



EU BUDGET FOR THE FUTURE

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THE EUROPEAN MARITIME AND FISHERIES FUND



Maritime ecosystems and challenges are global by nature. Fish stocks or plastic pollution do not respect borders. The European Union must therefore act at home and abroad to protect, conserve and ensure sustainable use of our seas. Hand-in-hand with our fishermen and our innovative maritime industries, we can make our oceans healthy again.

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WHAT IS IT?

The European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) supports sustainable EU fisheries and maritime sectors, as well as the EU's role as an international leader in sustainable ocean management.

WHY IS THIS A PRIORITY?

Covering more than two thirds of our planet, the sea has the potential to drive economic growth, job creation, and prosperity. Maritime activities like fisheries, aquaculture, coastal tourism, ocean energy, 'blue' biotech and others contribute to thriving coastal communities and make up the rich social fabric of Europe's maritime regions.

At the same time, these economic activities must take place in a way that is both environmentally and socially sustainable.



WHAT TYPES OF ACTION WILL BE SUPPORTED?

The post-2020 EMFF will focus on four priorities:

- Fostering **sustainable fisheries** and the conservation of marine biological resources;
- Contributing to food security in the European Union through **sustainable and competitive aquaculture and markets**;
- Enabling the growth of a **sustainable blue economy** and fostering prosperous coastal communities;
- Strengthening **international ocean governance** and enabling safe, secure, clean and sustainably managed seas and oceans.



WHAT DOES THIS MEAN IN FINANCIAL TERMS?

The proposal for the European Union's overarching long-term budget stipulates continued support for fisheries and maritime policies.

The proposed EMFF budget amounts to **EUR 6.14 billion** in current prices, for the years 2021 to 2027. EMFF resources are mainly split between shared and direct management.



WHAT IS NEW IN THE COMMISSION PROPOSAL?

- **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.
- **Better alignment with the other European Union structural and investment funds.** Rules applying to all the funds are set out in a 'Common Provisions' Regulation.
- A **stronger focus on results.** For example, fishermen will only receive funding if they demonstrate that they have helped achieve the conservation objectives of the Common Fisheries Policy.
- Increased focus on **small-scale coastal fishermen** with the aim to encourage their sustainable fishing practices.
- More and **broader support for coastal communities.** Compared to the 2014-2020 period, support for local partnerships is extended to cover all blue economy sectors.
- **Stronger synergies with other EU policies,** e.g. contributing to the fight against climate change and implementing the European strategy for plastics in a circular economy.
- Support for **safe, secure, clean and sustainably managed oceans.** For the first time, the EMFF will support the European Union's international commitments and objectives. In addition, funding will be available for maritime surveillance and coastguard cooperation.



HOW ELSE WILL THE FUTURE EU BUDGET MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THIS AREA?

Beyond the EMFF, synergies exist with other European funding options, e.g.:

- the **European Regional Development Fund**, for investment in blue growth sectors and for sea-basin strategies
- the **European Social Fund**, to develop skills in both the fisheries and maritime sectors
- 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.