

Title: The Grants for Fishing and Aquaculture Industries Regulations 2015 PIR No: Original IA/RPC No: N/A Lead department or agency: Defra Other departments or agencies: MMO Contact for enquiries: jack.bradley@defra.gov.uk	Post Implementation Review
	Date: 04/08/2022
	Type of regulation: Domestic
	Type of review: Statutory
	Date measure came into force: 31/10/2015
	Recommendation: Keep
	RPC Opinion: Choose an item.

1. What were the policy objectives of the measure? (Maximum 5 lines)

The Grants for Fishing and Aquaculture Industries Regulations 2015 supplements EU 508/2014 to deliver the EMFF (European Maritime and Fisheries Fund). The Statutory Instrument (SI) outlines the public authorities involved and makes provision for payments of grants by the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) in England. The EMFF scheme (2014–2023) has 4 main policy goals – modernising fisheries and aquaculture, supporting growth across the sector, supporting the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the sector, and fulfilling the UK’s control and enforcement obligations. As Article 138 of the Withdrawal Agreement confirms that all EU structural funds (including EMFF) will continue to operate until their original anticipated closure dates, it is necessary to keep this SI on the statute book to allow for the continuing provision of grants.

2. What evidence has informed the PIR? (Maximum 5 lines)



EMFF Annual Implementation Rep - The Annual Implementation Report for EMFF – this indicated overall positive outcomes and results indicators.
[Defra, UK - Science Search](#) – EMFF Environmental evaluation published in 2019. The findings of this report identified six successes and three weaknesses and provided a set of ‘lessons to inform any future scheme, especially regarding the promotion of positive environmental outcomes.
[Defra, UK - Science Search](#) – EMFF social evaluation published in 2019. The findings of this report were positive stating that “*The BCR varies across priorities, from 1.42 for UP1 to 9.09 for UP4. The overall BCR across the relevant UPs is estimated at 3.33. This will be an underestimate as there are many environmental, social and cultural benefits that could not be valued in monetary terms.*”

3. To what extent have the policy objectives been achieved? (Maximum 5 lines)

The EMFF programme is based around 7 priorities, which each have result indicators. Overall, as of 31st of December 2021, the UK EMFF allocation is 97% committed with a total of €236.4/£200.0million awarded to projects.

The most successful result indicators are those related to maintaining employment, reducing of accidents and injuries, and creating new businesses. Indicators seeking to boost revenue and profitability are also performing well. The environmental indicators are also on track to reach at least 95% of output indicator targets, with six fulfilling or exceeding their targets. The Covid

Pandemic has impacted the implementation of some of the control and enforcement bids as suppliers were reprioritised to deal with the IT requirements from EU Exit.

Sign-off for Post Implementation Review: Chief economist/Head of Analysis and Minister

I have read the PIR and I am satisfied that it represents a fair and proportionate assessment of the impact of the measure.

Signed: ***Alistair Johnson (Alistair.johnson@Defra.gov.uk)***

05/08/2022

Date:

Further information sheet

Please provide additional evidence in subsequent sheets, as required.

4. What were the original assumptions?(Maximum 5 lines)

The UK EMFF programme has a budget of €243 million and aims at achieving key national development priorities along with the Europe 2020 objectives. The EMFF programme is designed to support the UK fisheries and aquaculture sectors and funding will be delivered until 2023. The budget is now fully committed. The fund provides support for sustainable development within the fishing and aquaculture sectors and conservation of the marine environment, alongside growth and jobs in coastal communities.

5. Were there any unintended consequences? (Maximum 5 lines)

There were no unintended consequences.

6. Has the evidence identified any opportunities for reducing the burden on business? (Maximum 5 lines)

EMFF is a grant scheme providing benefits and offering opportunities for development to the sector with no burden on the sector. A budget of €13.6 million (6%) is available for fisheries and aquaculture dependent communities across the UK to diversify their economies and bring added value to their fishing activities through improved local marketing and supply chain logistics. Overall, the result indicators 4.1 (employment created) and 4.3 (businesses created) have exceeded their 2023 target.

7. How does the UK approach compare with the implementation of similar measures internationally, including how EU member states implemented EU requirements that are comparable or now form part of retained EU law, or how other countries have implemented international agreements? (Maximum 5 lines)

At the 2021 Annual Review Meeting with the European Commission, the EC confirmed that the UK is in the top 5 performing schemes across the Union. The EC noted the UK's swifter than average response to the Covid Pandemic, and the focus on reducing administrative burden to applicants.