



European Fisheries Fund

New funding opportunities for the EU sector
2007-2013

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Financial aid offers a positive mechanism for steering and rewarding certain activities. [It can] reward good practice and help the sector in its necessary transition to environmental sustainability.



€ 5 billion 2007–2013

- Proposal by the Commission in July 2004
 - € 1.7 billion to new EU Member States covered by the "Convergence Objective" (ie the poorest areas)<
 - € 2 billion to "Convergence Objective" areas in the old EU 15
 - € 1.3 billion to the rest of the old EU 15
- Decision expected in June 2005 (possibly later)
- *But decision on overall EU budget for the period not set yet, so figures may change*



Main principles in the proposed EFF

- Ensuring exploitation of living aquatic resources in a way that creates the necessary conditions for sustainable development
- Promoting a sustainable balance between resources and fleet capacity
- Strengthening the competitiveness of the operating structures and the development of economically viable enterprises
- Fostering the protection of the environment and natural resources
- Encouraging the sustainable development and improvement of the quality of life in marine, lake and coastal areas affected by fishing and aquaculture



Five EFF priority axes

- **Axis 1:** adaptation of the community fleet, reduce impacts of fishing on the environment
- **Axis 2:** aquaculture, processing and marketing of products. EMAS, organic aquaculture, new hygiene standards
- **Axis 3:** collective interest measures. Protected areas, port facilities, operator-scientist partnerships
- **Axis 4:** sustainable development of coastal fishing areas. Communities, fishing area cooperation, ecotourism
- **Axis 5:** technical assistance. Preparation, monitoring, management, evaluation



Implementation process

1. Agreement on EU level framework, overall budget and distribution between countries
2. Adoption of Community strategic guidelines for implementation at a national level
3. Development of national strategic plans subject of "dialogue" with Commission
4. National Operational Programmes, *ex ante* evaluation and approval by Commission
5. Setting up of national Monitoring Committees
6. Programming and delivery of funding from the EU

Weaknesses of proposal

- Environmental research and data collection
- Ongoing management activities not included
- Mostly one-off pilot projects
- Lack of compulsory elements
- No clear support to implement relevant EU legislation, e.g. the Habitats and Birds Directives, WFD or the EIA Directive



Some responses from industry and MS

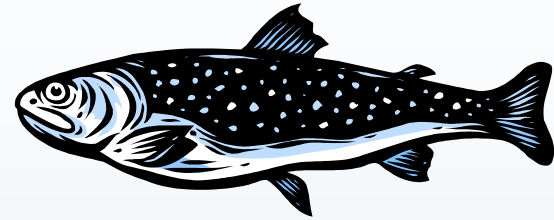
- Less focus on environment and small-scale coastal fishing
- Joint ventures in third-country agreements reestablished
- Reintroduction of aid for fleet renewal and modernisation



Fleet renewal and modernisation



- 2002 reform: Subsidies revoked
- Fleet already 40 % overcapacity, resulting in low profits
- Return to pre-reform era: conflicting with objective for fleet adaptation
- International implications, ie WTO negotiations
- Community funding vs operators funding
- Benefits the larger companies and industrialised vessels



Potential environmental benefits of EFF

- More favourable terms for small-scale coastal fishermen, often using more traditional, low-impact gear
- Public EC funding to collective interest measures, such as environmental, safety or hygien improvement
- Development of more selective fishing gear
- Funding for diversification and training, exchange of experience and good practice
- Support for meeting standards such as EMAS and ecolabelling
- Increasing the knowledge-base, eg on nursery and spawning areas