

EUROPE'S BUDGET

Fisheries, aquaculture and the ocean

SEPTEMBER 2025

The new EU budget will ensure robust financial support for the sustainability and competitiveness of the EU fishery and aquaculture as well as other blue economy sectors, while enhancing the resilience of coastal communities and ensuring a safe, secure and clean ocean.

Why is this a priority?

Europe must protect the ocean, ensure food security, boost a sustainable blue economy and support coastal communities by:

- Ensuring the sustainability, competitiveness and resilience of European fisheries and aquaculture
- Enhancing the socio-economic opportunities of coastal communities and stimulating local growth
- Promoting the conservation of marine ecosystems so that we can continue relying on them
- Supporting ocean observation, research and innovation, to promote marine knowledge, ocean literacy
- Ensuring strong ocean governance for a safe, secure, clean and sustainably managed ocean

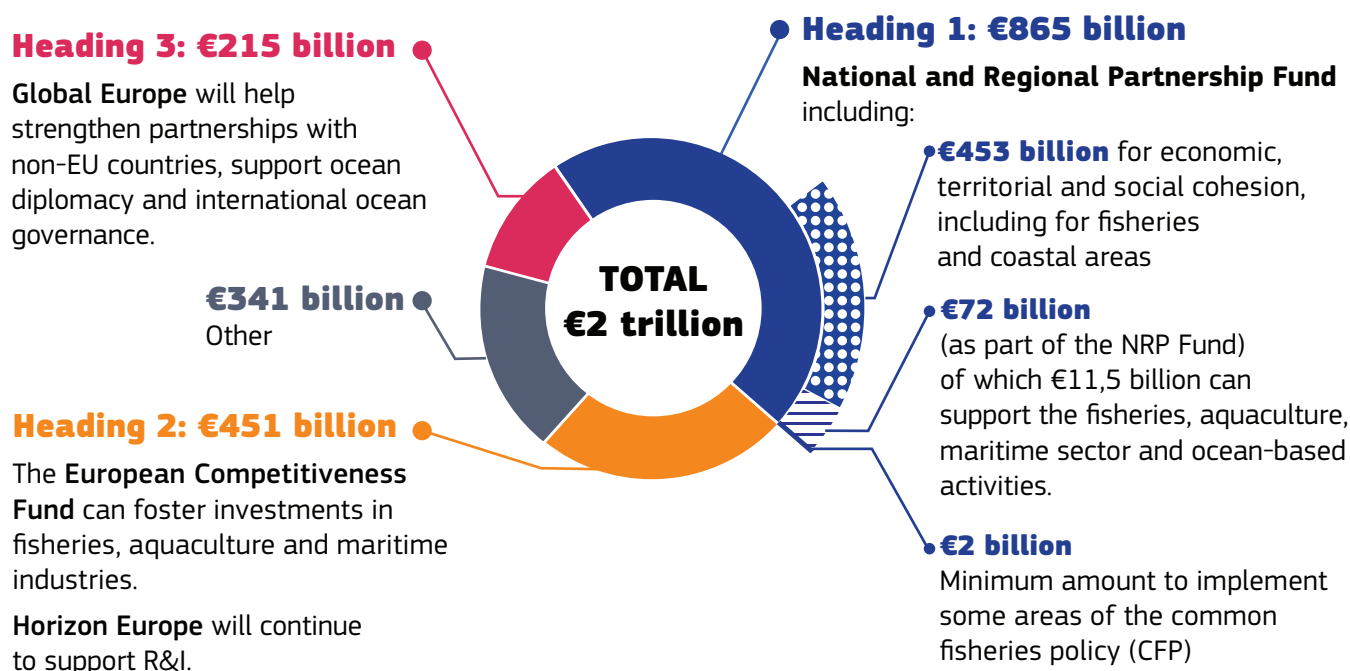


What is the Commission proposing?

The new structure of the EU budget will give Member States more flexibility to tailor their budget in accordance with national, regional and local needs. It will result in a better targeted and more impactful EU support, where it matters most, and give faster and more flexible access to the sectors that need it the most.

The importance of ocean, fisheries, aquaculture and maritime related policies is recognised in the three major headings of the new EU budget.

Together, the new funds **have the potential to go significantly beyond the amounts available for the previous 2021-2027 budget.**



European Commission. (2025). *Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: A dynamic EU budget for the priorities of the future – The Multiannual Financial Framework 2028–2034 (COM/2025/570 final)*. Retrieved from <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM:2025:570:FIN> (on 17/09/2025)

Promoting a healthy ocean

- Funding ocean observation, research and innovation, marine knowledge, to better understand and protect the marine environment.
- Support for EU Ocean diplomacy to promote international cooperation and address global ocean challenges.
- Measures to prevent and combat Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated fishing, protecting the livelihoods of fishers and the health of the ocean.

Supporting coastal communities

- Support for the development of sustainable blue economy initiatives, creating jobs, boosting SMEs and stimulating local economic growth.
- Funding for fisheries and aquaculture producers to invest in new technologies and practices, including blue carbon reserves and regenerative business opportunities, improving their competitiveness and resilience.
- Protection of the ocean's natural resources, ensuring the long-term viability of coastal communities and the industries that depend on them.

Promoting sustainable fisheries and aquaculture

- Funding data collection and fisheries control to ensure the long-term sustainability of fish stocks.
- Support for innovative and sustainable aquaculture and blue bioeconomy practices.
- Investments in start-ups and digital solutions to improve the sector's efficiency and environmental performance.