



Gian Ludovico Ceccaroni

FIRST LOOK AT THE NEW
EUROPEAN MARITIME, FISHERIES
AND AQUACULTURE FUND



Co-founded by the
European Union

MEDAC – WG1 – Legislative corner



- 👉 **Political agreement reached on EMFAF (Trilogue 4/12/2020), the new financial support instrument for the fisheries and aquaculture sector. It will cover the next programming period 2021-2027**
- 👉 **Agreed text endorsed by the Committee on Fisheries on 22 February 2021.**
- 👉 **During the cd. "Trilogue" a lot of important changes have been made with respect to the text proposed by the European Commission on 12 June 2018 (20 months of discussions).**



Proposal and agreed financial budget

Proposed budget for 2021-2027

- 👉 **EUR 6.140 billion in current price**
- 👉 Shared management: EUR 5.311 billion (86.5%)
- 👉 Direct management: EUR 829 million (13.5%)
- 👉 Definition of national allocations under shared management based on the 2014-2020 shares



Shared budget for 2021-2027

- 👉 **EUR 6.108 billion in current price**
- 👉 Shared management: EUR 5.311 billion (87%)
- 👉 Direct management: EUR 797 million (13.0%)
- 👉 Definition of national allocations under shared management based on the 2014-2020 shares

EMFAF priority

- 1) Fostering sustainable fisheries and the restoration and conservation of aquatic biological resources;**
- 2) Fostering sustainable aquaculture activities, and processing and marketing of fisheries and aquaculture products, thus contributing to food security in the Union;**
- 3) Enabling a sustainable blue economy in coastal, island and inland areas, and fostering the development of fishing and aquaculture communities;**
- 4) Strengthening international ocean governance and enabling seas and oceans to be safe, secure, clean and sustainably managed.**

Support under the EMFAF shall contribute to the achievement of the environmental and climate change mitigation and adaptation objectives of the Union.

A new philosophy for the EMFAF

- ✓ **Financial support no longer based on a list of predefined measures, but on areas of intervention within the priorities**
- ✓ **Flexible framework for implementation, to take into account regional or local specificities and sea basins;**
- ✓ **Member States define actions to be implemented, indicating the most appropriate means to achieve the priorities of the EMFAF.**
- ✓ **Member States have some flexibility in defining eligibility rules.**
- ✓ **Possibility to finance a wide range of measures by the MS as long as falling within the supported sectors (Fisheries, Aquaculture, Processing sector, Blue economy);**
- ✓ **Exceptions introduced in the interinstitutional passage.**

Priority 1: Fostering sustainable fisheries and the restoration and conservation of aquatic biological

Specific objectives

- (a) strengthening economically, socially and environmentally sustainable fishing activities;**
- (b) increasing energy efficiency and reducing CO₂ emissions through the replacement or modernisation of engines of fishing vessels;**
- (c) promoting the adjustment of fishing capacity to fishing opportunities in cases of permanent cessation of fishing capacity and contributing to a fair standard of living in cases of temporary cessation of fishing activities**
- (d) fostering efficient fisheries control and enforcement, including fighting against IUU fishing, as well as reliable data for knowledge-based decision-making**
- (e) promoting a level-playing field for fishery and aquaculture products from the outermost regions; and**
- (f) contributing to the protection and restoration of aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems.**

Ineligible operations or expenditure

- a) Operations that increase the fishing capacity (derogation Article 16b → **Increase of the gross tonnage of a fishing vessel to improve safety, working conditions or energy efficiency**);
- b) Acquisition of equipment that increases the ability of a fishing vessel to find fish
- c) Construction, Acquisition or importation of fishing vessels (derogation Article 16 → **First acquisition of a fishing vessel**);
- d) Transfer or reflagging of fishing vessels to third countries;
- e) Temporary or permanent cessation of fishing activities (derogation Article 17 and 18 → **Temporary and permanent cessation of fishing activities**);
- f) Exploratory fishing;
- g) Transfer of ownership of a business;
- h) Direct restocking, with exceptions

Article 13 Ineligible operations or expenditure

- i) Construction of new ports or new auction halls;**
- j) Market intervention mechanisms (derogation Article 22a (2));**
- k) Investments on board fishing vessels to comply with the requirements under Union law in force (derogation Article 19 → Control and enforcement);**
- l) Investments on board fishing vessels with fishing activities < 60 days in the two calendar years**
- m) Replacement or modernisation of a main or ancillary engine on a fishing vessel (Derogation Article 16a → Replacement or modernisation of a main or ancillary engine).**

Art 16. First acquisition of a fishing vessel

Conditions for the natural person:

- 1) < 40 years old;
- 2) at least five years as fisher or with adequate qualification.

Conditions for fishing vessel:

- (a) To belong to a segment of the fishing fleet in balance with the fishing opportunities available to that segment;
- (b) Equipped for fishing activities;
- (c) < 24 m LoA;
- (d) Registered in the UE fleet register for at least three calendar years (SSF) and for at least five calendar years (other vessels)
- (e) Registered in the UE fleet register for a maximum of 30 calendar years

16a. Replacement or modernisation of a main or ancillary engine

Conditions:

- (a) < 24 m LoA
- (b) To belong to a segment of the fishing fleet in balance with the fishing opportunities available to that segment;
- (c) Registered in the Union fleet register **for at least three** calendar years;
- (d) **SSF: new or modernised engine not to have more power in kW than that of the current engine;**
- (e) **Other vessels up to 24 metres: new or modernised engine not to have more power in kW than that of the current engine and to emit at least 20% less CO₂ compared to the current engine.**

Fishing capacity withdrawn due to the replacement or modernisation of a main or ancillary engine shall not be replaced.

16b. Increase of GT to improve safety, working conditions or energy efficiency 1

Conditions:

- (a) < 24 m LoA;
- (b) To belong to a segment of the fishing fleet in balance with the fishing opportunities available to that segment;
- (c) Registered in the UE fleet register **for at least 10 calendar years**
- (d) new fishing capacity compensated by prior withdrawal of at least the same amount of fishing capacity without public aid from:
 - (a) the same fleet segment or
 - (b) from a fleet segment not in balance with the available fishing opportunities.

17. Permanent cessation of fishing activities

Conditions:

- (a) Cessation as tool of action plan referred to in Article 22(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013. (**fleet segments with identified structural overcapacity**)
- (b) Cessation by scrapping or decommissioning and retrofitting to activities other than commercial fishing;
- (c) Fishing vessel registered as active
- (d) Fishing activities at sea for at least 90 days per year during the last two calendar years
- (e) Equivalent fishing capacity permanently removed from the UE fishing fleet register and the fishing licenses and authorisations permanently withdrawn
- (f) The beneficiary cannot register any fishing vessel within five years following the receipt of support.

The support may only be granted to:

- (a) owners of Union fishing vessels concerned by the permanent cessation; or
- (b) fishers who have worked at sea on board a Union fishing vessel concerned by the permanent cessation for at least 90 days per year during the last two calendar years preceding the year of submission of the application for support.

18. Temporary cessation

Conditions

- (a) Conservation measures, as referred to in Article 7.1 (a,b,c,l,j) of CFP Regulation (EU)
- (b) Commission measures in case of a serious threat to marine biological resources (CFP art.12)
- (c) Member States' emergency measures (CFP art.13);
- (d) Interruption due to reasons of force majeure of the application of a sustainable fisheries partnership agreement or protocol thereto; or
- (e) natural disasters, environmental incidents or health crises, as formally recognised by the competent authorities of the relevant Member State.

The support may only be granted where the fishing activities of the vessel or fisher concerned are stopped during at least 30 days in a given calendar year.

2. The support may only be granted to:

- a) Owners with activity for at least 120 days in the last two calendar years
- b) Fishers or fishers on foot with at least 120 days in the last two calendar years

Maximum duration: **12 months per vessel** or per fisher during the programming period.

EMFAF may also support:

Purchase, installation and management on vessels of the necessary components for compulsory vessel tracking and electronic reporting systems used for control purposes;

Purchase, installation and management on vessels of the necessary components for compulsory remote electronic monitoring systems used for controlling the implementation of the landing obligation referred to in Article 15 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013;

Purchase, installation and management on vessels of devices for compulsory continuous measurement and recording of propulsive engine power

22. Protection and restoration of aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems

- (a) compensations to fishers for the passive collection of lost fishing gears and marine litter from the sea;**
- (b) investments in ports or other infrastructure to provide adequate reception facilities for lost fishing gears and marine litter collected from the sea;**
- (c) actions to achieve or maintain a good environmental status in the marine environment, as set out in Marine Strategy Framework Directive**
- (d) the management, restoration, surveillance and monitoring of Natura 2000 areas, taking into account the prioritised action frameworks established pursuant to Article 8 of Directive 92/43/EEC (Habitat);**
- (e) the protection of species under Directive 92/43/EEC and Directive 2009/147/EC (wild birds);**

Insurance: actions that strengthen the resilience of the fishing sector, including through mutual funds, insurance instruments or other collective schemes which enhance the capacity of the sector to manage risks and respond to adverse events.

Marine litter reduction: Support is envisaged for investments in ports or other infrastructure to provide adequate collection facilities for lost fishing gear and marine litter collected from the sea.

Support for aquaculture: The EMFAF will continue to support European aquaculture by encouraging investment in the sector and promoting the marketing, quality and added value of products, as well as the processing of these products.

Support in the event of exceptional crises: compensation to fisheries and aquaculture operators for loss of income or additional costs and compensation to recognized producer organizations and associations of producer organizations stocking the fishery products.



MEDAC
Coordinator WG 1:
Gian Ludovico Ceccaroni

More info – segreteria@med-ac.eu



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