



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Cómhainithe ag an
Aontas Eorpach

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The European Maritime, Fisheries Fund 2014-2020 Monitoring Committee Meeting

Wednesday, 29th November 2023

Draft Minutes

	Agenda Item	Action
1	Adoption of Agenda	For Adoption
2	Minutes	For Approval
3	EMFF Programme to date	For Information
4	Impact Evaluation (2024)	For Information
5	EMFF Closure Process	For Information
6	Any other business	For Discussion

Attendance: See Appendix A

Agenda Item 1 - Adoption of Agenda

Chair - Agenda Adopted, no objections.

Agenda Item 2 - Minutes

Chair - For Approval.

Seamus Bonner, IIMRO – raised the point that P.O. funding for IIMRO is still not approved. Needs clarification on what the issue is. Feels not treated fairly and still have to comply with CMO regulation and finds it hard to complete PMP without funding and querying what the plan is to address this.

Chair is aware of the matter and has undertaken to follow up with Seamus separately. Asked if any other issues or objections.

No further issues or objections. Minutes adopted.

Agenda Item 3 - EMFF Programme to date

Slides presented by Keith Kelleher, DAFM - summary of the implementation of the EMFF programme, union priority progress & spend to date

Fabio Galetti, DG Mare compliments the level of implementation of the fund to date and managing to nearly use all funds, especially in light of the difficulties and challenges faced, particularly Brexit. Emphasised the importance of result indicators going forward which also provides information for data collection. Evaluation of EMFF will be important for EMFAF by May 2024 and result indicators will be assessed and taken into account. Thanks everyone for their contributions.

Patrick Murphy, IS&WFPO commends Keith and EMFF but would have preferred to see 100% spend. Queries if there a penalty for spending beyond the allocation and could the M.C. take a risk? Query re MSP (Marine Spatial Planning) did that come in after the development of these plans.

Keith Kelleher, DAFM explained that there is flexibility and potential to spend a little more on some priorities but the overall allocation of €240m cannot be spent. **Chair** reiterated that we can't spend money that we don't have. Keith believes MSP and Blue Growth was always there but will check the records.

Adrian Antonescu, DG Mare informs that the control expenditure has been suspended for an extended period and working with SFPA and M.A. and assessing the progress on resolution of this. This was a criteria which was not fulfilled back in 2016.

Chair clarified that this is a situation where we sought to claim money from the Commission, and the Commission is withholding because they are not satisfied in relation to a particular issued around control. The activities are done. It's an issue for the Department and the Exchequer and the Department have put forward a comprehensive and meaningful response to the Commission and believe the issue is addressed and awaiting a decision from the Commission and hopeful for a positive outcome.

Agenda Item 4 - Impact Evaluation (2024)

Chair indicated intention to carry out an evaluation of the EMFF programme. Started by drafting a request for tender on that, hoping to have someone in place by the new year as this is an important piece of work and needs to be done. In preparing the tender we are being informed by the guidance

of FAMENET in relation to best practices around evaluations and standards that need to be done. This will feed into the final annual implementation report that we are due to have with the Commission by May and why there should be a meeting of the EMFF M.C. before May in the hope to bring a draft implementation report to share with M.C. members.

[Agenda Item 5 - EMFF Closure Process](#)

Slides presented by Keith Kelleher, DAFM – on EMFF Closure Process

Comment on chat from Caitriona, similar to Patrick's query on MSP, which was already answered

[Agenda Item 6 - Any Other Business](#)

The next meeting will convene in end of April/early May in advance of the finalisation of the final Annual Implementation Report.

Commission & Chair thanked everyone for their work as a collective.

Appendix A – Attendees

In Person

Antonescu, Adrian DG Mare	Galetti, Fabio DG Mare	Brennan, Suzanne DAFM
Kelleher, Keith DAFM	McCormack, Eoin DAFM	Moynihan, Noel EMFAF Audit Authority
Coppinger, Declan Bord Bia	Walker, William NIFF	Lynch, John ISEFPO
Crowley, Mary SFPA	Scanlon, Tom B.I.M.	Poole. Russell Marine Institute
Morrison, Catherine B.I.M.	Lyons, David National Parks and Wildlife Service	Lawler, Ian B.I.M.
D'Hondt, Dolf Environmental Pillar		

Online

Aylward, Eamon DAFM	Hall, Mary DAFM	Molloy, Mary DAFM
Twomey, Michelle DAFM	Gibbon, Cillian DAFM	Bonner, Seamus, IIMRO
O'Brien, Garrett FLAGS	O'Hea, Linda, M.I.	Leydon, Sinead DOD
Guinan, Grainne DOD	McCabe, Kieran DOD	Harrison, Michelle EMFAF Audit Authority
Healy, Kieran NIFF	Nic Aonghusa, Caitriona	Murphy, Patrick IS&WFPO
O'Donnell, Aodh IFPO	Ni Longphuirt, Sorcha Housing	Dubsky, Karin Environmental Pillar
Ní Einniu, Máire Údarás	O'Donoghue, Sean KFO	Morrissey, Teresa IFA
Kelly, Paul IBEC	Byrne, Angela Enterprise Ireland	Roche, William Inland Fisheries Ireland