



# EMFAF implementation

*A guide to shared  
management*

## General framework

- **Shared management:** national multiannual programmes prepared by Member States and approved by the Commission
- **Direct management:** work programmes prepared by the Commission and approved by the EMFAF Committee (i.e. national experts)

# Sustainable use and management of aquatic biological resources

Sustainable fishing and aquaculture	Seafood supply	Marine environment	Blue economy	Maritime policy
<p>sustainable, low-impact and low-carbon fishing activities</p> <p>structural management of fisheries and fishing fleets (eliminating fleet overcapacity and supporting measures for the conservation of marine biological resources)</p> <p>collection of scientific data to underpin fisheries management</p> <p>control of fishing activities and promotion of a culture of compliance in the fishing sector, to ensure a level playing field</p> <p>sustainable aquaculture production</p>	<p>supply of quality and healthy seafood to European consumers through an efficient market for fisheries and aquaculture products</p>	<p>protection and restoration of marine biodiversity, ecosystems and habitats</p>	<p>economic and social vitality of coastal communities</p> <p>innovation in the sustainable blue economy</p> <p>economic attractiveness of fisheries and aquaculture</p> <p>generational renewal in fisheries and aquaculture</p> <p>improvement of skills and working conditions in fisheries and aquaculture</p>	<p>maritime security, contributing to a safe maritime space</p> <p>maritime spatial planning</p> <p>international cooperation, contributing to healthy, safe and sustainably managed oceans</p>

# Financial framework

- **Overall budget** for 2021-2027: EUR 6.108 billion
- Budgetary resources for **shared management**: EUR 5.311 billion – 87%
  - *National allocations established on the basis of the 2014-2020 distribution key*
  - *Rate of public aid modulated based on the added value of the projects (between 40% and 100% of the eligible expenditure)*
  - *EU share of the public expenditure (co-financing rate): max 70%*
  - *Ring-fenced amount for fisheries control and the collection of scientific data*
  - *Capped amount for certain fleet measures*
- Budgetary resources for **direct management**: EUR 797 million – 13%

# Conditions of support

## *General principles of eligibility*

General principle in the Common Provisions Regulation:

*The eligibility of expenditure is determined on the basis of national rules, except where specific rules are laid down in the EU legal framework.*

Member States can select projects which:

- ✓ are not explicitly ineligible (e.g. construction of fishing vessels)
  - ✓ comply with the eligibility conditions established in the EMFAF Regulation, if any (e.g. conditions for investment in the fishing fleet to avoid overcapacity)
  - ✓ contribute to the objectives of the EMFAF
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- **Flexible framework for Member States**
  - **Simplification compared to the rigid predefined measures of the previous fund**

# Conditions of support

## *Safeguards against infringements*

- Inadmissibility of applications submitted by operators who committed **serious infringements** to the Common Fisheries Policy (e.g. illegal fishing, invalid licence, forbidden gear)
- **Reimbursement of the aid** if the beneficiary commits serious infringements within five years
- Commission's powers to **suspend payments to Member States** in case of **non compliance** with the rules of the Common Fisheries Policy and of the Common Provisions Regulation (e.g. deficiency in the management and control system of the programme)

# Programming under shared management

## *Strategic approach*

- Each Member State prepares a **single national programme**, which the Commission approves after an in-depth assessment
  - **Multiannual strategic roadmap** for public investment
  - Describes **tailor-made actions** to respond to the **specific challenges** identified by the Member States as regards the **common EU priorities** for marine biodiversity, maritime policy and sustainable fisheries and aquaculture
- Main **guiding principle** for the Commission's assessment:  
*The maximisation of the contribution of the programme to the Priorities of the EMFAF and to the objectives of resilience, green transition and digital transition, including through a wide range of innovative solutions.*

# Programming under shared management

## *Structure of programmes*

- **10 Specific Objectives clustered in 4 Priorities**
- A **SWOT analysis** (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) underpinning the identification of concrete **needs**
- A description of the **types of actions** considered to address the needs (for each Specific Objective)
- A **performance framework** (targets for 2029 on output and result indicators for each Specific Objective)
- A **financing plan** showing the distribution of financial resources across the Specific Objectives
- An **indicative financial breakdown** for thematic areas within each Specific Objective (« types of intervention ») – also used for **measuring the contribution to climate and environmental objectives** through standard coefficients

SWOT analysis

# PRIORITY

Identification of needs

## Specific objective

Financial allocation

Co-financing rate

Targets for output  
and result indicators

Types of actions

Targeted beneficiaries

## Types of intervention

Indicative amount on a  
specific area

Climate and  
environment  
coefficients

**OPERATIONS**  
(projects)

# Implementation under shared management *Framework*

- **Shared responsibility between the Commission and Member States:**
  - Member States are responsible for implementing the actions and reimbursing expenditure to beneficiaries
  - The Commission monitors implementation, reimburses Member States and is ultimately accountable for the budget
- The national **Monitoring Committee:**
  - comprises representatives of the Member State authorities and of 'partners' (notably economic and social partners, civil society, research organisations)
  - monitors the progress in programme implementation and in achieving the targets
  - examines any issues that affect the performance of the programme and the measures taken to address those issues
  - approves the methodology and criteria used for the selection of operations
- The national **Managing Authority:**
  - is responsible for managing the programme with a view to delivering its objectives
  - publishes calls for proposals (and ensures the publication of a timetable of the planned calls)
  - selects operations in accordance with the selection criteria approved by the Monitoring Committee, and ensures that selected operations provide an effective contribution to the achievement of the objectives of the programme
  - publishes the list of operations selected for support

# Implementation

## *Forms and purpose of support*

- **Forms of support:**

- Grants (reimbursement of eligible expenditure or simplified cost options)
- Financial instruments (e.g. loans, guarantees)
- Compensation schemes

- **Purpose of support:**

- Research, pilot projects, innovation
- Investments
- Collective actions
- Structural management of the fleet, etc.

# Project implementation step by step (for grants)

- Step 1: the Monitoring Committee defines the criteria to be used in the selection of operations
- Step 2: the Managing Authority launches calls for proposals
- Step 3: applicants apply to the calls for proposals
- Step 4: the Managing Authority selects the operations that will be supported, and the corresponding beneficiaries
- Step 5: the Managing Authority and the selected beneficiary sign a grant agreement setting out the details of the operation (objectives, eligible costs, deliverables, timetable for payments)
- Step 6: the beneficiary implements the operation and reports to the Managing Authority
- Step 7: the Member State pays the beneficiaries in accordance with the grant agreement
- Step 8: the Member State ensures the sound financial management of the supported operations (including through audit and control reports)
- Step 9: the Member State submits payment applications to the Commission to receive the reimbursement of the EU share of the operations

## Key points:

- There is no direct relationship between the Commission and beneficiaries. The contact point for beneficiaries is the national Managing Authority.
- The relationship between the Managing Authority and the beneficiary does not follow the same pace as the relationship between the Managing Authority and the Commission. Both processes correspond to different frameworks.

# Monitoring under shared management

- Regular **reporting** by Member States:
  - ✓ on the values of output and result indicators
  - ✓ on the number of selected operations and on their total eligible cost
  - ✓ on the key characteristics of each beneficiary and of each operation
- *This information is aggregated and can be processed for ad-hoc requests*
- **Annual review meeting** between the Commission and the Managing Authority to discuss implementation