



With the financial support of the European Union

A Socially Sustainable EU Common Fisheries Policy: Workers' organisations' participation in the fisheries, aquaculture and processing sectors

Discussion Paper 3:

Fisheries Management and Financial Instruments

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Prepared for ETF-EFFAT by CHARMELIAN

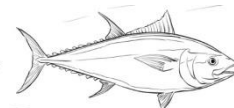
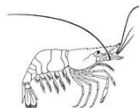
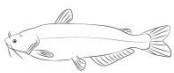


**EUROPEAN TRANSPORT
WORKERS' FEDERATION**



EFFAT

**European Federation of Food, Agriculture
and Tourism Trade Unions**



Iain Pollard

Melanie Siggs

Charlotte Tindall

Contents

Glossary of Terms	1
1 Introduction	2
1.1 Project Objectives.....	2
1.2 Approach of the project.....	3
1.3 The EU fishery (Fishing, Processing and Aquaculture) sector	4
2 Key elements of the Common Fisheries Policy and Social Implications	5
2.1 CFP Objectives.....	5
2.2 Fisheries management measures within the CFP	5
2.3 Spotlight: The Landing Obligation (Discard Ban)	11
3 Integrating social objectives into the legislative processes of the CFP	13
3.1 Existing legislative process	13
3.2 Opportunities for input into the legislative process.....	14
3.3 Available tools for taking social and economic issues into account	15
4 The Critical Importance of Setting Social Objectives in Fishery Management	17
4.1 What social benefits should be the objective of fishery management?.....	18
5 Financial Instruments available for supporting Social Benefits	22
5.1 European Maritime and Fisheries Fund	22
5.2 Examples of EMFF finding	25
5.3 EMFF and social dimension.....	26
5.4 Conditionality of EMFF	27
5.5 Other European funding options	28
6 Recommendations.....	29
References.....	31

Glossary of Terms

Seafood Sector / Fishery Industry – Includes all aspects of the seafood supply chain including Fishing, Aquaculture and Seafood Processing.

Sustainable – Refers to all the three pillars of sustainability; Social, Environment, Economy.

CFP – Common Fisheries Policy - The CFP is a set of rules for managing European fishing fleets and for conserving fish stocks.

TAC – Total allowable Catch – Otherwise known as fishing opportunities, are catch limits (expressed in tonnes or numbers) that are set for most commercial fish stocks.

The European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) is the fund for the EU's maritime and fisheries policies for 2014-2020.

MSY – Maximum sustainable yield - is theoretically, the largest yield that can be taken from a species' stock over an indefinite period.

MEY – Maximum economic yield – is the yield at which the greatest economic rent is produced from a fishery.

Relative stability - TACs are shared between EU countries in the form of national quotas. For each stock a different allocation percentage per EU country is applied for the sharing out of the quotas. This fixed percentage is known as the relative stability key. EU countries can exchange quotas with other EU countries.

MCS – Monitoring Control and Surveillance a broadening of traditional enforcing national rules over fishing, to the support of the broader problem of fisheries management.

STECF – Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries. Must be consulted on policy but is focussed on the environmental sciences rather than social.

FLAGs - Fisheries Local Action Groups are groups of fisheries and other marine and local sectors formed to deliver a local development strategy.

Advisory Councils – Have been set up for fishing regions, aquaculture and markets. They provide the Commission and EU countries with recommendations on fisheries management. This may include advice on conservation and socio-economic aspects of management and on simplification of rules.

Impact Assessments – Coordinated by the European Commission they examine whether there is a need for EU action and analyse the possible impacts of available solutions. These are carried out during the preparation phase, before the Commission finalises a proposal for a new law. They provide evidence to inform and support the decision-making process.

ITQs – Individual transferable quotas are a type of catch share system, which is used as a tool by governments to manage fisheries.

ATQ – Autonomous tariff quotas regulate fisheries products for which, for a limited volume, the duty has been suspended or reduced. Duty and volume are specific to each product. ATQs are only granted to products that are imported to be further processed within the EU. The objective is to provide the EU processing industry with raw and semi-raw materials, ensuring its competitiveness without harming EU producers.

1 Introduction

1.1 Project Objectives

This report is an output of a project undertaken by ETF and EFFAT, and contractors Charmelien. The main objective of the project is to understand the social impacts and ‘human’ consequences of the European Union (EU) Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). This is an opportunity for workers’ rights to be more explicitly integrated within the CFP, as yet they are wholly unrepresented. It is imperative that these impacts and consequences are identified, documented and addressed in the next reform, so that social sustainability is mainstreamed in future versions of the CFP. The CFP is due for review in 2020, offering an opportunity to create such changes through smart advocacy.

1.1.1 The interaction between fisheries management policies and financial instruments within the CFP and social outcomes for workers in the seafood sector in the EU

This paper briefly reviews fisheries management policies and financial instruments within the CFP and offers discussion points to the Affiliates regarding the social outcomes for workers in the seafood sector and what needs to be done to improve fisheries management for them. The focus is within the jurisdiction of the European Union.

It is vital that fishing is managed because open-access leads to overexploitation of stocks and fishing no longer being economically viable. Therefore management policies and implementation are necessary to ensure conservation, stock reproduction, fair fishing opportunities, social benefits and to make for a profitable industry.

Unfortunately the CFP is driven by fishery science and often viewed negatively, due to a decrease in fish stocks, falling numbers of fishers and a decrease in fishing industry profits. Each year the European Commission uses scientific evidence to propose total allowable catch (TAC), however this is often ignored by the Council of Ministers and does not ensure sustainability (social, economic and environmental) in the long-term.

One example often cited of the long-term implications of fish stocks being exploited is the collapse and closure of the fisheries in Canada which had far reaching socio-economic implications, according to Mathews (1995), 25,000 fishermen and 10,000 related workers lost their jobs, which was as a result of short-term social and economic priorities rather than the conservation of resources.

1.1.2 What does this discussion paper cover?

This paper is specifically aimed at stimulating discussion at the 3rd EFT/EFFAT Seminar being held in Boulogne, France on the 26th-27th February 2019 on fisheries management and Financial Instrument.

The intent of the Seminar is to listen to Trade Unions and form recommendations that can be taken forward with the European Commission and other parties relevant to the next review of the CFP, or other regulations that impact the EU seafood sector and those who work within it.

The paper outlines the current situation of the EU seafood sector in relation to fisheries management and financial instrument. It aims to present the principle issues, raise awareness and understanding, create structure around the debate, and guide discussions of workers’

organisations' participation in the fishing, aquaculture and processing sectors (referred to collectively as the seafood sector).

The interaction between fisheries management policies and financial instruments within the CFP and social outcomes for workers in the seafood sector will be explored in this paper, and at the Seminar. The intention is to build consensus between Trade Unions; agree priorities in the area of social outcomes for workers and ways of engaging with decision makers to ensure social benefits are mainstreamed in the upcoming CFP reform, through the prioritisation of Trade Union views in decision making.

The report is structured into a review of the regulatory framework and existing literature, formation of discussion points and recommendations. Input from the Trade Unions about their own and local experiences and forming these into social demands for inclusion in the reform is expected at the Seminar.

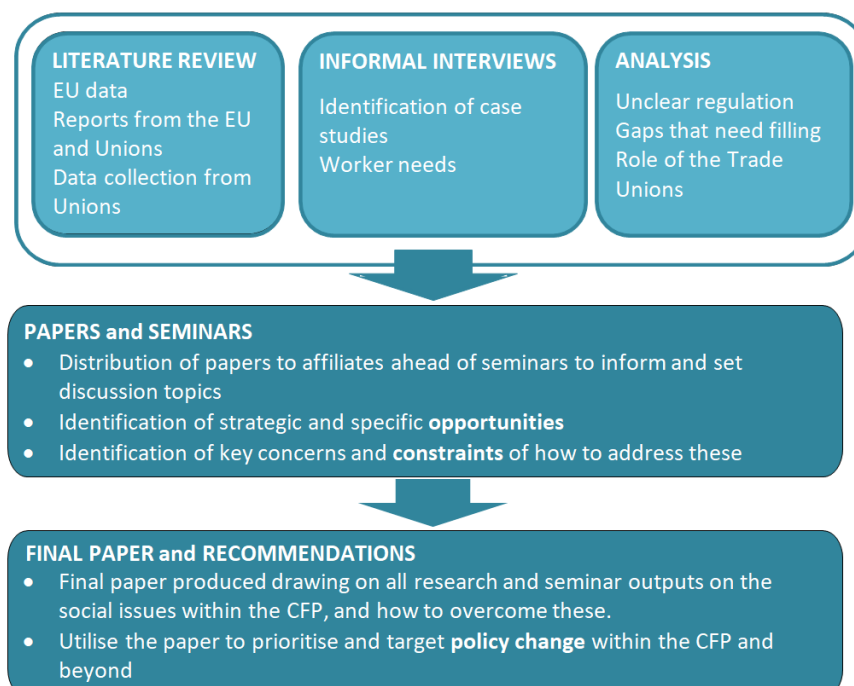
1.2 Approach of the project

This paper and seminar are part of an overarching project with the objective of bringing together facts and figures which represent the existing situation of workers' rights relating to the CFP, other seafood regulations where possible.

The project includes a series of three participatory seminars (of which this paper supports the third) covering the themes of:

- i. Market, trade and international dimension of EU fisheries (completed July 2018)
- ii. Health and safety, working conditions, organising and collective bargaining in the fish industry (completed November 2018)
- iii. Fisheries management and financial instruments (associated with this discussion paper, to be held February 2019)

Figure 1: Overarching Project Structure



1.3 The EU fishery (Fishing, Processing and Aquaculture) sector

Fishing and aquaculture is an essential economic activity for certain EU regions: in some areas fishing makes up half the local job market.

- Spain accounts for a quarter of total employment and the four countries with the highest levels of employment are Spain, Greece, Italy and Portugal, which make up around 73 %.
- Aquaculture employs roughly 80,000 people, including part-time and full-time jobs in both marine and freshwater aquaculture.
- The processing industry counts approximately 3,700 companies. The mainstay of EU production is conserves and ready meals of fish, crustaceans and molluscs.
- The EU is the fourth largest producer worldwide. 80% production comes from fisheries and 20% comes from aquaculture.

Despite the increase in production costs, the EU fish processing industry is generally profitable, with an overall turnover of nearly EUR 28 billion. The main countries in terms of output are Spain, France, the United Kingdom, Poland and Denmark. However, processing is not widely included in terms of fisheries management, however it can be greatly affected by trade policy. For example, the EU established tariff quotas (ATQ) for certain fish and fish products. An ATQ allows a certain quantity of a product to be imported into the EU at a reduced tariff rate, normally around 0%, 4% or 6%. The quotas help increase the supply of the raw materials which the EU processing industry relies on, at times when EU supply is not sufficiently high to meet the demand.

Small European coastal communities rely on the fishing industry, and the processing and post/harvest sector provides vital jobs and economic stability.

2 Key elements of the Common Fisheries Policy and Social Implications

This section provides a background of the key elements of the Common Fishery Policy and where social issues are (or are not) addressed. It also poses discussion points that are taken through to the following sections of the report that focus on opportunities to influence the legislative process that governs many of the specific elements of the CFP, and social objectives and indicators for the CFP.

This section also looks at a specific and topical issue of the landings obligation that has been introduced to reduce fish discarding. This case study highlights where social issues are considered in the policy process and what social issues are at stake.

2.1 CFP Objectives

The principal aim of fisheries management under the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) is to ensure high long-term fishing yields (Maximum Sustainable Yield – MSY) for all stocks by 2015 where possible, and at the latest by 2020. Also, the CFP aims to reduce unwanted catch and wasteful practices, through the introduction of a landing obligation. The new CFP has restructured its management system with regionalisation and increased stakeholder consultations. Fisheries management is decided based on data and scientific advice, using monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) measures to ensure rules are fair and complied with by fishers.

CFP Regulations set out the broad legislative framework for fisheries management measures (as outlined below). In order to implement specific areas of the CFP: multi-annual plans, technical measures have to go through the Ordinary Legislative Process (see Section 4). TACs and quotas are the sole responsibility of the European Council, so these do not go through European Parliamentary scrutiny.

2.2 Fisheries management measures within the CFP

2.2.1 Access to waters

Fishing Vessels registered under the EU fishing fleet register have equal access to all the EU waters and resources managed under the CFP and access to fisheries is granted through a fishing licence.

There are two temporary exceptions to the equal access which expire by the end of 2022. These exceptions include;

- in waters up to 12 nautical miles from the EU coastal countries access can be limited by the EU country to vessels and fisheries that traditionally fish in those waters; and
- in waters up to 100 nautical miles from the coasts of Europe's regions, access can be restricted to vessels registered in the ports of these territories and to the vessels which traditionally fish in those waters.

2.2.2 Fishing Quotas

TACs (total allowable catches) are catch limits for commercial fishing. The Commission proposes TAC based on scientific advice on stock status, TACs are then set out annually in December for most stocks by the Council of Fisheries Ministers. TACs are thus shared between EU countries in the form of national quotas. The EU country is responsible for making sure the quotas are not exceeded, once a limit has been reached the fishery must

2.2.4 Multi-annual Plans

Many EU stocks and fisheries are managed by multi-annual plans, which contain the goal for fish stock management (fishing mortality and/or targeted stock size), detailed roadmap for achieving the objective, fishing effort restrictions, and specific control rules. Under the new CFP multi-annual plans include the target of fishing at maximum sustainable yield as well as a deadline for this target. The plans must also include measures for the implementation of the landing obligation, safeguards for remedial action, review clauses and technical measures. Box 1 lists the multi-annual plans that are already in place, and those that are in proposal stage. Lastly the plans will inform the TACs and quotas for the species concerned.

Article 2 (5) of the CFP regulation that requires socio-economic issues to be taken into account within multi annual plans. However, proposed multi-annual plans have been criticised in the past for not taking due consideration of socio-economic impacts (see Box 7 for the example on the proposed multi-annual plan for small-pelagics in the Adriatic Sea).

Stakeholder have a role in engaging with multi-annual plans through Advisory Councils (that must be consulted when drawing up a proposed plan) and through MEPs when the proposal goes through the European Parliament or Ministers in their role as co-legislators in the European Council (See Section 3 for more detail on the legislative process).

Box 1: Multi-annual plans

Operational multi-annual plans

1. North Sea cod: Recovery plan for cod: North Sea, Kattegat, Skagerrak, the eastern Channel, Irish Sea and West of Scotland
2. Southern hake and Norway lobster (langoustine)
3. Western Channel Sole
4. North Sea Sole and Plaice
5. Baltic Sea: stocks of cod, herring and sprat in the Baltic Sea
6. West of Scotland herring
7. Multi-annual plan for sole, Bay of Biscay
8. Measures for the recovery of eel
9. Greenland halibut
10. Bluefin tuna
11. Northern hake

Proposed multi-annual plans

- Fish stocks in the Western Waters (political agreement reached in November 2018)
- Demersal fish stocks in the North Sea.
- Small pelagic stocks in the Adriatic Sea.
- Fisheries exploiting demersal stocks in the western Mediterranean Sea

Discussion Point 2:

How can Unions be more involved in multi-annual plans (e.g. in setting objectives and ongoing monitoring of impacts?)

2.2.5 Regionalisation and role of Advisory Councils

The CFP allows for regionalisation for multi-annual plans, discard plans, establishment of fish stock recovery areas and conservation measures. When regionalisation applies, the EU countries with a direct management interest can agree to submit joint recommendations (compatible with the CFP objectives) for the plan or measure.

The EU countries must consult the relevant Advisory Council on the recommendations before submitting to the Commission. Once all conditions are met, the Commission can adopt a Delegated Act to transform these joint recommendations into EU law applicable to all operators. Box 2 illustrates the EU Advisory Councils.

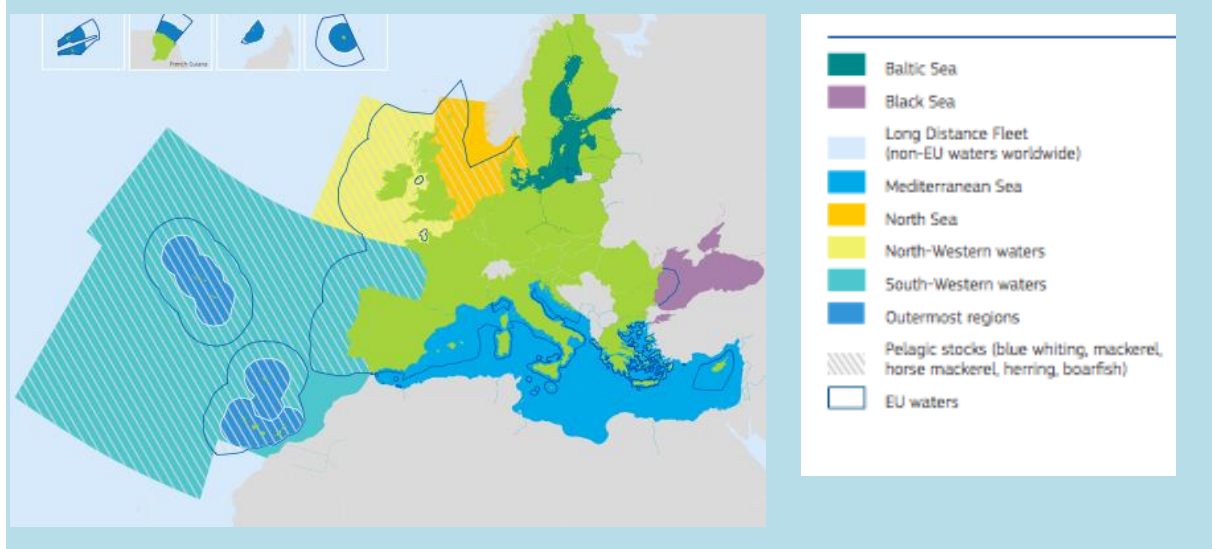
ETF has a seat on nearly all of the Advisory Councils Executive Committees or General Assembly (apart from the Black Sea, Baltic Sea and the Aquaculture AC), which gives them the opportunity to give input into new proposals and ongoing implementation of regulations. They often share this position with other EU-wide or international NGOs or industry-representatives including:

- AIPCE-CEP European Fish Processors Association;
- Oceana;
- Seas at Risk;
- PEW Charitable Trust;
- WWF

Many of the NGOs listed above have had a solely environmental agenda in the past, but are now more interested in addressing social issues including labour rights.

Box 2: Advisory Councils

In addition to the seven existing advisory councils (Baltic Sea, Long Distance Fleet, Mediterranean Sea, North Sea, North-Western waters, Pelagic stocks, South-Western waters), the new CFP has established four new advisory councils for the Black Sea, Aquaculture, Markets and Outermost regions (the latter is not yet operational).



Discussion Point 3:

How can Trade Unions have more influence within Advisory Councils and what other organisations can add weight to their arguments?

2.2.6 *Technical Measures*

A broad set of rules which govern how, where and when fishers can fish, established for all European sea basins and differ in accordance with regional conditions. The technical measures include:

- minimum landing sizes and minimum conservation sizes
- specifications for design and use of gears
- minimum mesh sizes for nets
- requirement of selective gears to reduce unwanted catches;
- closed areas and seasons;
- limitations on by-catches (catches of unwanted or non-target species)
- measures to minimize the impact of fishing on the marine ecosystem and environment.

The technical measures regulations in the EU still need to be modernized in light of the reformed Common Fisheries Policy. Therefore, the European Commission has put forward a new framework proposal for technical conservation measures.

Discussion Point 4:

How do technical measures affect social issues of concern to Trade Unions? Are there specific examples?

2.2.7 *Data collection*

Fisheries management relies on collected data from EU countries under the Data Collection Framework (DCF). This lists the types of information that are collected from each member state which can then be used to evaluate progress of the CFP as well as being used to measure potential impacts of new regulations.

A new Data Collection Framework Regulation proposal is being prepared and the principles listed in Box 3 will be at the centre of the reformed CFP.

Box 3: The key principles of data collection within the DCF

- accuracy
- reliability and timeliness
- avoidance of duplication through improved coordination
- safe storage in database systems
- improved availability of data
- compliance with laws on personal data protection
- Access for the European Commission, enabling it to check the availability and quality of data and the methodology used to collect them.

Discussion Point 5:

What data to support measuring social impacts needs to be included within the Data Collection Framework?

2.2.8 *Scientific Advisory Bodies*

Taking the best available scientific advice from a number of scientific advisory committees is one of the CFPs main principles of good policy-making. The Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF) was established by the Commission (Decision 93/619/EC) and has to be legally consulted on matters relating to the conservation and management of living marine resources, including biological, economic, environmental, social and technical considerations, in accordance with Article 26 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013. STECF also supports long-term research projects are supported under Horizon 2020, a research and innovation programme with 80 billion EUR funding.

The members of STECF are nominated by the Commission and serve for a term of 3 years before being renewed.

Discussion Point 6:

How could the Trade Unions influence STECF on measuring and analysing social issues?

2.2.9 *The EU's fisheries MCS system*

In order to ensure the rules of the CFP are being followed there is a control system in place to monitor and enforce them. The current rules are laid out under the Control Regulation (Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009) of 2010. The control system monitors the quantities of fish caught, helps prevent illegal fishing, allows for data collection for fishing opportunities, helps clarify the roles of the member states and the Commission, ensures the implementation of rules and sanctions and enables tracing and checking of fisheries products throughout the supply chain.

The Commission's proposal to revise the fisheries control system was adopted on 10th May 2018 (see Box 4 for some of the revisions). The Commission proposed a number of changes to the Control Regulation, as well as amendments on IUU fishing. The idea was to modernise, strengthen and simplify the control system. The proposal was issued with help of environmental NGOs, with little social input. Social issues are not included in the Control Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 or monitored by the MCS system.

Box 4: Some revisions to the Control Regulation (2018)

- Closing of the loophole that allows nine out of 10 EU vessels responsible for around 25% of the EU catches (mainly in the Mediterranean) not to be tracked by a vessel monitoring system, or VMS. The current exemption stem from 2010 but since then vessel monitoring devices have become much smaller and cheaper. Introducing VMS will improve fisheries management and could also improve safety for fishers on board.
- Changes to the sanctioning system for infringements of EU fisheries laws, including to the list of serious infringements.
- Targeted amendments to the EU law to combat illegal fishing. Environmental NGO Oceana considers this ambitious amendment risky as it has made the EU a global leader in the fight against illegal fishing, but was included in this revision without a proper public consultation process (Oceana, 2018).

Discussion Point 7:

Should the MCS system monitor labour or health and safety issues?

2.3 Spotlight: The Landing Obligation (Discard Ban)

The Landings Obligation is a significant legislation that has been introduced under the CFP, and provides an opportunity to consider how social issues have (or have not) been taken into consideration.

2.3.1 What is Discarding?

Discarding is when unwanted catch is returned to sea, dead or alive. This is usually due to the stock being undersized, due to market demand, the fisher has no quota or because catch composition rules impose this. The reformed CFP aims at reducing waste discards by implementing a discard ban and requiring all catch to be landed with none of it disposed of at sea.

2.3.2 Impacts of the Landing Obligation

The requirement to land all catches will be fully implemented in 2019. Many fishers see this as having a huge financial impact, as there will be increased handling costs for fishers. From January 1st 2019, any fishers not complying with landing obligations will be considered as acting illegally.

The landing obligation is of particular concern to fishers who fish in areas of multiple species and may therefore more easily reach their quota of unwanted fish. Once a fisher meets their quotas they would have to stop fishing (for the period of the quota allocation) and potentially lose income and their boats. This is also a particular concern for small-scale fishers that may have less quota and less flexibility to buy and trade in quota. Subsequently, EU fisheries Ministers has increased quotas for five species, against scientific advice. This will contribute to short-term relief for fishers but will eventually lead to long-term socio-economic constraints if the fish stock is affected.

Mardle (2014), suggested that if the discard ban is rigorously introduced then fleets will be bound by choke species and catch composition will be 'uncovered'. Relative stability (which is ensuring stability of each member states proportional access to quota), which is core to the CFP, will no doubt be questioned. As reducing capacity and managing fisheries that ITQs cannot be easily achieved in Europe while the relative stability principle remains. Since their introduction, quotas have become a valuable asset and on the whole benefits larger vessels. This change to the structure of the industry was identified as a major social impact, but what has been done to monitor and address the negative social impacts of relative stability on fishermen?

The landing obligation can also affect the processing sector. There may be opportunities to develop processing techniques and a potential of processing into fishmeal and other products. However, many small European ports lack the infrastructure to collect undersized fish, provide temporary storage or transport to a fish meal plant. For example, on the Baltic coast where there are many small ports the nearest fish meal factory is far away and the lack of infrastructure could be problematic (European Parliament, 2015). Figure 3 illustrates the potential economic losses and gains of the discard ban estimated by the UK in 2014.

Potential losses	Potential Gains
Losses associated with costs and charges of sorting, landing and transporting otherwise discarded fish	Gains for non-human consumption outlets that can utilise and profit from previously discarded catches
Losses associated with foregone catches after cessation of fishing due to exhausting quotas (choke species)	Gains from avoiding quota limited and undersized fish and maximising revenues from uplifted quota allocation
Losses associated with counting undersized fish against quota that could otherwise be used to land fish onto the human consumption market	Gains for transport companies and storage companies (including markets) that will handle the previously discarded catches
Losses associated with reduced catches of nonlimited (underutilised) quota and non-quota species when improving selectivity to avoid quota limited species	Gains associated with selling otherwise discarded fish onto the human or non-human consumption markets

Table 1: Potential losses and gains from the discard ban (Gov.uk, 2014)

2.3.3 Mitigating impacts

Alternatively, to avoid impacts, fishers need help to adapt (with potential support from EU funding instruments i.e. the EMFF) by using of more selective fishing gear to avoid unwanted catch in the first place and to maximise revenue. Research at the University of York (UK) found that the discard ban in Norwegian cod and haddock fisheries in 1987 ultimately encouraged fishers to install more selective fishing gear, and although there were some short-term costs, the Norwegian sea fisheries are now among the most prosperous in the world (Minouw, 2018). Increased quota trading between member states could help the fishing industry under the discard ban, allowing fishers to obtain a larger fishing quota.

However, it has been reported that to date the use of EMFF to support the landings obligation has been very low with only 49m earmarked for mitigating impacts of the discard ban (EU COM, 2018).

2.3.4 Monitoring Discards

Discard data is collected via independent observers in which only 1% of the fleet will be covered, leading to issues of policing the discard ban.

3 Integrating social objectives into the legislative processes of the CFP

3.1 Existing legislative process

In order to ensure that social issues are being effectively integrated within the CFP, it is important to understand the legislative process and where there are opportunities to inform the debate. As discussed in Section 2 specific elements of the CFP (e.g. multi-annual plans, discard plans) go through a process where they are initially proposed by the European Commission and then debated, amended and agreed by both the European Parliament and the European Council.

Initially the European Commission puts forward a proposal together with an impact assessment to the European Parliament via the Fisheries Committee (known as the PECH committee). As well as undertaking the impact assessment, which includes an element of public consultation, the Commission must also consult with the relevant scientific bodies, for example, Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF) and the relevant Advisory Council. Within the committee the Parliament will propose amendments and vote on a common position, before the European Parliament and Council negotiate an agreement¹. If an agreement cannot be reached, the Commission assists the negotiation through a series of Trilogue meetings (Figure 3 sets out his process).

Within specific regulations, such as multi-annual plans, the Commission can introduce the possibility of Delegated Acts. These can be enabled either where affected member states put forward Joint Recommendations to support the objectives of the plan, or where emergency measures have to be taken if for example, stocks fall below a certain level. These Acts do not need to go through parliament, but both STECF and Advisory Councils need to be consulted and all affected Member States agree.

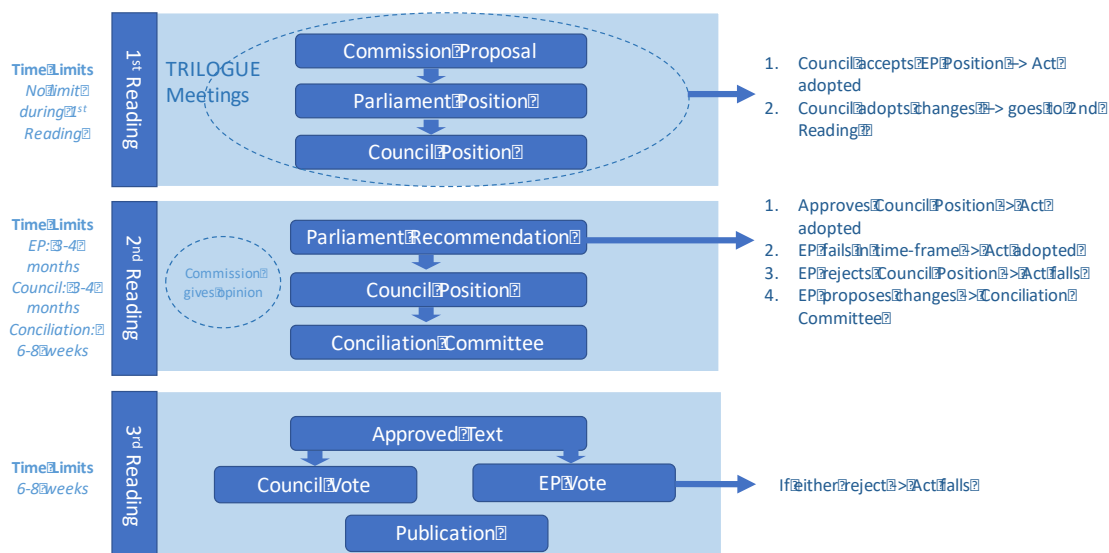


Figure 3: Ordinary Legislative Process

¹ Once the proposal is under discussion in parliament, other committees (such as the Employment and Social Affairs Committee), may also have an input.

Box 5 provides an example of a legislative process in the proposal for a multi-annual plan for small-pelagics in the Adriatic Sea. This proposal provides a good example of the different steps involved in the legislative process and where and how social issues have been taken into account.

Box 5: Multi-annual plan for small-pelagics in the Adriatic – example legislative process

The proposal for a multi-annual plan in the Adriatic Sea, covers sardines and anchovies targeted by Italian, Croatian (and to a lesser degree Slovenian) fleets. A key element of the proposal by the Commission the introduction of TACs and quotas (fishing possibilities).

An impact assessment was undertaken as part of the proposal preparation and a public consultation undertaken organised by the relevant AC (MEDAC). The proposal was put to the Parliament by the European Commission in February 2017. Socio-economic issues were raised and following the presentation strong opposition to the introduction of quotas was expressed through the press in Italy and Croatia, also supported by Spain.

A series of hearing and debates took place within the PECH committee, including a public hearing and responses from the Commission. Within these discussions some of the issues that were highlighted included:

- Concern for the *socio-economic impacts* of the plan drawing on a recent report on the socio-economic situation of the fisheries sector within the Mediterranean;
- Criticism that the *impact assessment* was not detailed enough and had not looked at the impact on SMEs (this was also backed up by the EPRS's appraisal of the impact assessment that also suggested it had not provided quantitative impacts on the processing sector, and contradicted itself that no funding would be needed to set up an allocation system);
- Debate on the *implementation of Article 17* which requires the consideration of social and economic issues when allocating quota, as well as providing the possibility of rewarding fishers that use sustainable methods. The Commission considered that the allocation system could only be agreed once the multi-annual plan proposal had been passed, but many MEPs made the point that the method used in the allocation system would determine whether they would be supportive or not. Some MEPs also suggested that the system of using track record in allocation does not support fishers that are supporting the management through reduced catches. This highlights a wider issue of a lack of guidance on how to implement Article 17.

While there was some support for the Commissions plans for TACs and quotas (particularly among the Green MEPs and by some of the Italian fishing sector), there was greater support to remove the use of quotas. The final agreement amendments included:

- 1) Removing the use of quotas and reinstated the use of effort management with an annual decrease of 4% per year;
- 2) Addressing social and economic impacts as an objective within the multi-annual plan

The proposed amendments are now being discussed in interinstitutional negotiations with the European Council.

3.2 Opportunities for input into the legislative process

In terms of guiding or giving input into this process, stakeholders have the following opportunities either as individuals or part of a wider group with common interests:

- 1) Guiding or providing information to the European Commission in preparing their proposal either directly or through the relevant Advisory Council;
- 2) Giving input to the Impact Assessment including the provision of data and useful evidence;
- 3) Speaking to Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) that sit on the PECH committee (in particular the rapporteur assigned to the case), that have the responsibility

- to represent the view of their constituents, and giving evidence if called to a public hearing within the PECH committee; or publishing an open letter to the relevant MEPs;
- 4) Inform and provide useful information and evidence to Ministers that sit on the relevant committee within the Council of Ministers;
 - 5) Express opinions and provide information and evidence through the press.

Discussion point 8:

Where are the opportunities to integrate social objectives into the decision-making process?

What information do Trade Unions have that could be useful to the Commission in designing proposals, undertaking Impact Assessments and ongoing monitoring?

3.3 Available tools for taking social and economic issues into account

There are already EU regulations in place that require social and economic issues to be taken into account within fisheries management regulations:

- Impact assessments are required for all new proposed regulations that take social and economic (and environmental) issues into account as specified within the European Commission Impact Assessment Guidelines (2009²) and Toolkit (2015).
- Article 2 (5) of the 2013 CFP Regulation (1380/2013) that requires multi-annual plans to take socio-economic aspects into account; and
- Article 17 (CFP 1380/2013 Regulation) that requires the use of transparent and objective criteria that including social, environmental and economic criteria when assigning fishing possibilities both within general quotas and those allocated within multi-annual plans. It also allows for other considerations including rewarding fishers using sustainable practices.

However, despite these tools there are still problems in implementation for instance:

- Impact assessments do not always sufficiently consider social impacts (see Box 5)
- There is a lack of guidance or operational framework on how to achieve Article 17 (Williams et al., 2018).

Proposals have been put forward to develop an operational framework to implement Article 17, which are very much in line with developing social objectives and indicators (Table 2) PECH, 2014. However, it has also been stressed that it is important to ensure there are complementary measures introduced alongside allocation systems that mitigate social impacts such as financing systems to be able to buy quota; or differential systems for large scale and small-scale operators to avoid the smaller-scale from being squeezed out.

² European Commission, SEC (209) 92 – Impact Assessment Guidelines, 15th January 2009

Table 2: Proposed criteria and indicators for implementing Article 17 and ensuring social, economic and environmental issues are taking into consideration in allocating fishing quota.

Criteria	Theme	Indicators
Social	Supporting fishing communities	Fisheries dependency
		Revenue contribution to the local economy
	Corporate Social Responsibility	History of fisheries compliance
		CSR index
Economic	Catch dependency	Catch records
		Fisheries footprint
	Improved economic performance	GVA
		Fuel efficiency
Environmental criteria	Implementing Ecosystems Approach to Fisheries Management	Large fish
		PSI
		Seabed impact

Given the priorities of the Trade Unions, there may be argument to ensure that these criteria are put within formal guidelines and are further extended for example to ensure the allocation supports workers' rights as well as supporting the processing sector.

Discussion point 9:

What are the main gaps in within the impact assessment guidelines?

What role could Unions have in ensuring the implementation of Article 2 and Article 17 so that social impacts are considered in multi-annual plans and when allocating quota?

4 The Critical Importance of Setting Social Objectives in Fishery Management

History of fisheries management

Ever since the ‘tragedy of the commons’ was described (by William Forster Lloyd in 1833) there has been acknowledgement of the need to manage common resources for the benefit of society or face the ‘open-access problem’. In fisheries, this relates to over-fishing and managing fishing in a way to meet social, economic and environmental objectives.

The management of fishery resources has traditionally been dominated by marine biologists (Munro, 1985), with the objective of achieving Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY). But by the 1950s and the birth of fishery economics the Gordon-Schaefer and other production models provided an alternative objective of Maximum Economic Yield (MEY) which took into account fishing costs and revenue. Clearly both of these objectives have social consequences to fishers reflected in jobs, but equally MSY or MEY do not set targets for other social criteria such as fisher safety, labour rights or welfare, for example.

Understanding fisheries in economic terms is explored in more detail in Box 6.

Box 6: Achieving economic equilibrium in fisheries management

Fishing is an economic activity which exploits a self-renewing common property resource, fish stocks. The absence of effective stewardship permits a race to fish which is free to the user but which nevertheless has an economic value. This results in market failure (EAFE 2001) and manifests externalities in the form of social impacts.

It is the failure of incorporating an economic approach that has at least partly been responsible for the continued problems of fisheries policy (Erik Lindebo, 2002). The term ‘economic’ in this case is a misnomer because in fact the most ‘economic’ (in other words most efficient) equilibrium is that which best satisfies all objectives; social, environmental and economic.

Hilborn, 2006 noted that “one stakeholder’s success story may be a failure to another” and in the terms of the CFP conservation and profit have been at the expense of social sustainability. Khalilian, 2013 pointed out that an ideal fisheries policy should foster the sustainable use of fish stocks, provide for coherent laws and regulations that yield adequate economic incentives, and guarantee consistent enforcement of the legal framework.

Integrating environmental, economic and social objectives

More recently, there has been significant research around including the three pillars of sustainability in fishery management. There are available frameworks for including social objectives and minimising social impacts within fishery management. For example, the work of Pascoe et al, from 2002 explored the ability to manage fisheries most efficiently based on multiple objectives.

Case studies were applied to EU fisheries including English Channel (France and UK), North Sea (Denmark) and Strait of Gibraltar (Spain) to explore environmental, economic and social objectives. And in the Pascoe 2009 study of Australian fisheries, a qualitative framework was used to determine social fishery management objectives from a set of indicators. These indicators were based around minimising social impacts on stakeholders and based on consultations with fishery participants due to lack of data.

Accepting that “to develop fisheries management policy, objectives must be defined and targets for achievement must be set” (Mardle, 2002), therefore, the question these days is not about: “*how can fisheries be managed socially, economically and environmentally sustainably in the CFP?*”, since this is already well researched and understood. Rather it is: “*why are fisheries not being managed socially, economically and environmentally sustainably by the CFP?*”.

This paper proposes that the starting point to answering this question is to look at the objectives of the CFP and to ensure that they satisfactorily include social indicators. The CFP must set social objectives in fishery management as defined by the Trade Unions representing fishers.

A current lack of social objectives within the CFP

The CFP states that the “aims to ensure that fishing and aquaculture are environmentally, economically and socially sustainable and that they provide a source of healthy food for EU citizens” (2019). The 4 fishery management objectives are:

- Safeguard stock reproduction for high long-term yield (MSY)
- Lay the foundations for a profitable industry
- Share out fishing opportunities fairly
- Conserve marine resources

The obvious lack of social benefit objectives and mitigating social impacts of policy decisions is a failure to set appropriate objectives. As early as 1980 (Cunningham) the CFP was being criticised for its lack of objectives, “unless these objectives are made explicit they cannot be discussed; unless they are discussed they cannot be agreed on; and unless they are agreed on fisheries management appears doomed to failure.”

Social objectives need to be stated, performance indicators need to be agreed on and resources allocated for reaching them. The CFP is claiming success in reaching its objectives (for instance, MSY) but it has been failing for workers where there are no objectives and it has failed in mitigating impacts of the other objectives on them too.

4.1 What social benefits should be the objective of fishery management?

Setting social objectives for the CFP

Social fishery management objectives have also been defined in many ways (e.g. Mardel et al., 2002) including:

- Maximising employment generated by the fishery (within the fishery and in local communities),
- Improving safety and labour conditions of fishers
- Reducing conflicts between stakeholders (e.g. between groups of fishers from different geographical origins and commercial fishers and other groups, such as recreational fishers, shellfish farmers, industrial operators or environmentalist groups.)

However, these objectives are insufficient and do not aim to improve the social performance of the fishery or optimise fishing conditions for the benefit of society.

There are a number of social implications of the CFP that will need to be taken into consideration during its next reform process. For example, one of the primary objectives of the CFP is to achieve MSY for all stocks by 2020. Long-term this will improve the sustainability of the fishery and potentially improve profitability, but without consideration for social issues it may also have unforeseen consequences in the short-term such as job losses from catch reductions and cost-cutting measures that may make fishing more dangerous. In the long-term, without explicit consideration improved MSY does not necessarily lead to improved safety on vessels, better wages or thriving coastal communities.

It may also result in disproportionate impacts on the small-scale fleet, for instance being able to buy additional quota facilitates the implementation of the landing obligation and avoids vessels being paralysed by choke species. However, small-scale operators often have low quota amounts and less flexibility meaning that the landing obligation can have much greater impacts, and if they hit a choke species they are required to stop fishing.

Trade Unions have a role in helping to inform what these social objectives can be and how social impacts can be defined. Some of the potential social impacts of fisheries regulations and funding instruments are illustrated below.



Figure 4: Potential social impacts of fisheries regulations and funding instruments.

Discussion point 10:

What should the social objectives of the reformed CFP be?

What categories of social impact need to be considered within the CFP?

What social benefits do processing and aquaculture provide to communities?

4.1.1 *Setting Social Indicators for the CFP*

In order to measure the achievement of social objectives for the CFP, social indicators are needed. Social indicators can also be used within:

- Impact Assessments of new regulations under the CFP;
- As criteria in a transparent and objective system for allocating fishing quota (as required by Article 17 of the CFP regulation)
- Annual Evaluations of the CFP by the STECF;

There are many proposed social indicators that have been put forward. For instance, proposals from Cunningham et al, (2005) around social indicators include: cultural heritage, social cohesion, existence value, nutritional, effects. The US NGO Conservation International also developed a comprehensive framework for socially sustainable fishery management around the following indicators (Kittinger (2017):

- (i) protecting human rights and dignity and respecting access to resources,
- (ii) ensuring equality and equitable opportunities to benefit, and
- (iii) improving food and livelihood security.

In a similar vein Sustainable Fisheries Partnership (SFP), 2016 identified the following social indicators for evaluating the social sustainability of a fishery;

1. Earnings are fair and stable
2. Jobs benefit the communities
3. Workers are protected
4. Fishery will be viable for future generations
5. Harvesters have economic flexibility (Harvesters are free to sell to whomever they wish without retribution and formalized training is provided to harvesters in how to add value to their landings.
6. Communities have improving healthcare and education

STECF is currently looking at expanding indicators for monitoring, but has few new suggestions for social indicators or objectives for fishery management. The same 'jobs' and 'dependency' measures (the same as those used in impact assessments) are mentioned but it recognises that new social indicators need 'more investigation' (Box 7).

Box 7: Social Indicators in consideration by STECF

Currently social and economic indicators are not used routinely within annual CFP monitoring by STECF. However, STECF have been asked to provide advice on indicator candidates that could be then included within the annual National Fleet reports provided by each Member State and thereby provide a consistent dataset (STECF, 2018).

In terms of Economic indicators certain information is already available through the national reports (including RoFTA and CR/BER); but STECF also suggests using Net Value Added per Full Time Employment unit; and Net Profit Margin.

In terms of social indicators, STECF look at indicators for the reliance of coastal communities:

- No. people active
- Income/Total community income
- Resilience to change: age of skipper/crew; age of fleet; total investments over time

While an increased measurement of social indicators is a good step forward, there are gaps including any indicators on labour issues and health and safety such as the number of accidents.

Perhaps the reason for shortcomings of current social indicators within fishery management is that academics and NGOs, either in marine biology or economics are not best place to recommend them. It's more the place of those representing the people; Trade Unions.

Discussion Point 11:

What indicators are needed to measure the social sustainability of fisheries?

Could some social indicators be based on the ILO convention 188?

4.1.2 Bringing social objectives and indicators together in a coherent framework

At the very least fishery management policy must a) state social sustainability as an objective, b) list the indicators of its performance, and c) set objectives for each indicator.

Table 3 illustrates how social objectives and indicators may be integrated into a holistic framework for the CFP.

Objective	Social Performance Indicator	Objective / target	Necessary actions
Social Sustainability	Human, worker rights	All fishers receive equal rights to other workers	Training, education, social policy funding
	Safe workplace	10% year on year reduction in accidents Minimum rest hours met	Data collection, management
	Fishing community benefits	Improving education and healthcare Consultation with communities	Fishery taxation and redistribution to the community
	Relative stability	Balanced catch	Quota flexibility, uplift and de minimis exemption
Economic Sustainability	Fishery profitability	Maximum Economic Yield	Investment of rent into the fishing community
Environmental Sustainability	Seafood productivity	Maximum Sustainable Yield	TACs, landing obligations
	Environmental conservation	No mortalities of endangered species	Technical measures

Table 3: example social indicators for the CFP

When setting fishery targets and plans for each fishery, all sustainability must be considered together and then to be set within the fishery management planning (multi-annual plans for instance). Existing scientific frameworks, such as multi-objective programming, can find the best management option to satisfy the given objectives. It cannot continue that the fishery management is set by MSY and profitability and then the social impacts considered at the end. All the objectives must be considered together, coherently.

5 Financial Instruments available for supporting Social Benefits

5.1 European Maritime and Fisheries Fund

The European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) is the fund for maritime and fisheries policies during the period of 2014-2020. It is one of five European Structural and Investment (ESI) Funds which together, promote growth and job based recovery in Europe.

Under regulation (EU) No 208/2014, the scope of the EMFF should include support for the CFP, the conservation of biological resources, management of fisheries and fleets exploiting these resources. Also, the EMFF should support the processing and marketing of fishery and aquaculture products.

The aims of the EMFF are to:

- help fishers in the transition to sustainable fishing
- support coastal communities in diversifying their economies
- finance projects that create new jobs and improve quality of life along European coasts
- support sustainable aquaculture developments
- make it easier for applicants to access financing

The main priorities are provided in Box 8.

The EMFF’s total budget is 6.5 billion Euros for 2014-2020 focusing on long-term strategy broken down into the following categories:

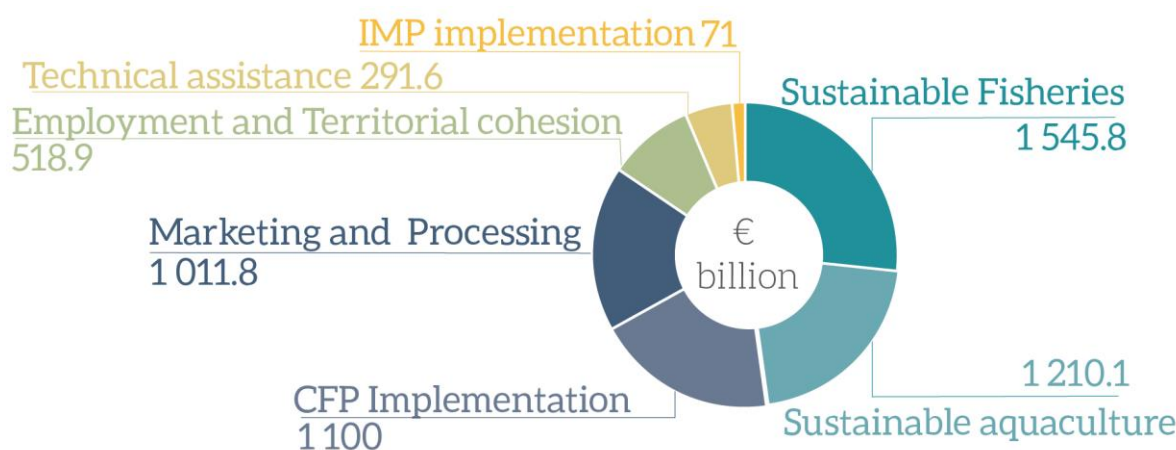


Figure 5: EMFF contribution (European Parliamentary Research, 2017)

The fund is 11% managed by the European Commission and 89% managed by the Member States. The fund is used to help finance projects, which are also part funded by national governments. Each country has an allocated cut of the budget which is calculated based on the size of its fishing industry (see figure below). Once the funding is approved, it is the responsibility of the national authorities and the commission to implement the programme. To apply for funding, the national authority would first have to be informed, following this,

there are application procedures in place to enable the managing authority to check the eligibility of the project.

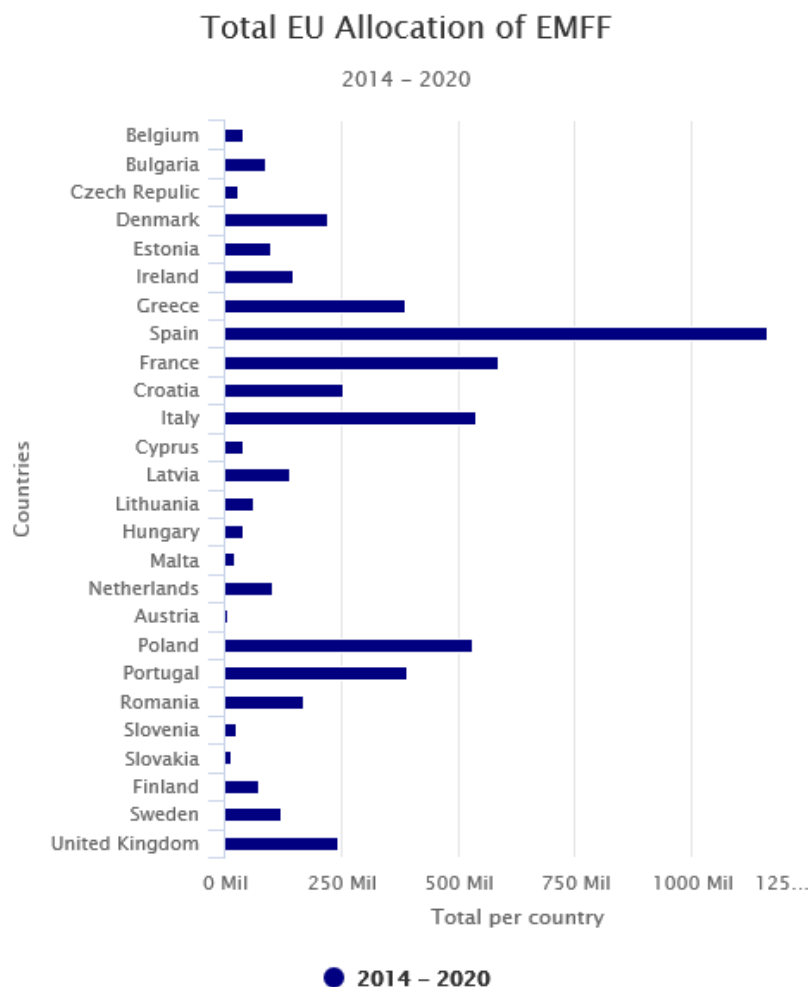


Figure 6: Total amount of EMFF allocation per EU country (European Commission)

EMFF has one of the most expensive applications: average EUR 20,805 per million EUR of eligible budget (PECH, 2019).

Box 8: The six priorities of the EMFF

1. Environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, competitive fisheries which are more selective, produce less discards, and do less damage to marine ecosystems. EMFF support under this priority will thus focus on innovation and added value that can make the fisheries sector economically viable and resilient to external shocks and to competition from third countries.
2. Environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, competitive aquaculture to make this industry green, economically viable and competitive, while providing EU consumers with healthy and highly nutritional products.
3. Fostering the implementation of the CFP through the collection and management of data to improve scientific knowledge and through support to monitoring, control and enforcement of fisheries legislations.
4. Increasing employment and territorial cohesion through the promotion of economic growth and social inclusion in coastal and inland communities depending on fishing.

5. Fostering marketing and processing through improved market organisation for fishery and aquaculture products and through improved processing and marketing sectors in particular in Outermost Regions.
6. Fostering the implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy.

Discussion Point 12:

How should social sustainability be added to the EMFF priorities?

5.1.1 EMFF opportunities for small-scale coastal fishermen

The EMFF also has a role in supporting small-scale fishers and their communities throughout their professional life. Some of the opportunities are listed in **Error! Reference source not found.**

Box 9: Opportunities within the EMFF for small-scale fishers

- 25% of the purchase of a second-hand fishing vessel
- Receive up to 30% of the value of a new engine
- Invest in new gear/on board equipment up to 80%
- Invest in equipment to add value to your catch up to 80%
- Invest to diversify your activities up to 50% - In Cadiz Estrecho FLAG a strategy objective includes diversifying the fishing and aquacultures sector towards tourism.
- 80% of investment costs for health and safety on board
- Receive up to 40,000 Euros over two years to hire unemployed youth on board SSCF boat
- Receive support for training
- Compensation for sustainable fishing
- Receive compensation up to 6 months if you suspend fishing activities due to resource conservation
- Funding to Fisheries Local Action Groups (FLAGs)

Role of Fisheries Local Action Groups (FLAG)

FLAGs (funded by the EMFF) are a tool for focused community-led local development within coastal communities. For example, in the UK there are six FLAGs that support fishing communities to adapt to the reformed CFP and promote sustainable economic growth.

In France, one of the FLAGs (the Calanques Islands FLAG) has the overall objective to support sustainable development measures for fishers and fish farmers to improve their business and visibility in the area, whilst ultimately improving the attractiveness of working in aquaculture. The FLAG has a budget of €2 000 000, €1 000 000 EMFF contribution and €1 000 000 from MS co-financing, with project examples provided in Box 9.

In Spain, the Cadiz Estrecho FLAG is within an area where the fishing industry is in decline. It therefore has a strategy to restore and promote social well-being within fishing culture, whilst also supporting the creation of new businesses in the fishing and aquaculture sector. 42% of the FLAGs budget has gone towards job creation and promoting innovation.

Box 9: Project examples form Calanques Islands FLAG:

- Market studies on the expectations of the end consumer (customers or potential clients of short circuits) for unprocessed local fish;
- Setting up a Producer Organisation to better market fishery and aquaculture products;
- Projects to improve the quality, traceability, packaging and processing of fishery or aquaculture products;
- Incentives for the purchase and use of local species by households and restaurants;
- Tasting sites and itinerant gastronomy projects;
- Awareness-raising, promotion and organization of events linked to the heritage aspect of certain species and techniques of fishing or breeding;
- Awareness-raising on responsible recreational fishing and communication (European Commission, 2017).

5.2 Examples of EMFF finding

The following table provides some examples of EMFF funding that include a social element.

Country	Funding	Project Description
Spain	Project Cost: €126 255.64 EMFF Contribution: €94 691.73	An initiative to foster women entrepreneurships in the fisheries sector by studying the experiences of local women in Andalusia and promoting successful females entrepreneurs as role models to others to turn their business ideas into reality. In total Spain's Operational Programme budget was €1 558 280 753, with an EU contribution of €1 161 620 889.
Belgium	-	A system named 'Man Over Board' has been developed which alerts when someone goes overboard, in addition to a system on the bridge that shows the position of the victim so immediate retrieval is possible, as well as an alert being sent to the official rescue channels. This system has been installed on 74 fishing vessels, making up nearly the whole Belgian fleet, improving safety and working conditions for the fishers.
Ireland	Project Cost: €660 000 EMFF Contribution: €99 000	Supporting a growing seafood processing SME to purchase and fit out a high-care area for the increased production of value added seafood products, resulting in 15 new full-time jobs and increased production capacity for value added seafood products.
Malta	Project Cost: €2 935 877 Community Contribution: €2 201 907.75	A wholesale fish market was relocated funded by the EFF from its out-dated premises, to an industrial area with a nearby landing site in Marsa, helping to improve livelihoods. The total project amount of public funding was €2 935 877 and a community contribution of €2 201 907.75. The fish market opened and has been running since June 2015.
Portugal	Project Cost: €25 940 EFF Contribution:	Under the development of a short chain delivery system, Axis 4 has helped a Portuguese company improve their marketing by closing the gap between customers and

Country	Funding	Project Description
	€5 022	small-scale fishermen by encouraging sustainable fishing.
Portugal	Project Cost: €57 720 EFF Contribution: €43 290	Fishers are participating in environmental conservation measures to restore the sustainability of a valuable species, the European eel. Thus, allowing researchers to improve their research and speed up the recovery of the eel, whilst also giving fishers a voice in the process of conservation measures.
United Kingdom	-	Training courses in Cornwall to show how FLAGS can support the skills and develop attractiveness of the fisheries sector to young professionals. This has led to 19 young unemployed people finding work in the fishing and fishing related sectors.

Table 4: Examples of the EMFF and funding allocation

EMFF funding has also been used to support the processing sector. For example, in Latvia where new processing facilities are generating new job opportunities in cod filleting and packaging, which received €1.14 million EU contribution. Also in Latvia, two new canning line systems have been developed, producing a new product in unconventional packaging, €2.56 million EU contribution for development of new processes. In Poland, a pilot project has been supported by the EMFF for carp processing system/Axis 3, with the aim of improving processing technologies by developing a universal, waste-free system of preparing carp.

5.3 EMFF and social dimension

The EMFF aims to promote social cohesion and job creation in fisheries dependent communities under the 2020 priority of inclusive growth. It is envisaged that this will be achieved particularly through diversification into other maritime sectors. The EMFF also provides support for training, especially for unemployed youths, as well as providing aid for business start-ups for young fishermen. The fund will also support spouses and partners of fishers on activities related to fishing and their role in the family business, to help acquire new business skills.

Small-scale coastal fisheries are important for local employment, and are often a main source of employment for coastal communities. The EMFF gives priority to these small-scale fisheries in the access to funding; they can also receive professional advice on business and marketing strategies, to help generate income.

In 2018 in a press release the European Commission proposed a new fund to invest in the maritime economy and help support fishing communities for the next long term budget 2021-2027. This will enable the EMFF to continue to support sustainable fishing practice and also focus more on small-scale fishers.

Discussion Point 13:

How can EMFF funds be more supportive of social objectives and addressing social impacts (e.g. support for decommissioning or cessation)?

How can EMFF funds support social issues in the processing and aquaculture sectors?

5.3.1 Health and safety and EMFF

Projects relating to improvements to safety and work place conditions can be supported by the EMFF and Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/531 of 24 November 2014 establishes the types of interventions eligible for financing support through the EMFF for on-board investments aimed at improving the hygiene, health, safety and working conditions of fishermen. Excluded are interventions that increase the fishing capacity of a vessel or equipment that increases the ability of a vessel to find fish, as well as the maintenance costs of any part of equipment which keeps an on-board device in working order (Article. 2).

There are a few limited examples of where EMFF funding has been used to support health and safety: for instance, in Slovakia, EMFF funding has been used for new technologies and equipment to improve raised hygiene standards and a wider range of quality products. While in Belgium, the 'Man Overboard' system was developed with the help of EMFF (as described in the table above). On board investment may only be granted once for the same type of investment and for the same vessel.

However, there are not many more projects in this area. Despite the EMFF offering 80% investment costs for health and safety on board, it is not widely used, and there is a significant focus on environmental projects.

Discussion Point 14:

What type of health and safety projects or initiatives would benefit from EMFF funding?

5.4 Conditionality of EMFF

The EMFF has a number of elements in which to ensure the implementation of programmes and ensure EU support funding is being spent correctly:

- A number of conditions must be in place "ex-ante", before the funds are released to ensure that investments can be made in the most effective manner.
- Progress towards the achievement of objectives will be closely monitored and measured against a set of milestones agreed as part of a performance framework. The release of additional funds, the performance reserve, will also be dependent on performance.
- Access to funds will also be conditional upon the compliance of Member States and operators with the objectives, rules and targets of the Common Fisheries Policy, in particular control obligations, the rules against illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing (IUU Regulation) and the data collection obligations of the Member States. In practice this will mean that: fishers who have committed serious infringements, or who own fishing vessels included in the IUU list will not receive any subsidies and will need to return funds received.
- The Commission may interrupt or suspend payments to Member States that do not comply with their obligations in terms of control and data collection.

In addition to these elements of implementation, funding under the EMFF is subject to new transparency rules: Member States have to publish in a single website or a single website portal a list of operations funded under the EMFF along with the amount of EU contribution for each project; and this list should be updated every six months. This is particularly important to prevent that applicants involved in illegal fishing activities receive funding.

The EMFF funding is subject to conditionality, this is upheld against the applicant's consistency with the conservation of the objectives, rule and targets of the CFP. This is to ensure that financial support is used to achieve the CFP objectives and does not affect the conservation of marine resources. Conditions are established in the Common Provision Regulation (CPR) (Annex XI Part II).

If a project is approved and grant offered, specific conditions will apply which will be set out in the offer letter. A breach of these conditions could result in recovery of any grant paid, and if necessary the managing organisation may seek recovery through appropriate criminal or civil action.

The post 2020 EMFF will focus on 'Simplification and a wider choice for Member States to target support to their strategic priorities, instead of having to choose from a 'menu' of eligible actions' (EU fact sheet on the commission proposal, June 2018)

Discussion Point 15:

How can the funding rules and conditionality be altered to encourage socially responsible value chains; as well as a competitive and economically viable sector?

5.5 Other European funding options

In addition to EMFF there are other funding options available including:

- 'The European Social Fund, to develop skills in both the fisheries and maritime sectors' (EU fact sheet June 2018)
- The European Regional Development Fund, for investment in blue growth sectors and for sea-basin strategies
- The Research and Innovation Framework Programme, for instance by supporting small and medium-sized enterprises test and deploy innovative solutions for blue growth
- The InvestEU instrument, which could play an important role in promoting financial instruments and supporting a targeted investment platform for the blue economy.

Discussion Point 16:

How can trade unions be involved in this? How does it work in general and how they can use it?

How can trade unions make better uses of the resources of EMFF?

What other local funding streams are available for sustainability?

6 Recommendations

6.1.1 *Socially sustainable fishery management*

- Set social objectives alongside environment and economic objectives in the CFP. These should be based on Trade Union demands.
- More social indicators are needed since fisheries management at current is environmentally heavy, the only indicators to measure social impact are crude; jobs fishery dependency, a lot more can be achieved such as; education, income and health and safety.
- Ensure improved set of social indicators are used in data collection, evaluations, impact assessments as well as designing multi-annual plans and quota allocations systems.
- Improved guidance on implementing regulations (such as Article 2 and Article 17), that state that social indicators have to be included.
- Effective fisheries management to improve social sustainability of the fishing industry and its communities. For instance, in the Mediterranean fish stocks are under particular threat (with only seven out of thirty assessed being above MSY) and the socio-economic situation of fishers is considered particularly critical.
- Where quotas exist, increase quota trading to ease pressure of landing obligation for fishers who fish in multi-species areas and consider different systems for small-scale fishers.

6.1.2 *Trade Union Strategy*

- Establish how the Trade Unions are going to work together around the social committee and other platforms to give consistent messages. It is important to establish how the unions want to be perceived as there is an increasing issue of not being listened to in the committees and externally.
- Agree a united CFP vision on how fisheries should be managed for maximum social benefit.
- Identify and establish new networks or use existing networks to facilitate involvement in policy and decision making processes at the EU or regional level e.g. European Commission, ACs, MEPs, Ministers, and POs.
- Consider what unique data and information Trade Unions can provide to support the process of developing new regulations and undertaking impact assessments or facilitating consultations.
- Assess how ETF can have a stronger role within Advisory Councils. As discussed in the first seminar paper, ACs represent companies rather than the workers. There is only one member from ETF out of up to thirty members, and this can be disadvantageous when issues go to vote. Subsequently it is important to assess how

unions can work with other organisations on issues of common interest, and use other avenues of influence.

6.1.3 *Funding social benefits*

- To enforce the discard ban, more selective fishing methods should be encouraged and with help from the EMFF selective fishing gear should be made available to fishers.
- Health and Safety projects should be encouraged under the EMFF and the funding/application process should become more accessible.
- EMFF to support a competitive and viable processing and aquaculture sectors.
- Financial instrument to help fishing cluster as a whole/postharvest sector, catching and processing to ensure fisheries sustainability.
- Conditionality of financial instrument around Trade Union objectives.
- Simplification of the rules for funding social priorities.

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