range of measures in the EMFF OP. Again, this is likely to revolve around the production, submission and follow-up of the AIRs, but may also take place as a result of other evaluations carried out. More generally, it is intended that the Annual Implementation Reports, and any other evaluations conducted will be published as they become available. In addition, it is intended to make use of other fora such as the FLAG National Network as possible further channels of communication. The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Mariner's Annual Report is a further communication channel which can be used to report on progress across EMFF OP schemes to a wide audience.

All communications activities will need to consider how to achieve maximum value in promoting the EMFF OP as well as the research findings.

A list of proposed communication activities would be:

- Arranging publication timings to allow linkage to existing events; e.g. FLAG meetings and the EMFF OP Annual Event;
- Agreeing the dissemination arrangements for individual reports;
- Coordinating with Ministerial announcements/visits/plenary/committee business;
- Working with other public private and voluntary bodies;
- Optimising the current Web presence and linking to related sites; and
- Working with DAFM press office to decide if/when press notices, briefings or

interviews (national and/or regional) are necessary.

In addition to considering the above opportunities, regular reviews of existing media communications will be scheduled to facilitate improvements and updates to the activities list.

Ongoing background work to keep the EMFF website up to date will be utilised as the backbone of the communications plan. This should be supplemented by periodic email updates and seminars for interest groups. Careful timing consideration is required to ensure that maximum publicity impact is obtained. Delaying publicity around evaluation publications to maximise impact and achieve synergies with other publicity arrangements will always be considered.

The success of this evaluation communication plan will be measured according to the following criteria:

- Number of EMFF Website hits for the evaluation pages;
- Number of press articles;
- Number of media interviews(national and/or regional);
- Number of joint working and research activities with partners.

Periodic reports on these measures will show how the profile of EMFF research is being maintained and improved within and outside Ireland.

The MA will maintain an ongoing log of all recommendations from each completed evaluation which will monitor the responses of policy customers to each recommendation and track the actions that they have taken as a result. This log provides a key mechanism with which the MA will follow-up evaluation results, and provides further evidence to monitor the delivery of the evaluation communication plan activities with Managing Authority staff and project sponsors / scheme managers.

Resources

The successful implementation of this Evaluation Plan depends upon the allocation of sufficient administrative, financial and technological resources to the various activities outlined, and at the appropriate times. For example, the availability of sufficient resources is likely to be a more critical issue for the intermediate bodies and IT Division in the early stages of EMFF OP development, which focus on action/scheme design and the establishment of data management systems, than when the programme is in operational mode. Similarly,

and although adequate resources are required to coordinate the early evaluation planning activities, it is likely that significant, adequately trained resources will be required by DAFM's Marine Agencies and Programme Division during programme implementation, given that this Division will have overall responsibility for the monitoring and evaluation of the EMFF OP on an ongoing basis.

The following is an initial description of the resources needed and foreseen in this regard:

Action/Scheme Design

Intermediate Bodies - at least one staff member with clearly assigned responsibility for evaluation/indicator setting under each proposed action/scheme. The relevant intermediate bodies are those identified by the Department's senior management as the agencies in relation to the design of individual schemes. Thus, this is a clear assignation of responsibility for each scheme.

Marine Agencies & Programmes Division - at least one staff member assigned to coordinate input from the intermediate bodies in relation to evaluation data identification and capture, and to ensure the establishment of the appropriate linkages between schemes and focus areas and the range of common output, result and target indicators.

IT Division – at least one additional staff member and one or more external contractors will be required to support the provision of a data analytics system specifically for the EMFF OP. The design and construction of a EMFF OP Data Analytics service to support evaluation reporting is envisaged. This service will also address cross cutting operational reporting as required.

Programme Implementation

- Intermediate Bodies – one staff member responsible for coordinating the response to issues arising from, for example, Annual Implementation Reports.
- Marine Agencies & Programmes Division – at least on staff member with responsibility for monitoring progress, managing the production of Annual Implementation Reports and coordinating any necessary follow-up.
- IT Division - technical and administrative resources will be available as necessary to ensure efficient processing of EMFF OP measure data and generation of the information required to fulfil evaluation requirements.

Financial Resources

The implementation of the EMFF OP Data Analytics system for evaluation reporting will entail financial burden over and above the systems to support the operation of the schemes. There will be costs involved in the provision of the necessary hardware (possibly), software

(data collection/storage and data analytics reporting) and development/support. This expense may be partially funded from the technical assistance budget.

11. PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTING ARRANGEMENTS

11.1 Identification of authorities and intermediate bodies

Authority/body	Name of the authority/body	Email
Managing authority	Marine Agencies & Programmes Division, Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine	paschal.hayes@agriculture.gov.ie
Certifying authority	Finance Division, Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine	heber.mcmahon@agriculture.gov.ie
Audit authority	Internal Audit Unit, Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine	Gordon.Conroy@agriculture.gov.ie
Intermediate body of the managing authority	Bord Iascaigh Mhara	Jim.OTOole@bim.ie
Intermediate body of the managing authority	Údarás Na Gaeltachta	steve.oculain@udaras.ie

11.2 Description of the monitoring and evaluation procedures

The intermediate bodies will consult with DAFM on progress in relation to evaluation and monitoring of EMFF OP on an ongoing basis. The monitoring and evaluation of these Union Priorities will, however, be integrated with the overall monitoring and evaluation for the EMFF OP. As set out in the EMFF and Common Provisions Regulations, the Monitoring Committee will have a role in relation to the monitoring of the performance of the EMFF OP. The Committee's functions in this regard are set out in the Regulation, and include the consideration and approval of annual implementation reports and the reviewing the implementation of the EMFF OP and progress made towards achieving its objectives.

The Managing Authority will be responsible for different aspects of the EMFF OP monitoring and evaluation arrangements. These are:

- Central coordinating division for the monitoring and evaluation of the SDP,
- Coordinate the measure design input from intermediate bodies,
- Coordinate the process of the identification, capture, and management of the appropriate amount of data required for efficient monitoring and evaluation at the earliest possible juncture by intermediate bodies, i.e. during application processing,
- Identify, with the assistance of intermediate bodies, the data requirements that are likely to be satisfied using external sources of information,
- Engage external technical assistance to assist with evaluations as required.

Intermediate Bodies will be responsible for the following:

- Ensure that the requirements in relation to statistical information and monitoring and evaluation data are addressed to the maximum possible extent during the design of individual measures, including where this involves consultation with/implementation by other external bodies,
- Implement systems of collection and reporting of monitoring and evaluation data over the EMFF OP period.

The Annual Implementation Report (AIR) will form the main basis for monitoring & evaluation of the EMFF OP 2014-2020. The timelines for the production of the Annual AIR are indicated in Chapter 10 in the Evaluation Plan. The MA will prepare the AIR with the support of the Intermediate Bodies (An Bord Iascaigh Mhara and Udaras Na Gaeltachta) and certain Beneficiary Bodies which include (Marine Institute, Bord Bia, SFPa, Department of Defence) who will provide the relevant information to allow for a complete report being developed. The Managing Authority will then submit the proposed AIR to the Monitoring Committee for discussion and finally their approval.

The AIR will contain a description of any changes in the general operational environment e.g. socio- economic trends, changes in national/regional or sectoral policies, the progress in the implementation of priorities and measures or major projects with reference to indicators, progress on expenditure, steps taken by the Managing Authority and Monitoring Committee to address problems arising, changes in implementation arrangements, the use of technical assistance and measures taken in respect of publicity and compliance with EU policies.

The Intermediate Bodies will also compile a twice-yearly report on performance indicators in respect of projects, each priority axis generally, setting out progress against initial objectives and targets. Progress reports will cover financial management details and qualitative information, where appropriate. A quarterly report on expenditure under each priority axis will also be provided to the Managing Authority. The Intermediate bodies will agree the composition and format of these reports with the Monitoring Committee and submit these progress reports to the Monitoring committee. The SFC2014 system will be used to transfer information on the measure to the Commission.

A computerised system will be developed within the Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine for the purpose of monitoring all EU co-financed expenditure. Data will be inputted by the intermediate bodies and mechanisms are being proposed to support data transmission from this body. This system will be designed to support programming, financial and physical monitoring and the making and monitoring of payments.

11.3 General composition of the Monitoring Committee

The composition of the Monitoring Committee will be in accordance with article 5 of the Common Provisions Regulation and having regard to the likely distribution of the Programme

funds to the different subsectors (fishing, aquaculture, processing, FLAGs etc). The partners to be selected by Ireland to participate in the monitoring committee shall be the most representative of the relevant stakeholders consulted for the preparation of this OP. The partners shall include public authorities, economic and social partners and bodies representing civil society, including environmental partners, community-based and voluntary organisations, which can significantly influence or be significantly affected by implementation of the EMFF OP in Ireland.

The MA have identified sufficient representatives in the areas of science and marine knowledge, climate change, control and surveillance, marine biodiversity and maritime economy who will be able to inform the Monitoring Committee of issues that may arise in these areas.

Furthermore, the Monitoring Committee shall include representatives from the following sectors: fishers, aquaculture sector, fisheries control, inspection and enforcement, IMP and data collection. Representatives of the partners shall be delegated to be part of the Monitoring Committee by the respective partners through transparent processes. The list of the members (full/advisory) of the Monitoring Committee shall be published. Only full members of the Monitoring Committee will have the right to participate in decision-making. Members serving in an advisory capacity will have the right to participate fully in discussions of the Monitoring Committee and to offer advice to the Committee. The Monitoring Committee shall be chaired by a representative of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

Within three months of the date of notification of the Commission Decision adopting the EMFF OP 2014-2020, Ireland shall set-up the Monitoring Committee. The Monitoring Committee shall approve its own rules of procedures within the Irish institutional, legal and financial framework concerned and adopt them in agreement with the Management Authority in order to exercise its mission in accordance with the EMFF Regulation and Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 240/2014 of 07.01.2014 on the European Code of Conduct on Partnership in the framework of the European Structural and Investment Funds.

In seeking nominations for the monitoring committee all organisations have been requested to consider the gender balance objectives enshrined in the EMFF Regulation.

11.4 A summary description of the information and publicity measures to be carried out in accordance with Article 120

In accordance with Article 119 of the EMFF Regulation, the managing authority will be responsible for the following information and publicity actions:

- The establishment of a single website or a single website portal providing information on, and access to, the EMFF OP 2014-2020 in Ireland;
- Inform potential beneficiaries about funding opportunities available under the EMFF OP;
- Publicise the role and achievements of the EMFF through information and communication actions on the results and impact of partnership agreements, operational programmes and operations;
- Provide a summary of measures designed to ensure compliance with the CFP rules, including cases of non-compliance in Ireland, as well as of remedy actions such as financial corrections taken, is made publicly available.

The following Information and publicity measures to the general public will be developed throughout the lifetime of the SDP:

- Major information activity publicising the launch of the EMFF OP;
- At least twice during the lifetime of the EMFF OP a major information activity which promotes the funding opportunities and the strategies pursued and presents the achievements of the EMFF OP will be carried out;
- Display the EU flag at the premises of the EMFF OP managing authority;
- Publish best practice examples of operations, on EMFF OP portal/website;
- The development of a quarterly electronic newsletter that will inform potential beneficiaries of the benefits of EMFF support and the presentation of projects implemented under the EMFF OP and other relevant news items.
- Ensure that a specific section of the EMFF OP portal/website is dedicated to give a short summary of innovation and eco-innovation operations;
- Provide updated information about the operational programme's implementation, including its main achievements, on the EMFF OP portal/website;
- Ensure that a summary of measures designed to ensure compliance with the CFP rules is made publicly available on the EMFF OP portal/website.
- In order to ensure transparency concerning the support from the EMFF, the managing authority will maintain a list of operations in CSV or XML format which will be accessible through EMFF OP portal/website, providing a list of operations and a summary of the operational programme.

The following information measures for potential beneficiaries of EMFF support will be provided by the EMFF OP managing authority and intermediate bodies.

- Ensure that the EMFF OP's objectives and funding opportunities offered by the EMFF are disseminated widely to potential beneficiaries and all interested parties.

- Ensure that potential beneficiaries are informed of at least the following:
 1. The conditions of eligibility of expenditure to be met in order to qualify for support under a scheme implemented under the EMFF OP;
 2. Description of the admissibility conditions for applications, procedures for examining applications for funding and of the time periods involved;
 3. The criteria for selecting the operations to be supported by the EMFF under the EMFF OP;
 4. The contacts at national, regional or local level that are able to provide information on the EMFF OP;
 5. All applications should propose communication activities, proportionate to the size of the operation, in order to inform the public about the operation's aims and the Union support to the operation.
 6. That acceptance of EMFF funding constitutes an acceptance of their inclusion in the list of operations published on the EMFF OP portal/website.

12. INFORMATION ON THE BODIES RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTING THE CONTROL, INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT SYSTEM

12.1 Bodies implementing the control, inspection and enforcement system

Name of the authority/body
Irish Air Corps (IAC) Irish Naval Service (INS) Sea Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA)

12.2 Brief description of human and financial resources available for fisheries control, inspection and enforcement

The Sea-Fisheries & Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006 establishes the SFPA as the Competent Authority for the enforcement of sea fisheries protection legislation in Ireland, the Irish EEZ and wherever Irish fishing vessels operate.

The SFPA has a full time staff of 84 including 62 frontline inspectors working from 7 port offices, Killybegs, Ros An Mhil, Dingle, Castletownbere, Clonakilty, Dunmore East and Howth and at its Head Office in Clonakilty. In addition the SFPA has two RIBs which are used for sea patrols inside territorial waters. The annual budget of the SFPA is *circa* €9m.

In order to assist the SFPA carry out the monitoring, control and enforcement functions the SFPA has entered into an agreement with the Minister of Defence in respect of particular functions that are undertaken by the INS and IAC. This includes the provision of 8 Patrol Vessels and 2 maritime patrol aircraft including full crews. The INS currently delivers 1,480 patrol days of which 90% are dedicated to fishery protection duties.

The maritime patrol aircraft of the IAC are primarily tasked and deployed on fishery protection on the basis of target inputs and outputs as agreed with SFPA with each aircraft flying *circa* 1000 hours per annum.

12.3 The major equipment available, in particular the number of vessels, aircraft and helicopters

The INS currently delivers 1,480 patrol days of which 90% are dedicated to fishery protection duties. Over the past 4 years there has been an average of approximately 1,300 fisheries boarding's per year. The current Irish EEZ or Exclusive Fishery Limits (EFL) extends to 200 miles offshore and covers an area of 132,000 nautical square miles which is equivalent to an area of 175,000 square land miles. This represents 16% of EU waters. *Circa* 300 fishing vessels operate in the Irish EEZ on a daily basis. A significant percentage of these fishing vessels land their catches into foreign ports and accordingly the most effective method of monitoring the accuracy of their catch returns is through boarding and inspection by the INS at sea. Due to severe financial constraints, the INS fleet replacement programme is currently running behind schedule resulting in an ageing fleet with a number of vessels operating in

excess of their notional 30 year lifespan. The INS has a flotilla of eight ships.

Within its fishery protection role, the INS patrols Ireland’s EEZ as defined by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), out to 200 nautical miles. However, generally speaking the larger vessels, HPV, LPV and OPV patrol offshore towards the 200-mile limit, with the smaller CPV’s concentrating on the coastal band out to approximately 100 nautical miles.

Ireland is currently funding (*circa €190 million*) three new ship builds (including LE Samuel Beckett which recently entered service). These ships will dedicate 90% of their operations to fishery protection duties. While it is acknowledged that funding towards this ship replacement programme was received under the previous funding programme (Commission Decision 2010/352/EU), the amount involved (€900,000) was not significant. Funding is required for the INS fleet replacement programme and on a continuing basis to sustain and maintain the INS fishery inspection fleet.

The IAC provide air surveillance support to the INS with their two CASA CN 235 MPA aircraft that were purchased for maritime patrol purposes in 1994. The IAC aircraft have the highest airframe hours of the global CASA CN 235 fleet with each aircraft flying circa 1000 hrs per annum (primarily on fisheries patrol duty) compared to a global CASA CN 235 fleet average of 250 hrs per annum. The nature of maritime operations means that the maintenance requirements and costs are significant. Options for the future provision of the IAC's maritime patrol role will have to be considered within the lifetime of the EMFF. The potential costs will be significant.

In both the INS and IAC, it has been necessary from time to time to reduce fisheries patrols because of added essential maintenance requirements associated with ageing fleets. However, every effort is made to ensure these resources are used to their maximum in the fishery protection role.

12.4 List of selected types of operations

Type of Operation	Description
a - The purchase, installation and development of technology, including computer hardware and software, vessel detection systems (VDS), closed-circuit television (CCTV) systems and IT networks enabling the gathering, administration, validation, analysis, risk management, presentation (by means of the websites related to control) and exchange of, and the development of sampling methods for, data related to fisheries, as well as interconnection to cross-sectoral data exchange systems	Database Unification, Infringement Register & Cross-checks - Allow for the creation of a singular database with automated cross-checking of data-streams. FMC & Remote monitoring upgrade - Provide a centralised Irish resource to ensure joined-up analysis of all relevant vessels and fishing activity Landing Obligation CCTV & Sensors - Practical verification tool to ensure compliance with discard ban. These types of operations were identified to meet the needs identified in Chapter 2 and the Strategy

Type of Operation	Description
	outlined in Chapter 3. This includes: - To comply through monitoring, control and enforcement and implementation of improved technologies. As a result of the implementation of these operations a state of the art fit for purpose IT system will be in place which would make best use of available resources. It will also improve the ability to verify the fishery product imported from third countries aimed at abolishing IUU fishing under the catch certification scheme.
b - The development, purchase and installation of the components, including computer hardware and software, that are necessary to ensure data transmission from actors involved in fishing and the marketing of fishery products to the relevant Member State and Union authorities, including the necessary components for electronic recording and reporting systems (ERS), vessel monitoring systems (VMS) and automatic identification systems (AIS) used for control purposes	Database Unification, Infringement Register & Cross-checks - Creation of a singular database with automated cross-checking of data-streams. FMC & Remote monitoring upgrade - Centralised Irish resource to ensure joined-up analysis of all relevant vessels and fishing activity VMS Replacement – Provision of a reliable and accurate positional systems within this vital fishery, control tool U12 Inshore Position & Catch loggers – Provision for a practical data-capture solution for small scale coastal vessels Sales Notes & FLUX – Automated Exchange of data between Ireland and EU MS to monitor out take from Irish EEZ. These types of operations were identified to meet the needs identified in Chapter 2 and the Strategy outlined in Chapter 3. As a result of these operations a state of the art, fit for purpose IT systems which make best use of available resources. These operation will also increase the ability to exchange data for other MS and Third Countries seamlessly.
c - The development, purchase and installation of the components, including computer hardware and software, which are necessary to ensure the traceability of fishery and aquaculture products, as referred to in Article 58 of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009	Traceability – Practical system to verify traceability of fishery products after landing. These types of operations were identified to meet the needs identified in Chapter 2 and the Strategy outlined in Chapter 3. As a result of these operations a state of the art, fit for purpose IT Traceability system which will allow the capture and exchange of information.
d - The implementation of programmes aiming at exchanging and analysing data between Member States and analysing them	Database Unification. Automated Exchange of data between Ireland and EU MS to monitor out take from the Irish EEZ. These

Type of Operation	Description
	measures will result in state of the art fit for purpose IT systems which make best use of available control resources and enable exchange of data with other Member States and Third Countries seamlessly.
e - The modernisation and purchase of patrol vessels, aircrafts and helicopters, provided that they are used for fisheries control for at least 60 % of their total periodtime of use per year	Purchase of Offshore Naval Vessels – Reliable sea-going platforms for at-sea control presence. These types of operations were identified to meet the needs identified in Chapter 2 and the Strategy outlined in Chapter 3. As a result of these operations a modern and efficient seagoing and aerial presence will be available for Fisheries Control operations and as required in supporting SCIPs etc. EMFF supports will contribute to the purchase of new vessels and new aircraft between 2018 and 2020. These are expected to be committed to fisheries monitoring for approximately 90% of their patrol days.
f - The purchase of other control means, including devices to enable the measurement of engine power and weighing equipment	Engine Power Measuring – Practical and reliable tools to verify engine power Weighing Official Control Systems – Robust systems to ensure accurate verification of quantity of fish landed. These types of operations were identified to meet the needs identified in Chapter 2 and the Strategy outlined in Chapter 3. As a result of these operations there will be an improvement in the ability to monitor engine power and accurately verify fish landed.
g - The development of innovative control and monitoring systems and the implementation of pilot projects related to fisheries control, including fish DNA analysis or the development of web–sites related to control	Innovation & Technology Transfer – Ongoing appraisal and development of best available technology. These types of operations were identified to meet the needs identified in Chapter 2 and the Strategy outlined in Chapter 3. As a result of these operations there will be an improvement in the ability to future proof and develop new technologies to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the Irish Control Authorities.
h - Training and exchange programmes, including between Member States, of personnel responsible for the monitoring, control and surveillance of fisheries activities	Training for staff of SFPA & INS and exchange programmes, including training organised by the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA). These types of operations

Type of Operation	Description
	were identified to meet the needs identified in Chapter 2 and the Strategy outlined in Chapter 3. As a result of these operations, it will provide a competent professional harmonized inspectorate, informed by best international practice.
i - Cost/benefit analysis and as well as assessments of audits performed and expenditure incurred by competent authorities in carrying out monitoring, control and surveillance	Internal Audit against Procedures – ongoing internal verification of effectiveness and efficiency of compliance strategy. These types of operations were identified to meet the needs identified in Chapter 2 and the Strategy outlined in Chapter 3. As a result of these operations, it will increase the ability to identify efficiencies and possible shortcomings in the Control system in order to improve.
j - Initiatives, including seminars and media tools, aimed at enhancing awareness, among both fishermen and other players such as inspectors, public prosecutors and judges, as well as among the general public, of the need to fight illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and of the implementation of the CFP rules	Targeted Promotional Campaigns – Facilitation of a culture of Compliance. These types of operations were identified to meet the needs identified in Chapter 2 and the Strategy outlined in Chapter 3. As a result of these operations, it will improve stakeholders knowledge of the CFP thereby creating a culture of compliance.
k - Operational costs incurred in carrying out more stringent control for stocks subject to specific control and inspection programmes established in accordance with Article 95 of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 and subject to control coordination in accordance with Article 15 of Council Regulation (EC) No 768/2005	SCIPS and Art 15 Operational Costs – Effective Regional Control Programmes to ensure compliance in Irish EEZ. These types of operations were identified to meet the needs identified in Chapter 2 and the Strategy outlined in Chapter 3. As a result of these operations, it will provide a more effective sea inspection and air surveillance regime and aligned shore based regime.
l - Programmes linked to the implementation of an action plan established in accordance with Article 102(4) of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009, including any operational costs incurred	At present Ireland is not subject to an Action Plan as provided for in Art. 102(4) of EU Regulation 1224 of 2009 but in the event that Ireland is required to develop one in the future there would be a requirement to fund any shortcomings identified following audits. These types of operations were identified to meet the needs identified in Chapter 2 and the Strategy outlined in Chapter 3. As a result of these operations, it will address any weaknesses identified in the Control system by EU Audits.

Type of Operation	Description

12.5 Link to priorities defined by the Commission

Commission Implementing Decision No. 2014/464 of 15 July 2014, identifies in sub-paragraphs (a) to (i) of article 1 the 9 priorities of the Union for enforcement and control policy in the context of the EMFF.

Section 12.4 of this OP identifies the control and enforcement measures that Ireland will implement by reference to the 12 sub-paragraphs (a) to (L) of article 76(2) of the EMFF Regulation.

The linkages between the 9 priorities of the Union and Ireland's proposed measures are set out below by reference to the respective paragraphs.

In summary, Ireland's OP will address all of the 9 Union Control Priorities to some extent. Ireland's OP will focus the largest share of resources on measures concerning Union Control Priority (c) - *Implementation of data validation systems*. This corresponds to EMFF 76(2) (a), (b) and (c) and relates to development of technological solutions to enhance control and enforcement and traceability. Ireland will enhance and future proof what are already well regarded integrated electronic fishery management systems and databases which can deliver the highest quality data to both the Control and Data Collection Authorities and this will enhance cross compliance opportunities, data quality confidence and support the implementation of the Landing Obligation.

Union Control Priority

Ireland's OP

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| (a) Action Plans..... | EMFF 76(2) (l) |
| (b) Administrative capacity..... | EMFF 76(2) (a), (b), (g), (h), (j) |
| (c) Data Validation Systems..... | EMFF 76(2) (a), (b), (c) |
| (d) Landing Obligation..... | EMFF 76(2) (a),(d),(f),(g) |
| (e) Catch Certificate Scheme..... | EMFF 76(2) (a) |
| (f) Engine Power..... | EMFF 76(2) (f) |

(g) SCIPs.....EMFF 76(2) (h),(k)

(h) Control Coordination.....EMFF 76(2) (b),(h),(k)

(i) Traceability.....EMFF 76(2) (c)

13. DATA COLLECTION

13.1 A general description of activities of data collection foreseen for the period 2014-2020

A. 2014-2016

For the period 2014-2016, Ireland will implement Data Collection in support of the CFP including the National Data Collection Programme 2014-2016 as laid down in the Commission Decision C(2013) 5568 of 30 August 2013. The Ireland work programme includes a comprehensive research vessel survey programme, port sampling of landings, sea sampling of discards, age profile of the fisheries resource, analyses of EU logbook and vessel monitoring systems data, extensive collection and analyses of economic data relating to the aquaculture and fish and shellfish processing industries, as well as compilation and analyses of transversal data. These data are the raw material used to assess the resource and develop scientific advice.

Ireland will expand the existing data collection programme to improve the data available to assess stocks that are currently data limited and are economically important to Ireland and its regional partners. Ireland will also increase its scientific capacity in order to meet the newly emerging demands of the reformed CFP in particular in relation to the landings obligation, mixed fisheries management plans and regionalisation.

B. 2017-2020

For the period 2017-2020, Data Collection activities will be based on the obligations of the revision to the DCF regulation and in accordance with Articles 25-27 of the Basic Regulation for the CFP. Ireland aims to address the emerging requirements under the new regulation. While these cannot be specified until the regulation is finalised, Ireland anticipates the following new requirements:

- Broadening the data collection programme to address needs identified in the areas of non TAC species and economic data.
- Investigation into the use of newly emerging technologies to produce more cost effective and sustainable data collection systems.
- Expansion of biological and fisheries related sampling programmes on small scale coastal fisheries.
- Improve integration of fleet and biological data through joint ventures in training and information exchange between enforcement and biological Data Collection agencies.
- Ireland will utilise current surveys to collect data in support of the ecosystem approach to fisheries management. Data on fishing pressure, state of ecosystems, impact of

fisheries on sensitive habitats and mitigation measures will be further analysed and integrated to progress the EAFM.

- Ireland will maximise the value from all data collected under the DCF, particularly those from research vessel surveys to support other EU Directives particularly Natura and MSFD.

The main activities over both periods will be research surveys, port sampling of landings, sea sampling of discards, age reading, analyses of logbooks, collection of economic data, compilation transversal data. The associated expenditure that will be included are staff costs (salary inc. employers PRSI & pension contributions), travel and subsistence, sea allowances, vessel costs (Fuel & lubricating oil, Costs related to the vessel and the crew), consumable goods (fish samples, scientific consumables etc.), durable goods (fishing gear, nets, electronic measuring boards, UWTV equipment, IT equipment etc.)

In strengthening data collection activities under the EU Multi-annual Programme for Data Collection, it may be possible that relevant data are collected to contribute to the monitoring of the MSFD and also capturing data which may be relevant to Natura 2000.

13.2 A description of data storage methods, data management and data use

Control & enforcement data

Stored on following two database systems

- IFIS - This database stores data on mandatory logbook reporting for vessels >10m, sales notes and under 10 metre landings as specified in EU Reg.1224 of 2009 and 404 of 2011. This database is managed by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine IT unit which are located at Backweston campus, Co. Dublin. IFIS Users can access the system through a secure server with controlled logon and backup/failover systems are in in place.
- LIRGUARD - This database stores data on vessel monitoring system as specified in EU Reg.1224 of 2009 and 404 of 2011. This database is managed by FMC (Naval Service Fisheries Monitoring Centre), located at naval base in Haulbowline. User access is through a secure server with controlled logon and backup/failover systems are in in place.

Fisheries sampling data

Including port sampling, observer programmes, self-sampling are stored in a database called STOCKMAN. This database is managed by the Marine Institute (MI) and located at the MI HQ in Rinnville Co. Galway. The database is located on the MI secure network and access is controlled through user logon. It is envisaged to integrate STOCKMAN with views on IFIS at the trip level, under the EMFF Operational Programme. STOCKMAN will be further developed to provide output to the RDB (Regional Database) managed by ICES. Where feasible further integration with reporting of data calls to STECF will be developed.

Economic data

Stored in a database, located on a secure server within the BIM network in the Headquarters located in Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin.

Fisheries independent data

Mainly research vessel surveys- including underwater TV (UWTV) surveys, Trawl surveys, acoustic surveys, egg surveys, are stored in several databases on the Marine Institute network.

- The International Bottom Trawl Survey (IBTS) database has a data export facility which is automated to facilitate upload of Irish IBTS data to the ICES Datras database. A generic upload facility is available to allow data collected at sea on Research Vessel's to be uploaded to the database on the MI network.
- The *Nephrops* underwater TV survey database is used to store *Nephrops* survey data. The *Nephrops* underwater TV survey database stores survey metadata, burrow count, haul and fish data, as well as links to video data, and has analyses routines developed to facilitate the production of live burrow counts for the *Nephrops* UWTV index, which is used by ICES in providing advice on the *Nephrops* stocks covered by the Irish surveys. Work will continue to improve the Nemesys data acquisition software (developed specifically for *Nephrops* by the MI).
- Data from the acoustic surveys (4 surveys in total) are stored on the acoustic survey database system. This database has an upload routine which facilitates taking the database to sea and maintaining the primary database on the MI network. Important outputs to ICES acoustic survey databases are facilitated from this database.
- The mackerel egg survey data has not been stored in a dedicated MI database to date as the data is compiled by Scotland triennially, so the MI provide the years sampling data to Scotland in the required format directly. The international data is stored in a mirror copy by ICES.

Data archiving

Archiving is formalised, and a full time DBA (data base administrator) is employed to oversee the maintenance of the MI databases used to support the DCF. Procedures and policies have been developed to handle data sharing with other Irish agencies involved in data collection used under the DCF.

Validation of financial information

Conducted by qualified accountants who endorse survey forms containing financial data. The arrangement to coincide the collection of financial data with the final submission date for mandatory tax returns is considered to be a cost effective mechanism for the return of validated financial data.

Future work on Irelands DCF data

Ireland will continue to consolidate data assets where possible, and centralize on robust and secure enterprise-wide databases while continuing to enhance and further develop the suite of analysis and reporting tools available. While data exchange to the EU is still via Excel templates as supplied by the JRC. The key shortcoming to supplying data via this route (to meet the format of STECF requests for data) remains the manual integration required between the Logbooks and STOCKMAN databases. Integration of these two datasets will a key focus of Irelands OP in the period 2015-2020, in connection with future development at regional and EU level.

13.3 A description of how sound financial and administrative management in data collection will be achieved

National Correspondent for Data Collection Framework

Ireland's National Correspondent (MC) for the Data Collection Framework (DCF) is located in the Fisheries Ecosystems Advisory Service (FEAS) of Ireland's Marine Institute. The Institute has acted as NC since the inception of the DCF/DCR in 2002. It has designated a senior scientist within FEAS to act as NC to oversee the operation of the National Plan.

In its role as NC, the Institute will ensure Ireland submits its work plans for data collection in accordance with Article 4(4) of Regulation (EC) No 199/2008 by 31 October of the year preceding the year from which the work plan is to apply. It will ensure there is a co-ordinated approach to collection and management of scientific data for fisheries management, including socioeconomic data. It will ensure all data calls received are allocated to the appropriate body/team. It will submit to the Commission a report on the execution of Ireland's national data collection programmes and shall make it publicly available.

The NC will ensure that Ireland sends appropriate scientists to relevant Regional Coordination

Groups, Steering Groups and planning groups, including survey planning groups which deal with task sharing and establishing agreed international protocols on surveys, to provide ICES assessment and science groups with consistent and standardized data. The NC will also ensure that Ireland participates in relevant economic co-ordination groups (e.g. PGECON).

Participation in the coordination of working groups and expert meetings on data collection will be provided for in the national data collection programme work plans according to Article 77(2)(e) of the EMFF Regulation. These meetings may be meetings organised by the Commission, regional coordination meetings, meetings of regional fisheries management and meetings of international bodies responsible for providing scientific advice (ICES and STECF).

The Institute has the scientists and technical staff capacity available to conduct the DCF National programme. The Institute has the capacity to manage, administer and meet Ireland's obligations under the Data Collection Framework. The Institute is supported in its work by Ireland's seafood development agency Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM), who implement the aquaculture, fish processing and economic requirements of the National Programme on behalf of the Institute. The two organisations have access to approximately 30 senior scientific staff and 42 technical staff to deliver the National Programme and annual reports. Commencing in 2015, the Institute will increase its scientific capacity in key areas in order to put a strong focus on inshore fisheries, modelling and statistical work to support mixed fisheries, fisheries management and discard management plans. BIM will also increase its capacity in relation to economic data collection, data management and analyses.

Ireland's DCF work programme includes a comprehensive research vessel survey programme, carried out on Ireland's two national research vessels which are managed by the Institute, port sampling of landings, sea sampling of discards, age profile of the fisheries resource, analyses of EU logbook and vessel monitoring systems data.

Ireland intends to use the research survey programme funded under EMFF as platforms of opportunity to increase data collection to assist the assessment of fisheries impacts on the ecosystem. This would add to initial information collected under articles 37, 38, 39 and 40 of the EMFF relating to the effects of fishing on the environment, reducing discards, protecting biodiversity and obligations under directives relation to birds and cetaceans.

Management of EMFF funding

The Corporate Services Division of the Marine Institute will act as the Irish beneficiary body of EMFF funding for data collection, thus ensuring clear separation of functions within the Marine Institute.

The Department of Agriculture Food and Marine as the Managing Authority for the EMFF

OP is responsible for managing the OP in accordance with the principle of sound financial management. The Managing Authority will ensure through its functions under article 125 of the Common Provisions Regulation, in particular paragraphs 4 to 6, the sound financial management of EMFF funding for data collection.

14. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

14.1 Description of the planned use of financial instruments

Financial instruments can be co-funded by the EMFF to support the investment priorities outlined in EMFF OP 2014-2020. Financial instruments can potentially support the majority of measures proposed in this Programme, provided that they address an identified market gap, i.e. areas of activity where banks are unwilling to lend and/or where the private sector is unwilling to invest.

Under the EMFF, support to seafood processing enterprises that are not SMEs can only be provided by means of financial instruments. Grant aid may not be given.

Certain rules apply under article 37 of the Common Provisions Regulation (1303/2013) to use of financial instruments under this Programme. These require that an ex-ante assessment establish the case for use of financial instruments before the Managing Authority may allocate funds. An ex-ante assessment was conducted in 2017 in partnership with the RDP Managing Authority. The consultants Indecon International Economic Consultants concluded that there were market failures that warranted the use of financial instruments to support capital investments in aquaculture and seafood processing. The consultants recommended a partial loan guarantee fund and an interest rate subsidy.

The consultants advised that a financial instrument solely for the EMFF is not economically viable and is also unlikely to be successful in securing take-up by banks. They recommended that it only be implemented as part of a single financial instrument with the RDP. This is a key consideration in implementing financial instruments under the EMFF.

Another key consideration is the maximum aid intensity of 50% for SMEs and 30% for non-SMEs. Some existing support schemes are already providing this maximum level of support. This creates complexities in implementing a financial instrument, particularly where grants continue to be made available.

The Managing Authority is considering all of these issues, together with the RDP Managing Authority, before proceeding to the next stage of designing the financial instrument.

14.2 Selection of the EMFF measures planned to be implemented through the financial instruments

	EMFF Measure
	01 - Article 37 Support for the design and implementation of conservation measures
	02 - Article 38 Limiting the impact of fishing on the marine environment and adapting fishing to the protection of species (+ art. 44.1.c Inland fishing)
	03 - Article 39 Innovation linked to the conservation of marine biological resources (+ art. 44.1.c Inland fishing)
	04 - Article 40.1.a Protection and restoration of marine biodiversity – collection of lost fishing gear and marine litter
✓	05 - Article 43.2 Fishing ports, landing sites, auction halls and shelters – investments to facilitate compliance with the obligation to land all catches
	01 - Article 40.1.b-g, i Protection and restoration of marine biodiversity – contribution to a better management or conservation, construction, installation or modernisation of static or movable facilities, preparation of protection and management plans related to NATURA2000 sites and spatial protected areas, management, restoration and monitoring marine protected areas, including NATURA

	2000 sites, environmental awareness, participation in other actions aimed at maintaining and enhancing biodiversity and ecosystem services (+ art. 44.6 Inland fishing)
	02 - Article 36 Support to systems of allocation of fishing opportunities
	01 - Article 27 Advisory services (+ art. 44.3 Inland fishing)
	03 - Article 31 Start-up support for young fishermen (+ art. 44.2 Inland fishing)
	04 - Article 32 Health and safety (+ art. 44.1.b Inland fishing)
	05 - Article 33 Temporary cessation of fishing activities
	06 - Article 35 Mutual funds for adverse climatic events and environmental incidents
✓	08 - Article 42 Added value, product quality and use of unwanted catches (+ art. 44.1.e Inland fishing)
✓	09 - Article 43.1 + 3 Fishing ports, landing sites, auction halls and shelters - investments improving fishing port and auctions halls infrastructure or landing sites and shelters; construction of shelters to improve safety of fishermen (+ art. 44.1.f Inland fishing)
	01 - Article 26 Innovation (+ art. 44.3 Inland fishing)
	02 - Article 28 Partnerships between fishermen and scientists (+ art. 44.3 Inland fishing)
	03 - Article 41.1.a, b, c Energy efficiency and mitigation of climate change – on board investments; energy efficiency audits and schemes; studies to assess the contribution of alternative propulsion systems and hull designs (+ art. 44.1.d Inland fishing)
	04 - Article 41.2 Energy efficiency and mitigation of climate change - Replacement or modernisation of main or ancillary engines (+ art. 44.1.d Inland fishing)
	01 - Article 29.1 + 29.2 Promoting human capital and social dialogue - training, networking, social dialogue; support to spouses and life partners (+ art. 44.1.a Inland fishing)
	02 - Article 29.3 Promoting human capital and social dialogue – trainees on board of SSCF vessels / social dialogue (+ art. 44.1.a Inland fishing)
	01 - Article 47 Innovation
	02 - Article 49 Management, relief and advisory services for aquaculture farms
✓	01 - Article 48.1.a-d, f-h Productive investments in aquaculture
	02 - Article 52 Encouraging new sustainable aquaculture farmers
	03 - Article 51 Increasing the potential of aquaculture sites
	04 - Article 53 Conversion to eco-management and audit schemes and organic aquaculture
	02 - Article 55 Public health measures
	03 - Article 56 Animal health and welfare measures
	01 - Article 50 Promoting human capital and networking
	01 - Article 77 Data collection
	01 - Article 76 Control and enforcement
	01 - Article 62.1.a Preparatory support
	02 - Article 63 Implementation of local development strategies (incl. running costs and animation)
	03 - Article 64 Cooperation activities
	01 - Article 66 Production and marketing plans
	02 - Article 67 Storage aid
	03 - Article 68 Marketing measures
✓	01 - Article 69 Processing of fisheries and aquaculture products
	01 - Article 80.1.a Integrating Maritime Surveillance
	02 - Article 80.1.b Promotion of the protection of marine environment, and the sustainable use of marine and coastal resources
	03 - Article 80.1.c Improving the knowledge on the state of the marine environment

14.3 Indicative amounts planned to be used through the financial instruments

EMFF total amount 2014-2020 (€) 0.00

DOCUMENTS

Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent By
MS justification for OP amendment - Ireland	MS justification for OP amendment	30-Jun-2021		Ares(2021)4269034	Proposal for modification	30-Jun-2021	nclardam

LATEST VALIDATION RESULTS

Severity	Code	Message
Info		Programme version has been validated.
Warning	2.5.3	EU Support contribution in Table 8.2 is zero. Union Priority: "Fostering marketing and processing ", Measure: "Storage aid (Article 67) (Article 13(6) of the EMFF)"
Warning	2.27.1	EMFF Performance Reserve amount per Union Priority should be between 5% and 7% of the EMFF contribution, performance reserve included. Union Priority: "2", Actual amount: "745,000.00", Minimum expected amount: "789,557.75", Maximum expected amount: "1,105,380.85"
Warning	2.27.3	EMFF Performance Reserve amount per Union Priority should be between 5% and 7% of the EMFF contribution, performance reserve included. Union Priority: "5", Actual amount: "1,109,355.00", Minimum expected amount: "775,000.00", Maximum expected amount: "1,085,000.00"