



Review of the European Fisheries Fund (EFF) in the UK 2013



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Investing in sustainable fisheries

The contribution of commercial fishing to coastal communities and local economies across the UK is significant. However this industry is facing a number of challenges. A decline in fish stocks, damage to marine ecosystems and habitats, changing market demands along with other social and economic factors are all affecting the industry's sustainability.

The European Fisheries Fund (EFF) is a driver of development. It is helping fishermen, fish processing and aquaculture businesses to adapt to these changing needs. It is supporting necessary infrastructure projects and improvements which benefit groups of people working in the fishing sector. It also supports the development of economies in fisheries areas.

The EFF scheme is implemented in the UK by the following organisations; Marine Management Organisation (England), Marine Scotland, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (Northern Ireland) and the Welsh Government. The delivery of the EFF scheme across the UK has been, and will continue to be, at the heart of these organisations and this shows a clear commitment to supporting the fishing sector and communities towards a sustainable future.

This report builds on the 2012 review of the EFF and outlines the achievements and benefits of EFF investment and public funding provided in the UK fishing sectors in 2013.

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Introduction to the European Fisheries Fund in the UK 2013



The European Fisheries Fund (EFF) was introduced by the European Union (EU) to support the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). The fund, which runs from 2007 to December 2015, provides €4.3 billion to help the European fisheries sector to adapt to the regulations set out in the CFP. It provides support towards a range of activities, including:

- Ensuring the long-term future of fishing activities and the sustainable use of fishery resources
- Reducing pressure on stocks by matching EU fleet capacity to availability
- Promoting the sustainable development of inland fishing
- Boosting economically viable enterprises in the fisheries sector and making operating structures more competitive
- Helping to protect the environment and the conservation of marine resources
- Encouraging sustainable development of areas with an active fishing industry.

EU Member States were each required to submit an Operational Programme (OP) in order to secure assistance from the EFF. These strategies set out in more detail the countries' priority areas for awarding funds.



Around £114 million (€137.8 million) has been made available through the EFF for the UK. This will be used towards the following priorities, which are explained in more detail in the UK OP:

- To boost the balance between fishing effort and opportunity
- To boost profitability by obtaining increased returns from the same inputs
- To increase profitability compared to other EU Member States.

To access the funding available, people, businesses, organisations and fishing communities must apply through one of four funding streams, or 'Axes,' which are each covered in more detail in this document.

In order to measure the effectiveness of EFF funding in the UK a range of result indicators were developed to assess the achievement of funding allocations across the priority axes. A summary of these is provided at Annex 1 including the original baseline, 2013 update (where available) and a target for 2015.

2013 update

From the start of the programme in 2007 to 31 December 2013, £90.5 million (79 per cent) of the total budget has been committed from EFF on 1,993 projects in the UK. EFF investment together with other government and private match contributions provide investment to the industry of £298 million.

In June 2013 the European Commission approved a proposed modification to the OP. This modification followed an independent mid-term evaluation of the EFF scheme and proposed to redistribute funding across priority Axes 1 – 3 to meet the demand of marine industries.



Axis 1

Measures for the adaptation of the community fishing fleet



Objective

The main objective of Axis 1 is to contribute to the sustainable development of fishing resources and to improve performance and profitability of the fishing fleet.

Key measures

The key measures for the UK in this Axis include ensuring fishing vessels are able to operate competitively and efficiently, enabling fishing effort to match opportunities and maintaining small-scale coastal fishing activity. Axis 1 is complemented by Axis 3 in that they jointly deliver a holistic range of support to the sea fisheries sector. This relationship between the two axes has seen culture and behaviour changes, for example in a number of pilot projects involving groups of fishermen, scientists and research institutions working together to develop innovative methods and approaches towards fishing activities.

Eligibility

When the EFF scheme launched in the UK the average age of vessels in the fleet was 23 years. Consequently critical projects for support through Axis 1 include adapting the fleet to make vessels safer, more fuel efficient and have lower maintenance requirements.

Upgrading safety, working conditions, hygiene, conservation, energy efficiency or adopting more sustainable fishing methods may all qualify for funding through this Axis of the EFF scheme providing the activities don't increase the vessel's capacity to catch fish.

Progress

As at 31 December 2013 a total of £11.1 million was committed from the EFF on 825 Axis 1 projects in the UK.

Vessel modernisation

Through Axis 1 fishermen may receive support to modernise their vessels in order to improve safety and working conditions, reduce costs and increase energy efficiency.

Improving crew safety

The number of UK fishermen fatalities or injuries decreased from 50 in 2012 to 33 in 2013¹, however this sets out the continued need for safety on vessels to remain a key focus of the EFF scheme.

Examples of grants awarded to help improve safety on board fishing vessels include:

- A project in Ballycastle, Northern Ireland was awarded grant assistance of £4,912 to purchase a pot hauler with a pressure release valve to reduce the risk of the vessel capsizing if the pot was caught on the sea-bed. Also by raising the deck and applying a non-slip coating, this will reduce the number of accidents by helping to keep the deck free from seaweed.
- A fishing vessel in Kirkwall, Orkney received a grant of £21,588 to purchase new selective fishing gear and doors. This enabled the owners to qualify for the conservation credits buy back scheme and will help reduce cod mortality in line with the EU Cod Recovery Plan.
- A project in Hastings was awarded £16,120 to purchase hydraulically operated "tipping doors" to enable the emptying of the scallop dredges directly onto the vessel's conveyors. This will lead to safer and less physically demanding crew working conditions along with reducing the impact damage and trauma to the scallops during the emptying process.

Energy efficiency and fuel consumption

Fuel prices remained high in 2013 with fuel costs in the UK remaining one of the highest in Europe. The EFF is helping by providing funding towards projects which deliver more fuel-efficient working methods such as installing new engines and generators thereby reducing the costs to the fleet.

- A vessel in Newquay was awarded £5,557 to purchase a new engine to reduce emissions and this more reliable and efficient engine resulted in greater fuel economy and improved safety conditions on board.
- The Welsh Government launched a scheme in January 2013 to offer grant aid to fishing vessels for the replacement of engines and associated ancillary equipment such as gear boxes. This resulted in 11 successful applicants being awarded £67,584 to fund improvements to their vessels.

Projects like this have resulted in benefits to the environment and the costs faced by fishermen through:

- Reduced emissions
- Reduced fuel consumption
- Increased reliability of operations
- Less maintenance costs.

¹Marine Accident Investigation Branch Annual Report 2013

Axis 2**Aquaculture, inland fishing, processing and marketing of fishery and aquaculture products****Objective**

The main objective of Axis 2 is to improve the profitability and competitiveness of aquaculture, processing and marketing of fishery and aquaculture products.

Key measures

Through the key measures set out in the OP, the UK aims to achieve this in a number of ways, including enabling improvements in production and welfare, supporting projects which respond to changing consumer demand and contributing to lifelong learning in the aquaculture, fish processing and marketing sectors.

Eligibility

Funding is available to support investments in the construction, extension, modernisation and equipping of fish-processing companies enabling them to extend their product ranges and move into new markets. This can include processing machines and other associated equipment and facilities used by the trade.

The EFF scheme also supports the development of aquaculture production sites for species where demand is currently exceeding supply and for companies to diversify into new species for human consumption which aren't widely produced in the UK.

Progress

As at 31 December 2013 a total of £24.3 million was committed from the EFF on 378 projects in the UK.

Processing and marketing**Automated conditioning, weighing and tray sealing system**

Exmouth Mussels Ltd was awarded £51,566 to upgrade the company's existing facilities to meet increased demand. The new equipment will automatically condition, weigh and pack mussels, increasing productivity from 2100 kg to 3500 kg per day enabling the business to expand into the wholesale and retail markets in the UK. This weekly increase of up to 10,000 kg will also help to create two new jobs.

Seaweed processing plant

An award of £84,684 was made to Selwyn's Seafood's, based in Swansea, towards the purchase of a seaweed processing and packaging unit to make seaweed-based healthy snacks. With the new facility the company will

be able to source Laver seaweed from the Welsh coast instead of Nori seaweed from Japan and process and package the products in-house.

Factory expansion in Fraserburgh

International Fish Canners, based in Fraserburgh, were granted £1.2 million towards the expansion of their current premises with the construction of a new grading building, enabling the existing facilities to be reorganised with a new mackerel line being installed along with processing equipment.

This reorganisation will reduce bottlenecks allowing more efficient handling and improved quality of the products. Increased efficiency during processing will help ensure the company is competitive in both the UK and export markets and the new processing equipment will allow the company to meet customers' strict audit requirements.

Extension of a smoked salmon factory

An award of £102,000 was made to Ewing Seafoods, Belfast, towards the installation of a smoker and associated equipment alongside the factory expansion. This project helped the company achieve British Retail Consortium (BRC) accreditation along with increasing sales and raising the profile of Northern Ireland as a supplier of high quality farmed salmon and smoked salmon.

Aquaculture**Killough Oysters**

This Northern Ireland company, based in County Down, were awarded £5,880 towards the purchase of 600 trestles, expanding production of oysters by 10 tonnes per year and improving working conditions.

Expansion of oyster farms

Cumbrae Oysters Ltd, based in Ayrshire, was granted £40,410 for the purchase of production and handling equipment. The project aims to increase the turnover and profitability of the business.. It is anticipated the production capacity will increase by 75 tonnes and the project will create 4 new jobs.



Axis 3

Measures of common interest



Objective

Axis 3 supports the sustainable development of the fishing industry, its competitiveness and profitability.

Key measures

Through this Axis, the scheme aims to support projects which contribute to the conservation of resources, improving the services offered by fishing ports, strengthening markets for fishery products, promoting partnerships between scientists and fishermen and innovative pilot schemes.

Eligibility

Grants from this part of the EFF can be used to help pay for improvements to facilities and working conditions, including regeneration projects in ports around the UK. Smaller projects can also be funded through this part of the EFF, including lifting and handling equipment (landing davits, forklift trucks and boat hoists), storage facilities (fuel tanks, secure areas and ice systems) and landing facilities (pontoons, jetties and slipways).

Progress

As at 31 December 2013 £44.3 million was committed from the EFF on 460 projects in the UK.

Port and harbour redevelopments

Installation of new high-capacity ventilation equipment

A project by Peterhead Port Authority installing louvre vents for air ingress and high capacity fan extractors at the Peterhead covered ship lift facility was awarded £157,404. The project will enable improvement and maintenance work to be carried out on fishing vessels without being affected by weather conditions. It will more than treble the ventilation capacity in the ship lift, improving working conditions in the facility. It will also help reduce the number of stoppages while work is being undertaken, allowing repairs to be completed more quickly and passing on savings to all fishing businesses using the facility.

Kilkeel Harbour navigational safety

An award of £119,315 was made to Northern Ireland Fishery Harbour Authority to commission and install an automatic weather and sea-state monitoring and communications system for Kilkeel harbour. This includes an automatic weather station and Automatic Information System for direct broadcast of information to vessels. This

project will enable skippers to make informed decisions about whether it is safe to enter Kilkeel harbour in certain weather conditions and to reduce the risk of accidents.

Cornish Ice Plant

A project by Cornish Ice Company Ltd was awarded £620,000 for a new ice plant. The plant was required to meet an increased demand for ice and to produce 'flake' ice which is known to enhance fish quality. The project aims to increase ice production by 25 per cent and increase ice capacity by 28 per cent, securing ice for the Cornish fleet and processing sector.

Collective actions

'JFR' global positioning system

Dorset Hand line Fishermen's Association was awarded £6,370 to issue System JFR to 22 members contributing to their safety at sea. This project aims to improve safety at sea via the System JFR, which is a combination of a personal location beacon (PLB) and a pouch. The pouch has a lanyard stitched into it with the PLB attached to the other end. It is fitted onto a fisherman's clothing, enabling it to be with them at all times. The device will reduce the chances of a man over board by alerting the emergency services quickly and efficiently.

Re-instatement of traditional oyster beds

A project by Mumbles Oyster Company Ltd was awarded £86,527 to assess the feasibility of re-establishing traditional oyster beds in a 35 hectare site in the waters off The Mumbles, Swansea Bay, South Wales.

The main aim of the project was to trial seeding and re-establishment of the oyster bed at Mumbles followed by the completion of a report and handbook which will be published at the end of the trial. A successful native oyster cultivation operation at Mumbles could also renew interest in local seafood and potentially enable the development of associated industries such as local markets and tourism.

Personal flotation devices

A grant of £83,205 was awarded to the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen to provide personal flotation devices (PFDs) for up to 840 fishermen working on-board Northern Ireland registered vessels. This included the development of a PFD that is practical for fishermen to

wear, highlighting to fishermen the importance of wearing a PFD, to distribute a PFD to all commercial fishermen in the Northern Ireland fishing fleet, and ultimately to reduce loss of life at sea.

The project proved its worth when a fisherman from Portavogie, ended up in the sea in September 2013 after his vessel quickly sank in a storm off the County Down coast. He was wearing a PFD that was issued two weeks previously that he believes undoubtedly saved his life. This story has been the subject of significant media interest since the incident.

Clyde observers scheme

SFF Services Ltd were granted an award of £264,352 for an observers scheme for fishing effort exclusion based in the Clyde and West of Kintyre area, focussed on the Nephrops fishery in that area.

The aim was to provide robust scientific data on the cod catches of Nephrops trawlers seeking exemption from the Fishing Effort Regime. This would help to safeguard the opportunities of the Scottish fishing industry by informing the various decision-making processes which set total allowable catches and effort control for species.

Pilot operations

Pilot culture programme for the European spiny lobster

A pilot project was undertaken by Seiont Research Ltd, based in Caernarfon, to investigate, refine and develop culture techniques for juvenile spiny lobster production. This was to be achieved through research into the feeding and water quality requirements of the larvae and subsequent juveniles in a closed recirculation aquaculture system.

While the project is not expected to produce commercial numbers of juvenile crawfish the aim is that sufficient numbers will be secured during the two-year programme to enable a proper economic assessment of the potential opportunities for commercial farming of this high value seafood species in Wales. This project received grant funding of £376,268.

Development of new markets

Maximising opportunities for Scottish seafood in emerging markets across Asia

Seafood Scotland were granted £319,667 for a project which aims to increase the profile and raise awareness of Scotland and Scottish seafood amongst food service buyers, chefs and premium retailers in Asia.

The project will educate foodservice buyers in the main Scottish cities on the seafood products that are available and the focus will be on the premium market. Individual Scottish companies will be supported and a communications plan will be developed with industry and trade bodies. Benefits will include increased awareness of Scotland and Scottish seafood, new contacts made and new markets entered.



Axis 4**Sustainable development of fisheries areas****Objective**

The objective of Axis 4 is to support the sustainable development of fisheries areas and is delivered through local groups who represent the area. Across the UK 22 areas were chosen to become Fisheries Local Action Groups (FLAGs) as part of the scheme. The groups, comprising local councils, private sector businesses, fishermen's associations and education and conservation organisations, have been set up in the following areas and will each use a share of the funding to help diversify their local economies.

England

Cornwall, Hastings, North Devon, North and West Cumbria, Holderness Coast and North Norfolk.

Scotland

Highlands, Western Isles, Aberdeenshire, Angus, Fife, East Lothian, Scottish Borders, Dumfries and Galloway, Moray, Argyll and Bute and South Ayrshire.

Wales

Swansea, Pembrokeshire, Ceredigion, Gwynedd and Anglesey.

Northern Ireland

South East FLAG (SEFLAG)

As at 31 December 2013 £9.1 million was committed on 217 projects across the UK under Axis 4. Of these projects 134 were led by the private sector, 60 were led by public bodies and the remaining 23 projects were led by third sector, voluntary and community groups.

The FLAGs have been developing both practical and innovative ideas – projects have been developed to support local brands and new markets for fish products, maximising fishing-related opportunities provided for tourists, encouraging co-operation and communication within the fishing industry and working with partners on initiatives to help people learn more about their local marine environment and fishing.

Axis 4 projects include:**Marina enhancement scheme**

A grant of £140,000 was awarded to Whitehaven Harbour Commissioners to develop Whitehaven's tourist infrastructure by upgrading the harbour area to create 140 new berths, a cruise-ship taxi terminal and the construction of an 'on-water' maintenance area. A conversion

and upgrade to existing buildings to provide marina management offices was also undertaken.

This will lead to the creation of 3 new jobs, increased tourism through availability of additional berths and a boost to the economy through increased visitors to Whitehaven from cruise trip passengers.

Ifraccombe Sea Safari

Bristol Channel Charters was awarded £15,000 towards the purchase of a RIB to operate sea safaris for both locals and tourists to see the North Devon coastline and to visit Lundy Island to observe dolphins, seals and birdlife.

This project hopes to lead to the creation of four seasonal jobs, along with increasing tourism and diversification of the business.

Apprentice Boat builders

Mackay boat builders, Arbroath, repair and maintain all types of vessels from rescue craft to historic vessels. This project, which was awarded £4,300, will help to train an apprentice boat builder in traditional boatbuilding skills.

The apprentice will help keep a traditional trade alive, where there are few opportunities to learn the trade. The training will benefit the local community and local business as there will be a skill base to repair vessels, either pleasure craft or fishing vessels. Also once qualified the apprentice will be taken on full-time creating an additional job.

Additional facilities at Collafirth Pier

The project, undertaken by Collafirth Marine Users Association, is to purchase and install a 45-metre pontoon to create additional berths, and to install fuel storage and dispensing facilities at the pier.

This will lead to an increase in the number of berths for fishing boats, yachts, tourism charter vessels and recreational activities. This will relieve congestion for all users which will in turn encourage new fishing vessels and social/tourism users at the pier. On-site fuel facilities will reduce costs for users through bulk purchase. Bulk deliveries will also have environmental benefits through reduced haulage trips.

Summary of Operational Programme Indicators**Table 1: Axis 1 Operational Programme Indicators and Results**

Indicator	Source of data	Baseline (2007)	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Target (2015)
Total UK fleet capacity (tonnage of vessels)	Marine Management Organisation	212,844	208,025	207,424	202,048	200,697	197,283	195,000
Value of fish landed per vessel (tonnes)	Marine Management Organisation	£95,000	£103,489	£112,118	£128,775	£120,254	£115,000	£111,000
Total UK fleet capacity (kilowatts)	Marine Management Organisation	858,011	832,284	826,668	808,887	804,208	797,661	746,000
Turnover of the UK fishing sector	Marine Management Organisation	£613 m (2006 baseline)	£760m	£759m	£823m	£865 m	£718m	£766m

Table 2: Axis 2 Operational Programme Indicators and Results

Indicator	Source of data	Baseline (2006)	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Target (2015)
Turnover of UK aquaculture sector	Office for National Statistics	£509m	£514m	£407m	£552m	£556m	£642m	Available November 2014	£600m
Turnover of UK processing sector	Office for National Statistics	£2,248m	£2,381m	£2,763m	£2,811m	£2,621m	£2,745m	Available November 2014	£2,900m



Table 2: Axis 3 Operational Programme Indicators and Results

Indicator	Source of data	Baseline (2006)	2008	2009	2010	Control level (2010)	2011	2012	2013	Target (2015)
Training uptake (numbers attending training courses)	Sea Fish Industry Authority	6,130	4,395	6,708	6,835	6,300	8,266	8,848	8,121	8,000
Gross Value Added	Office for National Statistics	£1,008m	£995m	£1,066m	£1,124m	£1,030m	£1,249m	£1,121m	Available November 2014	£1,464m

Note:

1. The analysis in Axis 2 and 3 relies on statistics from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and report 2012 performance. 2013 figures are unavailable until November 2014.

**Table 4: Axis 4 Operational Programme Indicators and Results**

Indicator	Actual	Target 2015
Total size of FLAG area (Km2)	51,342	51,342
Total Population of FLAG area	2,450,967	2,450,967
Total Approved projects at 31.12.2013		Total number of Projects to be funded by Flag Groups:
(a) Strengthening the competitiveness of fisheries areas	78	77
(b) restructuring and redirecting economic activities, in particular by promoting eco-tourism, provided that these activities do not result in an increase in fishing effort	13	22
(c) diversifying activities through the promotion of multiple employment for fishers through the creation of additional jobs outside the fisheries sector	10	39
(d) adding value to fisheries products	17	63
(e) supporting small fisheries and tourism related infrastructure and services for the benefit of small fisheries communities	78	78
(f) protecting the environment in fisheries areas to maintain its attractiveness, regenerating and developing coastal hamlets and villages with fisheries activities and protecting and enhancing the natural and architectural heritage ⁽¹⁾	0	24
(g) re-establishing the production potential in the fisheries sector when damaged by natural or industrial disasters	1	2
(h) promoting inter-regional and trans-national cooperation among groups in fisheries areas, mainly through networking and disseminating best practice ⁽¹⁾	0	15
(i) acquiring skills and facilitating the preparation and implementation of the local development strategy	4	8
(j) contributing to the running costs of the groups	22	23
Total	223	351

Note:

1. Axis 4 projects could span a number of the measures listed above. In terms of allocating eligible projects to the measures above, the project will be aligned to the measure with the greatest impact.



Cumulative number of EFF-funded projects across the UK

Axis	Measure	UK number of approved projects by the end of December 2013				
		England	Scotland	Wales	Ireland	Total
1	Permanent cessation	59	38	0	0	97
	Temporary cessation	0	0	0	0	0
	Security/Safety on board	53	76	0	63	192
	Working conditions	19	33	0	8	60
	Hygiene on board	3	9	0	1	13
	Products quality	37	135	1	10	183
	Energy efficiency	12	72	0	13	97
	Improved selectivity	19	40	0	1	60
	Changed engine	41	11	11	5	68
	Changed gear	7	38	0	0	45
	Other changes on board	2	1	0	0	3
	Small scale coastal	0	0	0	0	0
	Socio econ. compensation	0	4	0	3	7
	Total	252	457	12	104	825
2	Construction aquaculture	7	7	1	0	15
	Modernised aquaculture	6	54	1	6	67
	Diversification aquaculture	2	0	0	1	3
	Aqua environmental	4	1	0	0	5
	Construction processing	39	44	1	12	96
	Modernised processing	95	54	9	9	167
	Construction fish trading	2	0	0	0	2
	Modernised fish trading	18	5	0	0	23
	Total	173	165	12	28	378
3	Collective actions	135	56	18	29	238
	Protection aquatic resources	2	1	6	1	10
	Fishing harbours	74	38	5	13	130
	Promotion - new markets	28	17	0	0	45
	Pilot projects	16	16	5	0	37
	Total	255	128	34	43	460
4	Development of fishing areas	149	67	1	0	217
5	Technical assistance	28	45	13	25	111
	Studies	2	0	0	0	2
	Total	30	45	13	25	113
Total		859	862	72	200	1993



More information about the EFF can be found in the fisheries section in the appropriate regional website or can be obtained by calling:

England	www.marinemanagement.org.uk 0300 123 1032
Northern Ireland	www.dardni.gov.uk 0300 200 7852
Wales	www.wales.gov.uk 0300 060 3300
Scotland	www.scotland.gov.uk 0300 244 4000

