









Procedure file

Basic information	
COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Regulation	Procedure completed
2018/0210(COD)	
European Maritime and Fisheries Fund 2021-2027	
Repealing Regulation (EU) No 508/2014 2011/0380(COD)	
Subject 3.15.17 European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)	
Legislative priorities Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible		Appointed
	PECH Fisheries	Rapporteur	12/02/2020
		 MATO Gabriel	
		Shadow rapporteur	
		 PIZARRO Manuel	
		 KARLESKIND Pierre	
		 GUERREIRO Francisco	
		 CONTE Rosanna	
	Former committee responsible		04/07/2018
	PECH Fisheries	 MATO Gabriel	
	Former committee for opinion		16/07/2018
	BUDG Budgets	 GARDIAZABAL RUBIAL Eider	
	EMPL Employment and Social Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	ENVI Environment, Public Health and Food Safety		21/06/2018
		 GAMBUS MILLET Francisco de Paula	
TRAN Transport and Tourism		The committee decided not to give an opinion.	






Council of the European Union
European Commission

Commission DG
[Maritime Affairs and Fisheries](#)

Commissioner
VELLA Karmenu

European Economic and
Social Committee
European Committee of the
Regions

Key events

12/06/2018	Legislative proposal published	COM(2018)0390	Summary
02/07/2018	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
07/03/2019	Vote in committee, 1st reading		
18/03/2019	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A8-0176/2019	Summary
03/04/2019	Debate in Parliament		
04/04/2019	Results of vote in Parliament		
04/04/2019	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T8-0343/2019	Summary
12/11/2019	Committee decision to open interinstitutional negotiations after 1st reading in Parliament		
13/11/2019	Committee decision to enter into interinstitutional negotiations announced in plenary (Rule 72)		
22/02/2021	Approval in committee of the text agreed at early 2nd reading interinstitutional negotiations	PE681.083 PE689.638	
17/06/2021	Council position published	06975/2021	
24/06/2021	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 2nd reading		
28/06/2021	Vote in committee, 2nd reading		
30/06/2021	Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading	A9-0222/2021	
05/07/2021	Debate in Parliament		
06/07/2021	Decision by Parliament, 2nd reading	T9-0325/2021	Summary
07/07/2021	Final act signed		
13/07/2021	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2018/0210(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Regulation
	Repealing Regulation (EU) No 508/2014 2011/0380(COD)
Legal basis	Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 173-p3; Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 188-p2; Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 192-p1; Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 194-p2; Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 175-p3; Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 042-p1; Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 091-p1; Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 100-p2; Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 195-p2; Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 349-p1sub1-as1; Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 043-p2
Mandatory consultation of other institutions	European Economic and Social Committee European Committee of the Regions
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	PECH/9/01216

Documentation gateway

Legislative proposal		COM(2018)0390	12/06/2018	EC	Summary
Document attached to the procedure		SWD(2018)0295	13/06/2018	EC	
Committee draft report		PE625.439	12/09/2018	EP	
Committee of the Regions: opinion		CDR3660/2018	09/10/2018	CofR	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE629.445	25/10/2018	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE629.603	25/10/2018	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE629.604	25/10/2018	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE629.517	29/10/2018	EP	
Committee opinion	ENVI	PE627.712	22/11/2018	EP	
Committee opinion	BUDG	PE625.572	23/11/2018	EP	
Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report		CES4062/2018	12/12/2018	ESC	
Committee opinion	REGI	PE628.643	19/12/2018	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A8-0176/2019	18/03/2019	EP	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T8-0343/2019	04/04/2019	EP	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		SP(2019)443	12/06/2019	EC	
Text agreed during interinstitutional negotiations		PE681.083	17/02/2021	EP	
Council position		06975/3/2021	17/06/2021	CSL	
Commission communication on Council's position		COM(2021)0311	18/06/2021	EC	

Committee draft report		PE689.649	22/06/2021	EP	
Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading		A9-0222/2021	30/06/2021	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 2nd reading		T9-0325/2021	06/07/2021	EP	Summary
Draft final act		00053/2021/LEX	07/07/2021	CSL	

Additional information

Research document	Briefing
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Final act

[Regulation 2021/1139](#)
[OJ L 247 13.07.2021, p. 0001](#)

Final legislative act with provisions for delegated acts

Delegated acts

2021/2852(DEA)	Examination of delegated act
2021/2961(DEA)	Examination of delegated act
2022/2740(DEA)	Examination of delegated act

European Maritime and Fisheries Fund 2021?2027

PURPOSE: to establish the European maritime and fisheries fund for the period 2021-2027.

PROPOSED ACT: Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: the European Parliament decides in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure and on an equal footing with the Council.

BACKGROUND: the multiannual financial framework for the period 2021-2027 provides that the Union budget should continue to support fisheries and maritime affairs policies.

Europe's maritime sector employs over 5 million jobs generating almost EUR 500 billion a year, with a potential to create many more jobs. The output of the global ocean economy is estimated at EUR 1.3 trillion and this could more than double by 2030.

Fisheries are vital to the livelihood and cultural heritage of many coastal communities in the EU and an essential part of their cultural heritage. Along with aquaculture, it also contributes to food security and nutrition.

EU support is a key tool for sustainable fisheries and the conservation of the sea's biological resources, for food security through the supply of seafood, for the growth of a sustainable blue economy and for healthy, safe, secure, clean and sustainably managed seas and oceans, notably in the context of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

CONTENT: the proposal for a Regulation - presented for a Union of 27 Member States - seeks to establish the European maritime and fisheries fund (EMFF) for the period 2021-2027. [Regulation \(EU\) No 508/2014](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council shall be repealed.

The new Fund shall support the environmental, economic, social and employment objectives of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), promote the implementation of the Union's maritime policy and support the Union's international commitments in the field of ocean governance.

The fund's support shall be based on four priorities:

1. **Fostering sustainable fisheries and the conservation of marine biological resources:** support from the EMFF shall aim to achieve and maintain sustainable fishing based on the maximum sustainable yield (MSY) and to minimise the negative impacts of fishing activities on the marine ecosystem with particular attention to small-scale fishermen. That support shall include innovation and investments in low-impact, climate resilient and low-carbon fishing practices and techniques. Support for fleet adaptation remains sometimes necessary with regard to certain fleet segments and sea basins. Such support should be tightly targeted to the conservation and sustainable exploitation of marine biological resources and aimed to achieve balance between the fishing capacity and the available fishing opportunities.
2. **Contributing to food security in the Union through competitive and sustainable aquaculture and markets:** the EMFF may support the promotion and the sustainable development of aquaculture, including freshwater aquaculture, for the farming of aquatic animals and plants for the production of food and other raw material. Public health actions, aquaculture stock insurance schemes and animal health and welfare actions shall also be eligible.

3. Enabling the growth of a sustainable blue economy and fostering prosperous coastal communities: the fund shall support community-led local development under shared management to stimulate economic diversification in a local context through the development of coastal and inland fisheries, aquaculture and a sustainable blue economy. It shall also support the collection, management and use of data to improve knowledge of the state of the marine environment.

4. Strengthening international ocean governance and enabling safe, secure, clean and sustainably managed seas and oceans: the EU plays a leading role in particular in preventing, deterring and eradicating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, improving the international framework for ocean governance, reducing pressures on oceans and seas, creating the conditions for a sustainable blue economy and strengthening international ocean research and data. The EMFF shall support these international commitments and objectives under direct management.

The EMFF shall also contribute to achieving the Union's environmental objectives in the light of the Commission's proposal to increase the total share of EU spending contributing to climate objectives to 25%.

Simplification: under the proposal, the EMFF beyond 2020 shall evolve towards a simplified architecture. Its effectiveness shall be improved by (i) allowing Member States to target support based on their strategic priorities; (ii) better targeting of support for the CFP; and (iii) better alignment with other EU funds since the rules applicable to all structural and investment funds are laid down in a [Common Provisions Regulation](#).

In concrete terms, the EMFF shall co-finance projects alongside national funding streams with each Member State receiving a share of the total budget. Member States would prepare their national operational programmes indicating how they intend to spend the funds. Once these programmes have been approved by the Commission, the national authorities would decide which projects they wish to finance.

Proposed budget: the proposed overall budget for the EMFF amounts, in current prices, to EUR 6.14 billion, of which (i) EUR 5.31 billion allocated to support under shared management by the Member States through EMFF programmes based on national strategies and (ii) EUR 829 million to direct management.

Concerning shared management, after having deducted the value of the UK programme (EUR 243 million), Member States would retain, in nominal terms, 96.5% of their 2014-2020 allocation. In order to ensure stability in particular with regard to the achievement of the objectives of the CFP, the definition of national allocations will be based on the 2014-2020 shares.

European Maritime and Fisheries Fund 2021-2027

The Committee on Fisheries adopted the report by Gabriel MATO (EPP, ES) on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and repealing Regulation (EU) No 508/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

The committee recommended that the European Parliament's position adopted at first reading under the ordinary legislative procedure should amend the Commission's proposal as follows.

Subject matter

This Regulation establishes the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF). It lays down the priorities of the EMFF, the budget for the period 2021-2027, the forms of Union funding and the specific rules for providing such funding, complementing the general rules applying to the EMFF under Regulation (EU) No [Regulation laying down Common Provisions].

Priorities

The EMFF shall contribute to the implementation of the CFP and of the maritime policy. It shall pursue, inter alia, the following priorities:

- fostering sustainable fisheries;
- fostering sustainable aquaculture;
- contributing to food security in the Union through competitive and sustainable fisheries and aquaculture markets and processing sectors;
- enabling the growth of a sustainable blue economy, taking into account the ecological carrying capacity, and fostering prosperity and economic and social cohesion in coastal, island and inland communities.

Financing

The financial envelope for the implementation of the EMFF for the period 2021-2027 shall be increased to EUR 6 867 000 000 in 2018 constant prices (i.e. EUR 7 739 000 000 in current prices).

Budgetary resources under shared management

The part of the financial envelope under shared management shall be 87 % of the EMFF financial envelope.

At least 15% of the Union financial support allocated per Member State shall be allocated to control and enforcement and the collection and processing of data for fisheries management and scientific purposes.

At least 10% of the Union financial support allocated per Member State shall be allocated to the protection and restoration of marine and coastal biodiversity and ecosystems and for marine knowledge.

At least 10% of the Union financial support allocated per Member State shall be allocated to improving the safety, working and living conditions of the crew, training, social dialogue, skills and employment. However, the Union financial support from the EMFF allocated per Member State for all investments on board shall not exceed 60% of the Union financial support allocated per Member State.

The Union financial support from the EMFF allocated per Member State to the areas of management of fisheries and fishing fleets and extraordinary cessation of fishing activities shall not exceed the higher of the following two thresholds: (a) EUR 6 000 000; or (b) 15% of the Union financial support allocated per Member State.

Budgetary resources under direct and indirect management

The part of the financial envelope under direct and indirect management shall be 13% of the EMFF financial envelope.

Outermost regions

Members proposed that for operations located in the outermost regions, each Member State concerned shall allocate, within its Union financial support:

- EUR 114 000 000 in 2018 constant prices (i.e. EUR 128 566 000 in current prices) for the Azores and Madeira;
- EUR 91 700 000 in 2018 constant prices (i.e. EUR 103 357 000 in current prices) for the Canary Islands;
- EUR 146 500 000 in 2018 constant prices (i.e. EUR 165 119 000 in current prices) for Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Martinique, Mayotte, Réunion and Saint-Martin.

Action plan for small-scale coastal fishing

In order to alleviate the administrative burden on operators applying for aid, Member States shall endeavour introducing a single Union simplified application form for EMFF measures.

Parliament also proposed to facilitate access to credit, insurance products, and financial instruments and to improve the health, safety and working conditions on board fishing vessels, thereby making it possible to attract more young people and significantly reduce the causes of marine incidents.

Management of fisheries and fishing fleets

Fishers, including owners of fishing vessels and crew members, who have worked at sea for at least 90 days per year during the last two calendar years preceding the date of submission of the application for support, on board a Union fishing vessel concerned by the permanent cessation may also benefit from the support. The fishers concerned shall completely cease all fishing activities. The beneficiary shall provide proof of the complete cessation of fishing activities to the competent authority.

The compensation shall be refunded by the fisher on a pro rata temporis basis where that fisher returns to a fishing activity within a period of less than two years from the date of submission of the application for support.

Compensation for additional costs

The EMFF may support the compensation of additional costs incurred by beneficiaries in the fishing, farming, processing and marketing of certain fishery and aquaculture products from the outermost regions.

Members proposed that the compensation shall be proportionate to the additional costs it intends to off-set. The level of compensation in respect of the additional costs shall be duly justified in the compensation plan. However, the compensation shall not in any event exceed 100 % of the expenditure incurred.

European Maritime and Fisheries Fund 2021-2027

The European Parliament adopted by 497 votes to 97, with 40 abstentions, a legislative resolution on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and repealing Regulation (EU) No 508/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

The European Parliament's position adopted at first reading under the ordinary legislative procedure amended the Commission's proposal as follows:

Objectives and priorities

The European Fund for Maritime Affairs, Fisheries and Aquaculture (EMFAF), established for the period 2021-2027, shall contribute to the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, the Union's maritime policy and the Union's international commitments in the field of ocean governance.

It shall have the following objectives:

- foster sustainable fishing and the protection, restoration and conservation of the sea's living resources;
- foster sustainable aquaculture
- contribute to food security in the Union through sustainable and socially responsible aquaculture, fisheries and markets;
- enable the growth of a sustainable blue economy, taking into account ecological carrying capacity, and promote the prosperity and economic and social cohesion of coastal, island and inland water communities.

The pursuit of these objectives shall not result in an increase in fishing capacity.

Financing

The financial envelope for the implementation of the EMFAF for the period 2021-2027 shall be increased to EUR 6 867 000 000 in 2018 constant prices (i.e. EUR 7 739 000 000 in current prices), compared to EUR 6 140 000 000 in current prices in the Commission proposal.

Budgetary resources under shared management

The part of the financial envelope under shared management shall be 87 % of the EMFAF financial envelope.

At least 15% of the Union financial support allocated per Member State shall be allocated to control and enforcement and the collection and processing of data for fisheries management and scientific purposes.

At least 10% of the Union financial support allocated per Member State shall be allocated to the protection and restoration of marine and coastal biodiversity and ecosystems and for marine knowledge.

At least 10% of the Union financial support allocated per Member State shall be allocated to improving the safety, working and living conditions of the crew, training, social dialogue, skills and employment. However, the Union financial support from the EMFF allocated per Member State for all investments on board shall not exceed 60% of the Union financial support allocated per Member State.

The Union financial support from the EMFAF allocated per Member State to the areas of management of fisheries and fishing fleets and extraordinary cessation of fishing activities shall not exceed the higher of the following two thresholds: (a) EUR 6 000 000; or (b) 15% of the Union financial support allocated per Member State.

The part of the financial envelope under direct and indirect management shall be 13% of the EMFAF financial envelope.

Outermost regions

Members proposed that for operations located in the outermost regions, each Member State concerned shall allocate, within its Union financial support:

- EUR 114 000 000 in 2018 constant prices (i.e. EUR 128 566 000 in current prices) for the Azores and Madeira;
- EUR 91 700 000 in 2018 constant prices (i.e. EUR 103 357 000 in current prices) for the Canary Islands;
- EUR 146 500 000 in 2018 constant prices (i.e. EUR 165 119 000 in current prices) for Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Martinique, Mayotte, Réunion and Saint-Martin.

Action plan for small-scale coastal fishing

As part of their programme, and in collaboration with the sectors concerned, Member States shall draw up a specific action plan defining a strategy for the development of small, profitable and sustainable coastal fisheries. This strategy shall (i) promote any mechanisms that improve first-sale price, in order to benefit fishers by increasing their reward for their work; (ii) promote skills, knowledge, innovation and capacity building, in particular for young fishers.

In order to alleviate the administrative burden on operators applying for aid, Member States shall endeavour introducing a single Union simplified application form for Fund measures.

Parliament also proposed to facilitate access to credit, insurance products, and financial instruments and to improve the health, safety and working conditions on board fishing vessels, fishing on foot and shellfish gathering.

Management of fisheries and fishing fleets

Fishers, including owners of fishing vessels and crew members, who have worked at sea for at least 90 days per year during the last two calendar years preceding the date of submission of the application for support, on board a Union fishing vessel concerned by the permanent cessation may also benefit from the support. The fishers concerned shall completely cease all fishing activities. The beneficiary shall provide proof of the complete cessation of fishing activities to the competent authority.

The compensation shall be refunded by the fisher on a pro rata temporis basis where that fisher returns to a fishing activity within a period of less than two years from the date of submission of the application for support.

Compensation for additional costs

The EMFAF may support the compensation of additional costs incurred by beneficiaries in the fishing, farming, processing and marketing of certain fishery and aquaculture products from the outermost regions.

Members proposed that the compensation shall be proportionate to the additional costs it intends to off-set. The level of compensation in respect of the additional costs shall be duly justified in the compensation plan. However, the compensation shall not in any event exceed 100 % of the expenditure incurred.

European Maritime and Fisheries Fund 2021-2027

The European Parliament adopted a legislative resolution approving the Council position at first reading with a view to the adoption of a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund and amending Regulation (EU) 2017/1004.

This proposed Regulation establishes the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) for the period from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2027. The duration of the EMFAF is aligned with the duration of the MFF 2021-2027. It lays down the priorities of the EMFAF, its budget and the specific rules for providing Union funding.

Priorities

The EMFAF should contribute to the implementation of the CFP and of the Unions maritime policy. It should pursue the following priorities:

- (1) fostering sustainable fisheries and the restoration and conservation of aquatic biological resources;
- (2) fostering sustainable aquaculture activities, and processing and marketing of fishery and aquaculture products, thus 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 seas and oceans to be safe, secure, clean and sustainably managed.

Support under the EMFAF should contribute to the achievement of the environmental and climate change mitigation and adaptation objectives of the Union.

Budget

The financial framework for the implementation of the EMFAF for the period from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2027 is hereby set at EUR 6 108 000 000 in current prices.

The share of the financial envelope under shared management shall be EUR 5 311 000 000, according to the annual breakdown by Member State set out in Annex V to the Regulation.

For operations located in the outermost regions, each Member State concerned should allocate, within its Union financial support, at least: (a) EUR 102 000 000 for the Azores and Madeira; (b) EUR 82 000 000 for the Canary Islands; (c) EUR 131 000 000 for Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Martinique, Mayotte, Réunion and Saint-Martin.

The part of the financial envelope under direct and indirect management is set at EUR 797 000 000.

Programming and monitoring

EMFAF is structured in such a way that the priorities are close to the objectives of the CFP and that one or more specific objectives are defined for each of these priorities. Where appropriate, the needs of small-scale coastal fisheries will be taken into account in the programming.

The indicators to be used by Member States for monitoring and evaluation purposes are set out in an annex to the Regulation and may not be amended or supplemented by the Commission.

Eligible operations

Operations which increase fishing capacity will in principle be ineligible for funding, although they are subject to derogations under strict conditions.

Investments in the fleet (e.g. replacement and modernisation of engines) and temporary and permanent cessation of fishing activities will be eligible for funding under strict conditions.

Support will be possible in the case of exceptional events leading to significant market disruption.

Lastly, there is a single maximum co-financing rate of 70% per specific objective, with the exception of the promotion of a level playing field for fisheries and aquaculture products from the outermost regions, for which the maximum co-financing rate is 100%.

Statements by the institutions

The European Parliament, the Council and the Commission recognise the need to urgently advance action on the protection and conservation of marine and coastal ecosystems and biodiversity.

The three institutions agree that tackling biodiversity loss, protecting and restoring ecosystems and/or maintaining them in good condition will require significant public and private investment at national and European level and that a significant proportion of the EMFAF expenditures should be invested in biodiversity.

The Commission has accepted the eligibility of investments on board related to fisheries control and enforcement, be they mandatory or not, and for all Union fishing vessels. Moreover, it expects that in the context of the ongoing review of the Control Regulation the European Parliament and the Council will support the modernisation of the existing control tools and the use of new technologies.