



UNDEB EWROPEAIDD
EUROPEAN UNION



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

**Cronfeydd Strwythurol a
Buddosoddi Ewropeaidd**
**European Structural
and Investment Funds**



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Welsh Government

Welsh Government – European Maritime and Fisheries Fund 2014-2020

Support for Fishermen

The EMFF can offer the following types of support for fishermen:

Supporting and Developing Fisheries Businesses:

1) Advisory services

Access to professional advice to increase business potential and competitiveness, including advice on access to credit and building resilience:

- Feasibility studies and advisory services for fisheries projects which are potentially eligible for EMFF support.
- Professional advice for fishermen / fisheries businesses on environmental sustainability and on business and marketing strategies.

2) Diversification and new forms of income

The development of complementary activities which relate to the fisherman's core fishing business:

- investments on board
- angling tourism
- restaurants
- environmental services relates to fishing
- educational activities concerning fishing

Fishermen must:

- submit a business plan for the development of their new activities and
- possess adequate professional skills (e.g. a professional qualification/certificate of competence or a minimum of 2 years experience)

3) Innovation in fisheries

Promoting an innovative approach towards the landing obligation and mixed fisheries by developing or introducing:

- new or substantially improved products or equipment
- new or improved processes and techniques
- new or improved management and organisation systems

Investment will be focused on innovation relating to:

- highly selective gear
- reducing unwanted catch
- the treatment, processing and marketing of catch

Support is also available for innovation linked to conservation of marine biological resources:

- reducing the impact of fishing activities on the environment
- achieving more sustainable use of marine biological resources and coexistence with protected predators

Projects shall be carried out by, or in collaboration with, a scientific or technical organisation e.g. a university.

4) Improvements to Shore-Based Facilities - fishing ports, landing sites, auction halls and shelters

Improving the infrastructure of fishing ports, auction halls, landing sites and shelters, including investments in facilities for waste and marine litter collection.

The construction or modernisation of structures for sheltering fishing vessels.

Adaptations to landing sites and ports to ensure industry compliance with the landing obligation and to add value to catch not previously landed.

Investments should develop infrastructure and facilities at ports and landing sites which are available to users across the commercial fisheries fleet. Items which would become assets of individual fishing businesses are not eligible.

Investments should go beyond the minimum requirements set out in law.

Investments On Board Fishing Vessels:

1) More selective gear and equipment

Equipment improving size or species selectivity of fishing gear.

Investments on board or in equipment that eliminates discards by:

- avoiding and reducing unwanted catches
- dealing with unwanted catches to be landed in accordance with the Common Fisheries Policy

Equipment that limits / eliminates the physical and biological impacts of fishing on the ecosystem or the sea bed.

Equipment that protects gear and catches from mammals and birds, provided that:

- it does not undermine the selectivity of the fishing gear; and
- all appropriate measures are introduced to avoid physical damage to the predators

Support will be restricted to fishermen who have been active in the industry in the preceding two years. Investments must not increase the fishing effort.

2) Added value, product quality and use of unwanted catches

Adding value to fishery products, in particular by allowing fishermen to carry out the processing, marketing and direct sale of their own catches.

Innovative investments on board that improve the quality of the fishery products.

Eligible investments could include activities to improve storage conditions for catch and to give fishermen better control over taking product to market – as long as fishing effort or fish hold capacity is not increased.

Activities could also support innovative solutions for increasing the quality, control and traceability of the products landed.

3) Health and Safety

Purchasing and installing equipment that:

- improves safety for fishermen on board fishing vessels
- improves the health conditions for fishermen on board fishing vessels
- improves hygiene conditions for fishermen on board fishing vessels
- improves working conditions on board fishing vessels

Support will be restricted to fishermen who have been active in the industry in the preceding two years. We are unable to fund deck machinery which is directly related to the fishing operations, such as winches and cranes.

Investments must:

- go beyond the requirements set out in law
- not increase the fishing effort

Please see a list of eligible items in the detailed Guidance Note on the EMFF website. It is not possible to fund any item which is not on that list.

4) Improving the energy efficiency of fishing vessels and fishing activity

Reducing the emission of pollutants or greenhouse gases and increasing the energy efficiency of fishing vessels through:

- improving the hydrodynamics of the hull of the vessel
- improving the propulsion system of the vessel
- towed gear modifications / changing from towed to alternative gear
- reduction of electricity or thermal energy consumption

Energy efficiency audits and schemes.

Studies to assess the contribution of alternative propulsion systems and hull designs to the energy efficiency of fishing vessels.

Investments must not increase the fishing effort.

Please see a list of eligible items in the detailed Guidance Note on the EMFF website. It is not possible to fund any item which isn't on that list.

Grant Amounts:

The amount of grant offered would always be the minimum amount necessary to allow the project to go ahead, subject to a minimum figure of **£2,400 (£800** for Health and Safety).

Maximum grant rates:

- Public bodies: **100%**
- Small scale coastal fishermen (fishing vessels of an overall length of less than 12m) or a project which is related to the small scale coastal fisheries fleet: **80%**.
- Organisations of fishers: **60%**.
- SME organisations who are not small scale coastal fishermen (and projects which are not related to the small scale coastal fisheries fleet) **50%**.

Further information:

Please see

<http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/marineandfisheries/european-maritime-fisheries-fund/?lang=en>

Or contact SMU@wales.gsi.gov.uk / 0300 062 2218