European Commission

Support from the EUROPEAN MARITIME AND FISHERIES FUND (EMFF)

Opportunities for SMALL-SCALE COASTAL FISHERMEN

Maritime Affairs and Fisheries

As a small-scale fisherman, the EMFF supports you throughout your professional life. It also supports your fishing community in its development.

It can help you to train yourself or your partner, or hire a trainee.

It can help you to invest in your first new boat, in new fishing gear, in new engines or in on-board equipment.

It can also help you to improve your fishing practices, add value to your catch or diversify your economic activities.

If you are using a fishing vessel less than 12 m long and with no towed gear, you can, under certain conditions, benefit from preferential access and higher rates of public support: up to 30 percentage points more in most cases, and up to 35 percentage points more in the EU's outermost regions and the remote Greek or Croatian islands.

This leaflet lists all the options available under the EMFF. However, since measures are financed jointly by the EU and the Member States, it is up to each Member State to decide which of these options to open up. I encourage you to get in touch with your national EMFF managing authority to find out more.

Karmenu VELLA,

EU Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries

INVEST IN FISHING BOAT & EQUIPMENT

Purchase your first fishing vessel

Receive up to 25% of the purchase price of a second-hand fishing vessel (but no more than €75 000) if:

- you are under 40 years of age,
- you have over 5 years of fishing experience,
- the vessel is 5 to 30 years old, and
- the vessel is less than 24 metres long.

Replace your engine (main or auxiliary)

Receive up to 30% of the value of the new engine, with no need to reduce its power.

Invest in new gear / on-board equipment

Receive up to 80% of the cost of investment to:

- improve selectivity, protect biodiversity, minimise unwanted catches,
- protect your catch from predators,
- promote energy efficiency

or up to 90% for control-related equipment.

Invest in equipment to add value to your catch

Receive up to 80% of the cost of investment to improve quality and added value of fish caught:

- by own processing or marketing
- if using selective gear and
- if active 60 days in previous 2 years

Invest to diversify your activities

Receive up to 50% of the budget foreseen for complementary income (but no more than €75 000).

INVEST IN HUMAN RESOURCES

Invest in health & safety on board

Receive up to 80% of your investment costs.

Hire unemployed youth on-board SSCF boat

Receive up to €40 000 over 2 years to cover the salary and charges of your trainee

- if the boat owner is over 50 years old, and
- if the trainee is under 30 years old.

Train yourself, your spouse or your life partner

Receive support to participate in:

- training or lifelong learning
- networking or exchanges of experience.

INVEST IN FISHERIES CONSERVATION

Compensation for sustainable fishing

Get compensation for participating in protection activities of marine areas and ecosystems to:

- collect marine litter, ghost nets, etc.
- protect exclusion zones from towed gear
- manage or restore protected areas.

Temporary cessation of fishing activities

Receive compensation for up to 6 months if:

- you suspend all your fishing activities due to resource conservation,
- you and your vessel were active at least 120 days in the previous 2 years.

Permanent cessation of fishing activities

Receive compensation for scrapping of your fishing vessel (only until end 2017) if:

- you stop fishing for at least 2 years
- your segment is in overcapacity, and
- you were actively fishing with that vessel for at least 90 days in the previous 2 years.

Fisheries Local Action Groups (FLAGs)

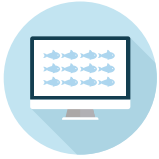
Benefit from the support of the FLAG active in your fishing and aquaculture area, if any, to:

- add value to your catch (by processing, marketing, direct sale, etc.),
- diversify your sources of income (pesca-tourism, aquaculture, restaurant, coastal tourism, etc.) or
- protect the marine environment or the cultural heritage of your area.

BENEFIT FROM COLLECTIVE PROJECTS

Benefit from projects of collective interest undertaken by scientific, technical or financial bodies, or FLAGs.

Innovation



Benefit from projects of collective interest, undertaken by technical or scientific bodies: in fishing, processing or marketing, for improved products or equipment through new or improved processes, techniques, management or organisation systems.

Advisory Services

Receive advice and advisory services to improve the competitiveness and sustainability of your fishing activities, for example, to:

- develop marketing / business strategies,
- undertake feasibility studies,
- receive professional advice on how to apply for EMFF support.

Partnerships between scientists and fishermen

Receive support to collaborate with scientific or technical experts, for example, on fisheries data collection, to test new gear or strategies to reduce discards, to protect marine ecosystems, to manage fisheries resources, etc.

Mutual funds for adverse climatic events

Receive support to insure yourself under mutual funds to compensate losses due to:

- adverse climatic events (storms)
- environmental incidents (algal blooms).

INLAND FISHING

Except for temporary and permanent cessation, all the above forms of support are available for small-scale fishermen operating in inland waters (ice fishing included).

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Not all the above measures are available in all Member States, and the specific conditions of implementation of the EMFF vary from country to country (and even from region to region in the same country).

Contact the EMFF Managing Authority of your home country to find out when and for which forms of support you can apply:

http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/sites/fisheries/files/docs/body/national_authorities.pdf

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