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Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Welsh Government – European Maritime and Fisheries Fund 2014-2020

EMFF Measure I.15 - Article 38 - Supplementary Guidance on Pot Replacements

Measure I.15: Article 38 – Selective Gear

This supplementary guidance should be read along with the EMFF Guidance note for 'Support of Investments on Board Vessels' paragraphs 37-42.

Large Scale Pot Replacement will not be supported through this measure of EMFF however some small scale investments may be considered, provided that they are able to demonstrate a clear improvement to the selectivity of gear. For clarity - during the 2007-2013 programme period, Welsh Government run a specific 'Pot Replacement Scheme' to replace pots lost or damaged during severe storms. We do not intend to run a similar scheme under EMFF.

Types of activity which may be supported:

Whelk pots will not be supported due to the ongoing review of the management of the Whelk fishery in Wales.

Lobster and crab pots could be supported; however, we would not seek to fund large scale replacement of pots as we need to avoid increasing fishing capacity. A cap of 60 pots will be applied per active commercial fishing license.

Any replacement pots would need to be more selective than current pots and reduce ghost fishing for example have escape panel or hatches or be made of biodegradable twine. Under the EMFF Regulation, we are unable to support investments that could be seen to increase fishing effort and we can not support purchase of 'like for like' equipment. There would need to be a demonstrably better size-selection or a demonstrably lower impact on the ecosystem and on non-target species than standard pots. Applicants would be expected to demonstrate, as part of their application, that this is the case.

If successful in obtaining support for pots, payment will not be made by Welsh Government until documentary evidence is provided that the old pots have been appropriately disposed of, this will be verified at final claim inspection.

For further information on the EMFF, please see <http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/marineandfisheries/european-maritime-fisheries-fund/?lang=en> or contact SMU@gov.wales / 0300 062 2218.