



EMFAF 2021-2027 and Fisheries Local Action Groups

#EUGreenDeal

FARNET Atlantic and North Sea Seminar, 25/5/2021

Overview

- Overall context
- European Green Deal and recovery
- EMFAF 2021-2027 and recovery
- Future for FLAGs in the Atlantic and North Sea

A lot happened since 2018...

- Commission proposal for EMFF 2021-2027: 18/6/2018
- End 2019: new Commission – European Green Deal
- 2020: Covid-19 crisis hit hard and changed our perspective
- 2021: an EU at 27 MS after Brexit

Policy drivers for EU recovery

- **European Green Deal** at the heart of the EU's recovery strategy
- Strengthen the **Single Market** and adapt it to the **digital** age
- **Fair and inclusive** recovery **for all**

 Build a **more resilient EU**

 **EU as global driver**



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The European Green Deal is one of the key components of the European Union's growth strategy and a path to a green, robust and durable recovery from the health pandemic and its economic impact.

#EUGreenDeal





EU Biodiversity Strategy
for 2030

Let's take care of our nature

Climate change, the unprecedented loss of biodiversity and infectious diseases are sending a clear message: **it is time to fix our broken relationship with nature.**



https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal/actions-being-taken-eu/eu-biodiversity-strategy-2030_en

A coherent Trans-European Nature Network

1 Establishing protected areas for at least:



30%
of land in Europe



30%
of sea in Europe



Incl. **10%**
no take zones

An EU Nature Restoration Plan

2 Restoring degraded ecosystems at land and sea across the whole of Europe by e.g. :



Restoring at least
25 000 km of EU
rivers to a free
flowing state



Reducing the use
and risk of
chemical
pesticides by 50%
by 2030

Legally
binding nature
restoration
targets in
2021

A close-up photograph of a green leaf, showing the intricate network of veins. The leaf is a vibrant green color, and the veins are a slightly lighter shade, creating a complex, organic pattern. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the leaf's surface.

| Farm to Fork Strategy

Transition to a fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food system

- Have a neutral or positive environmental impact
- Mitigate climate change and adapt to its impacts
- Reverse the loss of biodiversity

Our food systems account for nearly one-third of global GHG emissions and consume large amounts of natural resources

- Ensure food security, nutrition and public health, making sure that everyone has access to sufficient, safe, nutritious, sustainable food
- Preserve affordability of food while generating fairer economic returns, foster competitiveness of the EU supply sector and promote fair trade





European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund

EMFAF 2021-2027

EMFAF – State of play

- Commission proposal for EMF(A)F : 18/6/2018
- Provisional agreement between the Council and European Parliament: 4/12/2020
- Multiannual Financial Framework for 2021-2027: adopted on 17/12/2020
- Next steps:
 - Formal adoption by the Parliament and the Council
 - Publication in the Official Journal (July tbc)
 - Adoption depending also on Common Provisions Regulation for all European Structural and Investment Funds (June tbc)

EMFAF - 4 Priorities

- 1) Fostering *sustainable fisheries* and the *restoration and conservation of aquatic biological resources*
- 2) Fostering *sustainable aquaculture* activities, and *processing and marketing* of fisheries and aquaculture products, contributing to food security in the Union
- 3) Enabling a sustainable *blue economy* in coastal, island and inland areas, and fostering the *development of fishing and aquaculture communities*
- 4) Strengthening *international ocean governance* and enabling *safe, secure, clean and sustainably managed seas and oceans*

EMFAF in the wider EU context

- Recovery and resilience building
- Green transition
- Digital transformation and innovation
- Maximum impact of public support

Recovery and resilience

➤ What is the issue?

- Recovery from the economic crisis
- Adaptation of the sector to changing global context
- Providing conditions for an economically viable activity and a strong crisis management capacity

➤ What can the EMFAF do?

- Structural investment to reduce operating costs (e.g. through energy efficiency)
- Capacity building, collective organisation (e.g. producer organisations), skills, dissemination of innovation
- Diversification of activities and income (e.g. of fishers as « shepherds of the seas »)
- Structural adaptations: restructuring of the fleet, reorganisation of markets, diversification

Green transition

➤ What is the issue?

- Achieving the objectives of the European Green Deal (Biodiversity Strategy and Farm to Fork Strategy)
- Targeting 30% of EMFF expenditure to climate actions
- Achieving the objectives of the CFP towards sustainable fishing (MSY, low-impact fishing)

➤ What can the EMFAF do?

- Improve scientific knowledge on marine ecosystems and biodiversity to allow efficient management decisions
- Innovation and investment in low-impact fishing and aquaculture
- Reduction of the carbon footprint of fisheries and aquaculture and adaptation of fisheries to the consequences of climate change
- Management of marine protected areas and other protection measures for biodiversity and ecosystems

Digital transformation and innovation

➤ What is the issue?

- Wide use of innovation for competitiveness and sustainability (technology saves resources and reduces operational costs)

➤ What can the EMFAF do?

- Support innovation and pilot projects
- Facilitate the transfer of innovation to private investment (notably through collective projects)
- Enhance digital skills
- Use technology to improve the supply chain of fisheries and aquaculture products (e.g. direct sales, short circuits) and enhance traceability and consumer information

Optimal value added of public support

➤ What is the issue?

- Public money should generate collective benefits
- Public money should enable private investment, not replace it
- Sound financial management should go hand in hand with administrative simplification

➤ What can the EMFAF do?

- Promoting financial instruments as a way to leverage private investment
- Moving towards results-based payments (« financing not linked to costs ») and simplified cost options (focus on results and reduce checks on invoices)

Sea Basin Analyses

To guide EMFAF programming of MS, European Commission prepared **Sea Basin Analyses**:

- *main common challenges* for common fisheries policy across the EU
- *regional challenges* for achieving the CFP objectives : **Baltic, North Sea, Atlantic, Mediterranean, Black Sea, EU Outermost Regions, Inland areas**
- **EMF(A)F Toolbox** : possible actions for EMFF support (not prescriptive/exhaustive)

https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/sites/fisheries/files/swd-2020-206-a-sea-basin-perspective-to-guide-emff-programming_en.pdf

Recent developments

➤ Sustainable Blue Economy – Commission Communication 17/5/2021

- **Climate neutrality and zero carbon footprint:** offshore energy, greening ports
- **Circular economy and reducing pollution:** new types of fishing gear, recycling of vessels, reduce (micro)plastics
- **Biodiversity and investing in nature:** protect 30% of sea areas, reduce environmental impact of fisheries on marine habitats
- **Climate adaptation and resilience of coastal communities:** build with nature, improve biodiversity and landscapes, sustainable tourism, diversifying coastal economy
- **Sustainable food production:** sustainable products (fish, algae, seagrass), solid fisheries control, R&I
- **Maritime spatial planning:** new Blue Forum for sea users – dialogue for better management sea space

➤ Strategic guidelines for sustainable aquaculture in the EU – 17/5/2021

- More competitive, resilient, better climate and environment performance, innovative and knowledge based, green transition



Opportunities for FLAGs
EMFAF 2021-2027

Challenges in the Atlantic and North Sea

- pockets of small-scale fishing communities lacking critical mass
- reconciling the emergence of new marine sectors (e.g. offshore energy, tourism) with traditional sectors, and in particular small-scale coastal fisheries
- adapting to climate change
- adapting to impact of Brexit on fisheries

Opportunities for FLAGs in the Atlantic and North Sea

- cooperate between fisheries-dependent communities for an Atlantic-wide approach to the blue economy and environmental challenges
- actions in favour of the (marine) environment, against marine litter
- promote the consumption and processing of local seafood
- increase social acceptance of aquaculture
- develop coastal tourism in relation to fishing and to benefit from climate change opportunities
- support the entry of younger fishers into the sector and attract young people and skilled youth to aquaculture production (in particular algae production)
- promote blue biotechnology as an alternative and innovative sector

What can your FLAG do now?

- **Build on good experience** under EMFF and **prepare timely** for transition
- Focus on **local needs** and **fit them into** the European Green Deal, the Biodiversity and Farm to Fork Strategies
- **Think and plan strategically:**
 - use EMFAF to help the local community and businesses recover from the crisis and build resilience for the future
 - green local economic activities
 - support creativity, innovation and digital modernisation
 - cooperate with other FLAGs
 - link up with a regional Smart Specialisation Strategy - with the EU Atlantic Strategy
 - increase the collective impact of your FLAG
 - reinforce your FLAG: renew and attract people and organisations that will increase your positive impact



European
Commission

The future starts now

#StrongerTogether

#NextGenerationEU

*Alenka KAMPL, MARE.C2
Structural support Atlantic, North Sea, Baltic and Outermost Regions*