

EMFF OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME

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1. PREPARATION OF THE OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME AND INVOLVEMENT OF PARTNERS

1.1 Preparation of the operational programme and involvement of partners

Each programme is developed through a collective process involving authorities at European, regional and local level, social partners and organisations from civil society. This partnership applies to all stages of the programming process, from design, through management and implementation to monitoring and evaluation. This approach helps ensure that action is adapted to local and regional needs and priorities.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment (Department of Fisheries and Marine Research), in cooperation with the Directorate-General for European Programmes, Coordination and Development, is the responsible authority for preparing the ‘Thalassa’ operational programme. The OP was prepared in the context of close cooperation (partnership) between the State and the bodies concerned at local, regional and national level.

The partnership is ensured by means of measures already taken at a programming level as well as measures to be taken in the context of the inclusion and implementation of interventions, such as:

- involvement of the partners at the different programming stages of the OP, through participation thereof in the overall broad consultation and effective dialogue process with all stakeholders;
- representative composition of the monitoring committee, which is the key scheme for ensuring the quality and effectiveness of the OP.

The consultation process, in accordance with Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 laying down common provisions on the European structural and investment funds, includes three categories of partners:

- ministries / agencies, semi-public organisations, local authorities;
- economic and social partners;
- non-governmental organisations / institutions, environmental organisations, etc.

The partners were selected on the basis of the applicable institutional framework and practices. As regards the individual branches of producers in particular, collective groups of fishermen, aquaculture farmers and other similar branches, such as representatives of the fisheries products processing sector, diving centres, etc., took part. As regards local authorities, unions of municipalities and communities, representing all local authorities, took part. As regards key economic and social partners, account was taken of the composition of the Economic Advisory Committee and of the Labour Advisory Body, as well as of the monitoring committee for the programmes 2007-2013. As regards other partners, account was taken of the institutional and other arrangements in individual sectors and horizontal issues, such as gender equality, non-discrimination, the environment, etc. A list of the partners that took part is attached hereto as attachment 1.

Consultation / partner involvement procedures

In preparing and formulating the operational programme, consultation was carried out with the partners at all levels. More specifically, information meetings were held concerning Regulation (EU) No 508/2014 on the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund, to provide information on the provisions of the Regulation and help the partners get involved in the subsequent formulation of the OP. Relevant information material was provided to the attendees. A meeting was also held to present a draft of the OP to the parties concerned and discuss the measures that might be included therein.

Individual meetings were also held with nationwide and local associations of fishermen and aquaculture farmers, to inform them of the potential financing schemes and let them present their views on the OP.

Below is a more detailed list of the public consultation actions implemented for the new 2014-2020 programming period:

- Presentation of the proposal for a Regulation on the EMFF to the Aquaculture Committee (11 December 2012)
- Presentation of the proposal for a Regulation on the EMFF to institutional and social partners (28 March 2013)
- Presentation of the proposal for a Regulation on the EMFF to associations of fishermen (5 April 2013)
- Presentation of the proposal for a Regulation on the EMFF in the context of the consultation held on the strategy outline (18 April 2013)
- Presentation of the proposal for a Regulation on the EMFF to aquaculture farmers (24 May 2013)
- Presentation of the proposal for a Regulation on the EMFF to the monitoring committee for the 2007-2013 Fisheries OP (14 June 2013)
- Presentation of the draft of the OP to institutional and social partners (27 November 2013)
- Presentation of the strategic environmental impact assessment for the OP to institutional and social partners (27 November 2013)
- Presentation of the relevant measures of the OP to the Aquaculture Committee (5 December 2013)
- Presentation of the relevant measures of the OP at the one-day conference on Natura 2000 financing (23 January 2014)
- Information session on the OP for the Parliamentary Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources (30 January 2014 and 11 June 2014)
- Presentation of the OP to the Coordination Committee for Planning and Strategic Monitoring (20 June 2014)
- Presentation of the OP to the Consultation Committee for Planning and Strategic Monitoring (25 June 2014)
- Presentation of the OP to the monitoring committee for the 2007-2013 Fisheries OP (30 June 2014)

Following the consultation, the parties concerned submitted their views and recommendations, which were then studied and taken into account in finalising the final draft of the OP.

The final draft of the OP was formulated on the basis of the partners' views / comments on the initial draft and on the basis of their proposals / recommendations on the measures proposed. The final draft of the OP has included most of the partners' views, as expressed in the one-day conferences and meetings, and in the context of the individual consultations. Important issues which came up during the overall consultation process and were taken into consideration in the OP include the need to promote interventions contributing towards the reactivation and strengthening of competitiveness of the economy and the creation of jobs, more active participation of the partners in the overall process for programming and monitoring the programmes, the need to promote interventions that benefit local authorities and the need to support SMEs.

There was constructive cooperation at all OP planning and specification stages, through extensive and active participation on the part of all bodies. Broad consensus was achieved both in selecting the areas of intervention of the programme and prioritising the development needs and strategy. Specific actions / procedures (e.g. withdrawal of boats) were discussed with the immediate stakeholders (associations of fishermen), to make sure that they would participate actively in the specification and implementation of the actions of the operational programme.

After extensive information was provided by the competent authorities, all partners understood that the key parameters of the OP (analysis of the current state of play and of the relevant prospects, strategy, further specification in terms of the Union's priorities, financing, management and implementation framework of the programme) should be formulated within the context set out in the EMFF Regulation, while at the same time taking into account the Union's broader strategic goals and individual policies.

All partners agreed that, in formulating the strategy, previous experience should be taken into account, as well as the need to complete projects still in progress from the previous period (2007-2013).

The overall work done by the consultants concerning the *ex ante* evaluation did help improve the quality of the programme.

1.2 Outcome of the *ex ante* evaluation

1.2.1 Description of the *ex ante* evaluation process

The evaluator and the project team cooperated with the responsible authority during the drawing up of the operational programme. The overall interactive and repetitive process of the *ex ante* evaluation was marked with an open and constructive working spirit, which enabled both sides concerned to organise two-way exchanges regarding vital issues which were at stake during each phase of the process of drawing up the operational programme. The drawing up of the programme was followed by successive phases in which both parties exchanged views and made adjustments accordingly. Please note that the final draft of the programme represents the 13th consecutive amendment to the original draft. Respectively, the final text of the *ex ante* evaluation represents the 5th consecutive version, following the respective amendments to the operational programme, and there were also two initial working texts. This gradual development was necessitated partly by the relevant improvements added by the Commission to the texts of the guidelines issued to the Member States. The cooperation between the evaluator and the responsible authority covered the following fields:

- presentation of the current state of play in the fields of fisheries, aquaculture, marketing and

- processing, the marine environment, and fishing areas;
- the SWOT analysis and the identification of the needs per sector;
- the development strategy and the individual priorities.
- the suitability and measurability of the indicators;
- the content of the local development strategy;
- the performance reserve and the evaluation plan.

This process and the exchange of views was very constructive for both parties. During this cooperation, the evaluation consultant had a chance to propose improvements in successive versions of the programming text of the OP and in individual chapters thereof, a number of which were accepted and included in this programming text of the OP. A very significant effort was also made to deal with the issue of human resources and of the administrative capacity of the competent bodies in connection with the implementation of the programme. Despite the dire straits faced by the State, the competent bodies make all possible efforts to fill the gaps, to ensure that the programme is implemented unhindered. The Republic of Cyprus will make sure that sufficient and appropriate staff are provided for the implementation of the programme.

1.2.2 Overview of the recommendations of the *ex ante* evaluators and brief description of how they have been addressed

Topic	Recommendation	How the recommendation was taken into account or why it was not
1 - SWOT analysis, needs assessment	Recommendations were made to the evaluators on adjusting the SWOT analysis.	Most of the recommendations were adopted and are listed in detail in Table 1 of the <i>ex ante</i> evaluation (attachment 7).
2 - Construction of the intervention logic, including the contribution to the EU 2020, the internal coherence of the proposed programme and its relationship with other relevant instruments, the establishment of quantified targets and milestones and the distribution of budgetary resources	Recommendations were made to the evaluators.	Most of the recommendations were adopted and are listed in detail in Table 1 of the <i>ex ante</i> evaluation (attachment 7).
3 - Consistency with the CSF, the Partnership Agreement, the relevant country specific recommendations adopted in accordance with Article 121(2) TFEU and where appropriate at national level, the National Reform Programme	No recommendation. The OP fully complies with the CSF and the Partnership Agreement, and the Commission's specific recommendations have been taken into account.	Not required.

4 - Rationale for the forms of support proposed in the programme (Article 66 CPR)	No recommendation.	Not required.
5 - Human resources and administrative capacity and management of the programme	It is recommended that a human resources plan should be prepared immediately during the period 2014-2016, as there are increased needs during this two-year period due to the overlapping of the two programming documents, 2007-2013 and 2014-2020.	We are aware of the issue concerned and are making all possible efforts to prevent any problems both in respect of the closure of the current programme and the start of the new one, always within the bounds of the current dire straits faced by the State.
6 - Procedures for monitoring the programme and collecting the data necessary to carry out evaluations	The evaluator has proposed certain specific evaluation studies	The advisability of those studies will be looked into
7 - Measures to promote equal opportunities between men and women, prevent discrimination and promote sustainable development	According to the proposal made by the evaluator concerning horizontal issues, explicit reference should be made in the programme to the inclusion of actions in the context of the local strategies for the target group, fishermen's spouses.	We feel that this need not be included in the programme. A relevant reference could be included as a criterion for the evaluation of the strategies.
8 - Measures taken to reduce the administrative burden on beneficiaries	The measures are deemed to be sufficient.	Not required.
9 - Requirements for the strategic environmental assessment	No recommendation.	Not required.

2. SWOT AND IDENTIFICATION OF NEEDS

2.1 SWOT analysis and identification of needs

Union priority	1 - Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge-based fisheries.
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Strengths

1. Using mostly selective gear with limited impact on the marine ecosystem and the sea-floor, and limited amount of unwanted catches, commercial stocks or other by-catch species.
2. Increased biodiversity of marine organisms and, therefore, increased variety of catches, most of which are commercial.
3. High quality of catches due to the excellent ecological condition of coastal waters.
4. Presence of habitats that contribute to the reproduction and development of catches, as well as to their protection against fishing methods (phanerogam meadows, rocky substrata).
5. Creation of Natura 2000 marine protected areas.
6. Creation and enrichment of areas with artificial reefs.

Weaknesses

1. Limited productivity in the area in conjunction with intense fishing pressure (on benthic stocks in particular), leading to overfishing, low produce and low income for fishermen.
2. Difficulty in managing fish stocks due to the increased diversity of catches and fishing methods.
3. Increased presence of alien thermophilic species, with negative impact on the ecosystem and fisheries.
4. Fishermen with mostly insufficient vocational training in fisheries, navigation, safety, health and environmental issues.
5. Excess fishing capacity of the small-scale coastal fishing fleet.
6. Low energy efficiency of the fishing fleet, which increases fisheries costs and emissions of pollutants.
7. Competition of fishermen with other economic operators in coastal areas.
8. Inadequate modernisation of fishing shelters.
9. Difficulties and obstacles in terms of the effective management of Natura 2000 marine areas and other marine protected areas in relation to fisheries.
10. Limited knowledge of marine ecosystems, in the open and deep sea in particular.

Opportunities

1. Possibility of implementing improvement measures, financed by the EMFF.
2. Possibility of participating in international programmes in cooperation with other States and sharing of fisheries-related knowledge and experiences.
3. Possibility of cooperation between the State, fishermen organisations, fisheries communities and other stakeholders in fisheries-related issues.
4. Possibility of cooperation with liaisons, NGOs, local communities and local authorities on protecting the marine environment.

Threats

1. Risk of further reduction in certain fish stocks due to increasing fishing pressure and changing climatic conditions.
2. Risk of further increase in alien species and their populations, and intensification of the negative impact thereof on the marine ecosystem and fisheries.
3. Lack of interest on the part of young people in engaging in fisheries activities.
4. Lack of investment interest, to streamline the structure and effectiveness of the fishing fleet.

Identification of needs on basis of the SWOT analysis

1. Need to protect the fish stocks and biodiversity, as well as the ecosystems supporting them, including artificial reef areas.
2. Creation of a single physical plan for improving scientific knowledge about matters relating to local fisheries and the marine environment.
3. Improvement of the working conditions and income of fishermen, and providing them with training in matters that concern them.

SWOT analysis consistency with the Multiannual National Strategic Plan for aquaculture

Not required.

SWOT analysis consistency with the progress to achieve good environmental status through the development and implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)

A strong legislative framework, providing for taking fisheries management measures with a view to protecting and maintaining fish stocks and their habitats. In accordance with the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (Directive 2008/56/EC), which provides that Member States should take the necessary measures to achieve or maintain good environmental status in the marine environment by the year 2020 at the latest, an ecosystem-based approach to the management of human activities should be applied in every sector that has an impact on the marine environment. The new Common Fisheries Policy is designed with a view to applying an ecosystem-based approach to the management of fisheries and taking such management measures as required to comply with the obligations set out in the above Directive. Different parameters specified in the Directive for describing good environmental status, such as maintaining biodiversity (parameter 1), maintaining populations of all commercially exploited fish within safe biological limits (parameter 3) and safeguarding the structure and functions of sea-floor ecosystems (parameter 6), include criteria and clear indicators for assessing the progress made in terms of the environmental status (see Decision No 2010/477/EU) relating to the status of the populations of catches, the pressure of fishing activity on populations and its impact on the sea-floor. Therefore, the need to protect and maintain fish stocks and the need to improve scientific knowledge in matters relating to fisheries and the marine

environment, as these have resulted from the SWOT analysis, are based not only on the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy, but also on the obligation to make progress in terms of ensuring and maintaining a good environmental status.

Specific needs concerning jobs, the environment, climate change mitigation and adaptation and promotion of innovation

1. Improving the working conditions and strengthening the income of fishermen.
2. Protecting and improving the marine environment and striking a balance between fishing capacity and available resources.
3. Improving fishing boats and their gear by promoting the use of environmentally friendly materials, and applying energy efficient systems to mitigate climate change impact.

Union priority	2. Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge-based fisheries
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Strengths

1. Using the open-sea cage aquaculture method.
2. Very favourable physical and chemical farming conditions (clean sea, high temperatures with a better growth period compared to Northern Mediterranean countries).
3. Adequate environmental control.
4. Absence of serious fish diseases.
5. Existence of entrepreneurship activity and significant investment interest in the sector.
6. Know-how and highly trained manpower available in different jobs.
7. Relevant infrastructure available for the movement and marketing of products.
8. A large part of the production is intended for exporting.

Weaknesses

1. Limited areas for setting up new fish farms.
2. Limited total production.
3. Dependence of Cypriot production on just two species used in aquaculture.
4. Lack of physical planning in coastal areas and increased competition with other activities in the same areas.
5. Lack of cooperation between producers (producer organisations).
6. Increased transportation costs for raw materials and products due to the geographical and spatial characteristics of Cyprus, e.g. distance from the commercial centre of the EU.
7. Lack of collective offshore and onshore infrastructure areas for the berthing of boats and the provision of services to aquaculture farms.
8. Increased energy cost for the operation of onshore aquaculture farms.
9. Lack of investment in innovative technologies.

Opportunities

1. Opportunities for financing from the EU
2. New dietary trends for increased consumption of fisheries products in the domestic and international markets, in conjunction with reduced marine fisheries production.
3. Utilisation of the results of research on diversifying production with new species and new products.

4. Implementation of new organisational / business structures and adoption of state-of-the-art technology.
5. Promotion of organic aquaculture.
6. Possibility of placing products in the nearby Middle East markets.

Threats

1. Increased competition due to globalisation / market liberalisation.
2. Possible drop in the prices of seabream and seabass in EU Member States.
3. Prejudice among consumers against aquaculture products.

Identification of needs on basis of the SWOT analysis

1. Setup of collective harbour and onshore infrastructure, to support aquaculture activity. The setup of such infrastructure is expected to contribute towards increasing the capacity of specific aquaculture areas / sites and strengthening competitiveness by streamlining the functionality of the farms as a whole, while at the same time laying the foundation for increasing production. The setup of collective infrastructure will create the prospects for strengthening cooperation among producers.
2. Strengthening of competitiveness, including the productivity and efficiency of aquaculture farms by supporting actions pertaining to projects intended for the streamlining, production increase, implementation of innovative technologies and management methods, as well as projects relating to enhancing the quality or added value of aquaculture products.
3. Inclusion of aquaculture in the physical plan and setup of aquaculture sites. Plans are being made in this context to draw up a design for the physical planning and establishment of marine aquaculture sites. The determination and establishment of aquaculture sites is expected to tackle problems of competition with other marine area users and to lay the foundation for setting up new and/or expanding existing farms. Moreover, the setup of aquaculture sites will ensure the operation of farms by creating a safe investment environment, while at the same time being expected to cut down on the time taken by red tape procedures for issuing new authorisations. Moreover, proper physical planning of the aquaculture areas / sites will ensure that aquaculture activities will cause the minimum possible environmental impact.

SWOT analysis consistency with the Multiannual National Strategic Plan for aquaculture

The SWOT analysis prepared for the Multiannual National Strategic Aquaculture Plan 2014-2020 also represents the OP, to ensure the cohesion and consistency of the Multiannual National Strategic Aquaculture Plan with the interventions proposed under the OP.

The SWOT analysis is identical to that included in the Multiannual National Strategic Aquaculture Plan.

SWOT analysis consistency with the progress to achieve good environmental status through the development and implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)

Not required. In Cyprus, there are no aquaculture farms in Natura marine areas.

Specific needs concerning jobs, the environment, climate change mitigation and adaptation and promotion of innovation

1. Use of alternative energy sources, to cut down on energy costs as well as to mitigate, and adapt to, climate change.
2. Promotion and implementation of innovative technologies, equipment, farming and management systems, to strengthen the efficiency and productivity of the farms.
3. Maintenance of good environmental quality in the context of the operations, expansion and modernisation of the farms.
4. Inclusion of aquaculture in the physical plan and setup of aquaculture sites.

Union priority	3 - Fostering the implementation of the CFP
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Strengths

CONTROL AND ENFORCEMENT

1. Integrated Community legislation in place on fisheries control, which has been transposed in the national legislation.
2. Possibility of imposing administrative penalties.
3. Suitable scientific staff available.
4. Cooperation with other bodies and partners.
5. Defined and recorded fisheries control procedures in place.

DATA COLLECTION

1. Legislative framework in place which provides for drawing up a multiannual programme for collecting, managing and making available reliable data intended for the evaluation of the fisheries sector, thus ensuring harmonised data collection and coordination between Member States.
2. Data collected in connection with the programme, available to end users for scientific analysis, and contribution of the data towards providing valid scientific opinions.
3. Trained and experienced scientific staff available for the implementation of the collection programme.

Weaknesses

CONTROL AND ENFORCEMENT

1. Lack of defined and binding compliance targets.
2. Limited resources, equipment and infrastructure available for control and enforcement.
3. Lack of a 24-hour monitoring scheme.
4. Insufficient system for assessing the control results and the level of compliance.
5. Unsatisfactory diffusion of targets and motivation for the human resources / control staff.

6. Lack of compliance culture.
7. Lack of cooperation with other State agencies carrying out other types of surveillance at sea and on land.
8. Lack of a common database for all public agencies concerning the transactions / debts of citizens, insufficient horizontal cooperation with other departments / agencies (VAT, social security, etc.).
9. Lack of specific fisheries landing points.
10. Sales of large quantities of fisheries by fishermen directly to consumers.

DATA COLLECTION

1. Limitations in the sampling methods used due to the limited human resources and funds available.
2. Difficulty in collecting data due to the characteristics of fishing activities (large number of harvested species, parallel use of different types of fishing gear, dispersed landing facilities, questionable reliability of financial data from small-scale coastal fishing boats).
3. Overlapping data collection requirements from different legal frameworks, thus leading to duplicate data collection and increase in the amount of resources needed.
4. Unsatisfactory cooperation in terms of data collection on the part of some fishermen.
5. Provision for evaluating only specific types of amateur fishing activities under the existing Data Collection Framework.

Opportunities

CONTROL AND ENFORCEMENT

1. Training manual from the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA).
2. Utilisation of Community EMFF resources for control purposes.
3. Utilisation of state-of-the-art technologies and social media, to inform citizens.
4. Involvement of the partners in the implementation of common control programmes.
5. Requirement from citizens to apply an effective fisheries control system.
6. Intention of volunteers among citizens to get involved in surveillance.
7. Targets in place, as set out in Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013.
8. Utilisation of the departments of the European Fisheries Control Agency.

DATA COLLECTION

1. Support for the programme for collecting data from the EMFF.
2. Human resources needs possibly met through hired services.
3. Consultation on amending the Data Collection Framework to adapt to the new Common Fisheries Policy requirements and improve the framework.

Threats

CONTROL AND ENFORCEMENT

1. The economic crisis (human and economic resources) has resulted in a programme of non-integrated surveillance of fishing activities regarding compliance through performance of audits.
2. Obligations under the Community regulations that require additional resources, though without substantial impact on Cyprus.

DATA COLLECTION

1. Risk of failure to implement all data collection actions due to the economic crisis.

Identification of needs on basis of the SWOT analysis

CONTROL AND ENFORCEMENT

1. Sufficient human and economic resources available to respond to the increased needs for carrying out controls, to fulfil our obligations under the national and Community legislation.
2. ‘Modernisation’ of the national legislation.
3. Cooperation with other State agencies carrying out other types of surveillance at sea and on land.
4. Fostering a compliance culture among citizens.

DATA COLLECTION

1. Sufficient manpower and resources available to implement the data collection programme.
2. Improvement of data collection methodologies, to improve data quality.
3. Collection of additional data, to issue a more valid scientific opinion on the management of stocks.
4. Amending the collection framework, to respond to the new obligations in the context of the Common Fisheries Policy and improve the framework.

SWOT analysis consistency with the Multiannual National Strategic Plan for aquaculture

Not required.

SWOT analysis consistency with the progress to achieve good environmental status through the development and implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)

Not required.

Specific needs concerning jobs, the environment, climate change mitigation and adaptation and promotion of innovation

Not required.

Union priority	4 - Increasing employment and territorial cohesion
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Strengths

1. Small distance of the areas with significant fisheries activity from cities.
2. Favourable market developments in terms of the uptake of fisheries and aquaculture products.
3. Existence of areas with an attractive natural environment.
4. Well-developed aquaculture sector.

Weaknesses

1. Declining trend in fisheries activity.
2. Increased average age of fishermen, insufficient vocational training and difficulty in adapting to new circumstances.
3. Lack of delimited and functional fishing and aquaculture areas and of producer groups / organisations or other organised associations.

Opportunities

1. Capabilities for multiple employment and interconnection of local economic sectors (e.g. fisheries, aquaculture, tourism).
2. Influx of tourists in areas with significant fishing activity, in the summer months in particular.
3. Capability of infrastructure development and orientation of local development towards other activities.
4. Dietary trends for increased consumption of fisheries and aquaculture products.

Threats

1. Lack of physical planning for coastal areas.
2. Increased competition in place with other activities in the same areas.

Identification of needs on basis of the SWOT analysis

1. Setup of delimited and functional fishing and aquaculture areas and of groups or other organised associations.
2. Protection and utilisation of the natural and anthropogenic environment in fishing and aquaculture areas.
3. Differentiation of economic activities in fishing and aquaculture areas by developing activities which are complementary to fishing and creating jobs.
4. Strengthening social integration and manpower mobility in the fisheries and aquaculture sector.

SWOT analysis consistency with the Multiannual National Strategic Plan for aquaculture

Not required.

SWOT analysis consistency with the progress to achieve good environmental status through the development and implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)

Not required.

Specific needs concerning jobs, the environment, climate change mitigation and adaptation and promotion of innovation

1. Protection and utilisation of the natural environment in fishing and aquaculture areas.
2. Differentiation of economic activities in fishing and aquaculture areas by developing activities which are complementary to fishing and creating jobs.

Union priority	5 - Fostering marketing and processing
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Strengths

1. High quality of local fisheries products and strong preference among consumers for fresh local fisheries products.
2. Small distances between the fishing fields and points of commerce, thus making it possible to offer fresh products to consumers.
3. Sales of fisheries products directly to consumers.

Weaknesses

1. Lack of associations of producer organisations.
2. Consumers find it difficult to accept new species.
3. Intense competition from imported products against local fresh and processed fisheries products.
4. Insufficient supply of local raw materials for processing and high raw material import costs.
5. Low added value of products, repackaging being the primary processing activity.

Opportunities

1. Possibility of implementing improvement measures, subsidised by the EMFF.
2. Possibility of promoting local fisheries products with low demand.

Threats

1. Lack of interest and absence of cooperation and trust between producers for setting up producer organisations.

Identification of needs on basis of the SWOT analysis

1. Need to enhance the marketing system by setting up producer organisations, improving and promoting fisheries products and strengthening the production and marketing chain.
2. Organising fisheries and aquaculture product promotion campaigns, to increase public awareness.

SWOT analysis consistency with the Multiannual National Strategic Plan for aquaculture

Not required.

SWOT analysis consistency with the progress to achieve good environmental status through the development and implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)

Not required.

Specific needs concerning jobs, the environment, climate change mitigation and adaptation and promotion of innovation

1. Financing actions for saving energy or reducing the impact on the environment, including waste treatment.
2. Financing actions leading to new or improved products, new or improved processes, or new or improved management and organisation systems.

Union priority	6 - Fostering the implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy
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Strengths

1. Good to excellent ecological status of coastal marine waters: with limited industrial development, operation of sewerage systems in large coastal cities and natural formation of the coast. There are small-scale problems which are limited to the local area.
2. Fast dispersion of pollutants and other substances / materials due to the natural formation of most of the island's coast (absence of closed bays, open sea mostly, high hydrodynamism).
3. There is increased clarity of the marine waters due to hyper-oligotrophication, thus increasing the light permeability and allowing for photosynthesis to take place even in deep water. In turn, this situation allows for the development of photophilic coexistence in deep water (e.g. Posidonia meadows in Cyprus go down to a depth of 45 m).
4. Presence of significant threatened and strictly protected species, which are high up the food chain (e.g. Mediterranean monk seal), in the marine environment of Cyprus.

Weaknesses

1. Limited scientific knowledge of the marine environment, biodiversity and ecosystems. This is fostered significantly by the absence of relevant research foundations in Cyprus (e.g. a University department, research centres, etc.). There is minimum scientific information available concerning the deep waters / open sea and specific issues (e.g. marine food webs) in the broader marine area of the Cypriot EEZ.
2. Difficulties in, and obstacles to, the effective management of Natura 2000 marine areas and other protected areas: insufficient surveillance of the implementation of management measures, negative attitudes and cooperation difficulties in local communities, insufficient information to the parties directly involved and the local society.
3. Lack of an integrated database on the marine environment of Cyprus, to contribute, *inter alia*, to the effective protection and management thereof.
4. Limited public information and awareness on the protection and preservation of the protected marine areas and biodiversity.

Opportunities

1. Opportunities for financing from the EU
2. Solid legislative framework (MSFD, WFD, Directive on habitats and the relevant national transposing legislation).
3. Possibilities of cooperation with other Member States and non-Member States in the Mediterranean in the context of regional conventions and committees (e.g. Barcelona Convention, General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean).
4. Possibility of cooperation with liaisons, NGOs, local communities and local authorities on protecting the marine environment.

Threats

1. Numerous overlapping, often competitive, uses of the coastal / marine environment (fishing, aquaculture, tourism - recreational activities, residential development, commerce - transport, and other economically important activities).
2. Increased pressures / risks to the marine environment due to infrastructures and activities relating to the exploitation of underwater natural gas deposits, possibly hydrocarbons too, in the Cypriot EEZ and in the broader Eastern Mediterranean Sea area.
3. The marine environment in Cyprus is susceptible to colonisation by alien species, primarily through the Suez Canal, some of which are highly invasive and cause various problems to biodiversity and indigenous ecosystems, fisheries, etc.
4. Lack, so far, of integrated management of the coastal areas and of offshore physical planning.
5. Economic recession, budgetary and staff-related cuts.

Identification of needs on basis of the SWOT analysis

1. Strengthening scientific knowledge and supplementing the gaps that exist in connection with the different components of the marine environment and biodiversity in Cyprus.
2. Drawing up, implementation and monitoring of management plans for Natura 2000 marine areas and other marine protected areas. It should be noted that a total of 6 coastal / marine areas, with an extent of approximately 130 km², have been included in the Natura 2000 network. Preliminary management plans have been drawn up in accordance with the preservation target in all areas (except that of the Akamas Peninsula, which is expected to be completed in 2014). Provision has been made for restrictive measures to be implemented in 3 of the Natura 2000 marine areas and, therefore, the implementation and monitoring of those measures poses a significant challenge throughout the management thereof.
3. Implementation of monitoring programmes and programmes of measures in the broader offshore territory of Cyprus, to achieve the good environmental status targets in accordance with the MSFD (Directive 2008/56/EC).
4. Creation of a database and of a data management information system for the protection of the marine environment.
5. Systematic information to the parties involved on the marine protected areas and generally on the protection and preservation of the marine environment and biodiversity.

SWOT analysis consistency with the Multiannual National Strategic Plan for aquaculture

Not required.

SWOT analysis consistency with the progress to achieve good environmental status through the development and implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)

The MSFD has set an ambitious target: to achieve and maintain good environmental status in European seas and oceans by 2020. To that end, the Member States will have to draw up a marine strategy for their waters in each marine area or sub-area, by implementing suitable programmes of measures and monitoring programmes, to ensure that the marine environment is protected and preserved, preventing its decline or, if possible, restoring the marine ecosystems in areas in which they have been affected negatively. The marine strategies follow an ecosystem-based approach for the management of human activities, thus ensuring the achievement of good environmental status and of the sustainable use of marine goods and services.

The marine strategy represents a number of actions implemented by the Member States within specific time limits and consists of 3 phases: (i) preparation, (ii) programme of measures, and (iii) updating. More specifically, the Member States should, by 15 July 2012: (a) prepare a preliminary evaluation of the environmental status of their marine waters in accordance with the key features and characteristics of those waters, taking into account the human pressures and the subsequent impact thereon; (b) determine the good environmental status of their waters, on the basis of the features specified in Annex I to the Directive, and the draft Commission decision on criteria and methodological standards on good environmental status of marine waters; and (c) set the environmental targets and indicators in relation to the good environmental status.

In 2013, the Member States should notify the marine protected areas (MPAs) established in their marine waters to ensure the protection and maintenance of biodiversity and to contribute towards the creation of coherent and representative networks of MPAs and should, in 2014, prepare a monitoring programme for the environmental status of their waters. Then, the Member States should, in 2015, formulate programmes of measures for achieving and/or maintaining the good environmental status, which must be put in operation by 2016. Finally, the marine strategy includes the updating, i.e. periodic updating every six years, of all the above actions over time.

Cyprus has already carried out an initial evaluation of its marine waters, determined the good environmental status and prepared environmental targets and relevant indicators. The next steps in implementing the MSFD consist in preparing a monitoring programme and a programme of measures for maintaining and/or achieving the good environmental status of the marine waters up until the following cycle of evaluation of the marine waters of Cyprus. The achievement of good environmental status depends on the successful implementation of the above steps.

In terms of the above, the SWOT analysis has pointed to 3 key needs, the meeting of which will represent great progress in achieving the MSFD target on good environmental status. More specifically, the critical factor for achieving said MSFD target consists in correctly evaluating the status of the marine environment, which, however, depends primarily on the existence and correct utilisation of sufficient and valid scientific knowledge of all the marine environment data specified by the Directive. As regards Cyprus, which lacks a relevant research tradition due to the absence of relevant research foundations, expertise and economic and human resources, there is a very limited amount of scientific knowledge of those topics, particularly in respect of the open and deep sea, and this poses a significant obstacle to a thorough evaluation of the marine environment with a view to maintaining and/or achieving the good environmental status. The existing information pertains mainly just to coastal waters and relates only to some of the marine environment data referred to in the MSFD. Moreover, this knowledge is not so concentrated and organised in a way that would make it more easily available to be used for management purposes. Investing in the conduct of scientific research for various such data for which there are gaps (e.g. food webs, alien species), creating an integrated database system for the marine environment of Cyprus and supporting the implementation of monitoring programmes in accordance with the MSFD requirements will contribute towards filling those gaps.

Specific needs concerning jobs, the environment, climate change mitigation and adaptation and promotion of innovation

Not required.

2.2 Context indicators presenting the initial situation

Union priority	1 - Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge-based fisheries.
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Context indicator presenting the initial situation	Baseline year	Value	Measurement unit	Source of information	Comment / justification
1.1.a - Fishing fleets (number of boats)	2013	894.00	number of vessels	Department of Fisheries and Marine Research	
1.1.b - Fishing fleets (kW)	2013	39 063.00	kW	Department of Fisheries and Marine Research	
1.1.c - Fishing fleets (GT)	2013	3 477.00	GT	Department of Fisheries and Marine Research	
1.2 - Gross value added by sector FTE	2012	-5 600.00	thousand euros per employee FTE	2014 Annual Economic Report on the EU Fishing Fleet	
1.3 - Net profit	2012	-4 400.00	thousand euros	2014 Annual Economic Report on the EU Fishing Fleet	
1.4 - Return on investment of fixed tangible assets	2012	0.00	%	Department of Fisheries and Marine Research	The report on the balance between fishing capacity and resources for 2013 is based on data from 2012.

1.5.a - Indicators of biological sustainability - sustainable harvest indicator	2013	1.27	number	Department of Fisheries and Marine Research	<p>In accordance with the guidelines of the report on the balance between fishing capacity and resources, this indicator (SHI) is calculated for each part of the fleet separately. Given that only one value can be given to this indicator for the OP, one single indicator was calculated for the entire fishing fleet, being the average of the indicators for the different parts of the fleet, weighted in accordance with the value of landings of the catches included in the indicator. We take the view that the indicators for each part of the fleet should be included in the OP separately. Following are the indicators for each part of the fleet:</p> <p>SHIPGPVL12-18=0.71 SHIPGVVL06-12=1.6 SHIOTBVL18-24 (territorial & international waters) = 0.75 SHIOTBVL18-24 (only international waters)=4.3 (this is not deemed to be an appropriate indicator, as it represents 0.5% of the fisheries of the fleet in terms of value and harvest)</p>
1.5.b - Indicators of biological sustainability - stocks-at-risk indicator	2013	0.00	number	Department of Fisheries and Marine Research	<p>The value of this indicator takes a value equal to zero for the stocks exploited by the fishing fleet of Cyprus. The indicator is calculated in accordance with the DG Fisheries and Maritime Affairs Guidelines for analysis of the balance between fishing capacity and fishing opportunities (page 9) and is hard to apply (see STECF -14-09 report).</p>

Context indicator presenting the initial situation	Baseline year	Value	Measurement unit	Source of information	Comment / justification
1.6 - Fuel efficiency of fish capture	2012	2.12	litres fuel / tonne landed catch	Department of Fisheries and Marine Research	The value refers to the small-scale coastal fleet
1.7.a - Extent of the seabed significantly affected by human activities for the different substrate types	2012	0.00	%	Department of Fisheries and Marine Research	There are no data at the current stage. This will be calculated in the context of the monitoring carried out under the Marine Strategy Directive (see relevant evaluation reports on Cyprus under Articles 8, 9 and 10 and monitoring programmes under Article 11 of the MSFD).
1.7.b - Rates of incidental catches of cetaceans in fisheries	2012	0.00	catch per unit effort	Department of Fisheries and Marine Research	The number of cetaceans in incidental catches is negligible.
1.8.a - Number of employed (FTE) including male and female	2012	817.00	FTE	Department of Fisheries and Marine Research	
1.8.b - Number of employed (FTE) female	2012	2.00	FTE	Department of Fisheries and Marine Research	
1.9.a - Number of work-related injuries and accidents	2012	2.00	number	Department of Labour Inspection	
1.9.b - % of work-related injuries and accidents in relation to total fishers	2012	0.30	%	Department of Labour Inspection	
1.10.a - Coverage of Natura 2000 areas designated under the Birds and Habitats directives	2012	130.00	Km ²	Department of Fisheries and Marine Research	There are 6 Natura areas
1.10.b - Coverage of other spatial protection measures under Article 13(4) of Directive 2008/56/EC	2012	11.00	Km ²	Department of Fisheries and Marine Research	There are 6 MPAs

Union priority	2. Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge-based fisheries
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Context indicator presenting the initial situation	Baseline year	Value	Measurement unit	Source of information	Comment / justification
2.1 - Volume of aquaculture production	2012	4 333.00	tonnes	Department of Fisheries and Marine Research	
2.2 - Volume of aquaculture production	2012	23 574.00	thousand euros	Department of Fisheries and Marine Research	
2.3 - Net profit	2012	1 527.00	thousand euros	Department of Fisheries and	

				Marine Research	
2.4 - Volume of organic aquaculture production	2012	0.00	tonnes	Department of Fisheries and Marine Research	There is no organic aquaculture production in Cyprus.
2.5 - Volume of recirculation system production	2012	0.00	tonnes	Department of Fisheries and Marine Research	There are no farms using a recirculation system in Cyprus.

Union priority	3 - Fostering the implementation of the CFP
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Context indicator presenting the initial situation	Baseline year	Value	Measurement unit	Source of information	Comment / justification
3.A.1 - Total number of serious infringements in Member States in the last 7 years	2013	39.00	number	Department of Fisheries and Marine Research	
3.A.2 - Landings that are subject to physical control	2013	0.73	%	Department of Fisheries and Marine Research	Coastal fishing: A total of 50 000 landings were carried out. 282 inspections were carried out during landing. Multifunctional fishing: A total of 1 300 landings were carried out. 72 inspections were carried out during landing. Trawler fishing: A total of 300 landings were carried out. 26 inspections were carried out during landing. TOTAL: 51 600 landings, of which 380 were inspected. Therefore, the number of landings compared to the number of inspections is 0.73
3.A.3.a - Existing resources available for control - Control vessels and aircrafts available	2013	7.00	number	Department of Fisheries and Marine Research	
3.A.3.b - Existing resources available for control - Number of employed (FTE)	2013	22.00	FTE	Department of Fisheries and Marine Research	
3.A.3.c - Existing resources available for control - Budgetary allocation (evolution last 5 years)	2013	1 400.00	thousand euros	Department of Fisheries and Marine Research	Average in the last 5 years
3.A.3.d - Existing resources available for control – Vessels equipped with ERS and/or VMS	2013	33.00	number	Department of Fisheries and Marine Research	24 vessels equipped with VMS and ERS, 9 vessels equipped with VMS

Context indicator presenting the initial situation	Baseline year	Value	Measurement unit	Source of information	Comment / justification
3.B.1 Data collection measures - Fulfilment of data calls under DCF	2012	90.00	%	Data Call Coverage reports	

Union priority	4 - Increasing employment and territorial cohesion
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Context indicator presenting the initial situation	Baseline year	Value	Measurement unit	Source of information	Comment / justification
4.1.a - Extent of coastline	2012	858.00	Km	Department of Lands and Surveys	The coastline of the entire Republic of Cyprus has a length of 858 km, of which 405 km relate to areas in which Republic of Cyprus exercises effective control
4.1.b - Extent of main waterways	2012	0.00	Km	Department of Fisheries and Marine Research	Not applicable to Cyprus.
4.1.c - Extent of main water bodies	2012	0.00	Km ²	Department of Fisheries and Marine Research	Not applicable to Cyprus.

Union priority	5 - Fostering marketing and processing
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Context indicator presenting the initial situation	Baseline year	Value	Measurement unit	Source of information	Comment / justification
5.1.a - Number of POs	2012	0.00	number	Department of Fisheries and Marine Research	There are no POs in Cyprus
5.1.b - Number of associations of POs	2012	0.00	number	Department of Fisheries and Marine Research	There are no POs in Cyprus
5.1.c - Number of IBOs	2012	0.00	number	Department of Fisheries and Marine Research	There are no IBOs in Cyprus.
5.1.d - Number of producers or operators per PO	2012	0.00	number	Department of Fisheries and Marine Research	There are no POs in Cyprus
5.1.e - Number of producers or operators per association of POs	2012	0.00	number	Department of Fisheries and Marine Research	There are no POs in Cyprus

				Research	
5.1.f - Number of producers or operators per IBO	2012	0.00	number	Department of Fisheries and Marine Research	There are no IBOs in Cyprus.
5.1.g - % of producers or operators per IBO	2012	0.00	%	Department of Fisheries and Marine Research	There are no POs in Cyprus
5.1.h - % of producers or operators member of association of POs	2012	0.00	%	Department of Fisheries and Marine Research	There are no POs in Cyprus
5.1.i - % of producers or operators member of IBO	2012	0.00	%	Department of Fisheries and Marine Research	There are no IBOs in Cyprus.
5.2.a - Annual value of turnover of EU marketed production	2011	8 403.00	thousand euros	Department of Fisheries and Marine Research	Data are collected in the context of the DCF on the companies whose turnover, in the processing of fisheries products, exceeds 50% of the total
5.2.b - % of production placed on the market (value) by POs	2011	0.00	%	Department of Fisheries and Marine Research	There are no POs in Cyprus
5.2.c - % of production placed on the market (value) by association of POs	2011	0.00	%	Department of Fisheries and Marine Research	There are no POs in Cyprus
5.2.d - % of production placed on the market (value) by IBOs	2011	0.00	%	Department of Fisheries and Marine Research	There are no IBOs in Cyprus.
5.2.e - % of production placed on the market (volume) by POs	2011	0.00	%	Department of Fisheries and Marine Research	There are no POs in Cyprus
5.2.f - % of production placed on the market (volume) by association of POs	2011	0.00	%	Department of Fisheries and Marine Research	There are no POs in Cyprus
5.2.g - % of production placed on the market (volume) by association of IBOs	2011	0.00	%	Department of Fisheries and Marine Research	There are no IBOs in Cyprus.

Union priority	6 - Fostering the implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy
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Context indicator presenting the initial situation	Baseline year	Value	Measurement unit	Source of information	Comment / justification
6.1 - Common Information Sharing Environment (CISE) for the surveillance of the EU maritime domain	2014	0.00	%	Department of Fisheries and Marine Research	
6.2.a - Coverage of Natura 2000 areas designated under the Birds and Habitats directives	2012	130.00	Km ²	Department of Fisheries and Marine Research	Covered by indicator 10.a of UP1. There are 6 Natura areas.
6.2.b - Coverage of other spatial protection measures under Article 13(4) of Directive 2008/56/EC	2012	11.00	Km ²	Department of Fisheries and Marine Research	Covered by indicator 10.b of UP1. There are 6 MPAs.

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE STRATEGY

3.1 Description of the strategy of the Operational Programme

UP1

In harmony with the principles of the Common Fisheries Policy, the policy on the development of sea fishing focuses on ensuring the sustainable management of fisheries resources, improving the working conditions, income and training of fishermen, and improving the quality and promotion of fisheries products.

As specified in the SWOT analysis, the sea fishing sector faces sustainability problems due to the low biological productivity in the area, the low fisheries production coupled with intense fishing pressure, and the low income of fishermen. The need to protect fish stocks requires that measures be adopted aiming to adapt the fishing pressure to the fisheries available and to reduce the impact of fisheries on the marine environment, taking into account the increased diversity of fisheries and of the fishing methods used in the waters of Cyprus.

Such measures include adapting the fishing capacity of the fleet by resorting primarily to withdrawal, as referred to in chapter 4.6, which is a key tool in the action plan for the achievement of a balanced small-scale coastal fleet, limiting the use of fishing gear and increasing the selectivity of, and/or introducing more selective, fishing methods and gear.

As regards the need to improve the working conditions and income of fishermen, actions will be promoted primarily with a view to supporting investment in fishing boats, diversifying their professional activities and investing in the improvement of fishing infrastructure. Apart from the above, the implementation of actions for fostering vocational training, new skills and lifelong learning for fishermen will be promoted in the context of P4.

To foster the protection and strengthening of the marine biodiversity and ecosystems, i.e. a significant need identified by the SWOT analysis, emphasis will be placed on utilising marine protected areas (MPAs) (Natura 2000 marine areas, including artificial reefs - ARs) as a tool for the protection and maintenance of marine biodiversity, rational fisheries management and sustainable development of marine resources.

In relation to the priorities for the Natura 2000 MPAs, the coastal-marine habitats and the priority action framework (PAF) for Natura 2000 areas, actions will be promoted pertaining to the preparation of protection and management plans for Natura 2000 areas, the monitoring and surveillance of Natura 2000 MPAs, etc. Actions will also be promoted aiming to increase knowledge about the biodiversity and ecosystems in the broader offshore territory of Cyprus, to serve as a tool for the management and protection of the marine environment and of the living marine resources. To achieve the above targets, the relevant EU legislative framework will be utilised, the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (Directive 2008/56/EC) and Directive 92/43/EEC in particular. The conduct of scientific research and studies in the coastal and marine waters of Cyprus with a view to a possible identification of important and protected species and habitats as listed in Directive 92/43/EEC and the subsequent establishment of MPAs are priorities for Cyprus and are included in the PAF for the period 2014-2020.

The protection of biodiversity and ecosystems, the areas in which ARs are to be created, the knowledge of the distribution of priority habitats (*Posidonia oceanica*) in the coastal waters of Cyprus, and the enhancement of scientific knowledge of issues relating to the marine environment have been identified as important needs by the SWOT analysis.

Combating populations of alien species / intruders, silver-cheeked toadfish in particular, is an

additional biodiversity measure. In accordance with the SWOT analysis, the increase in alien species and their populations pose a threat to the marine ecosystem and fisheries.

UP2

Aquaculture has been marked with a steady 10% growth rate in Cyprus in the last 10 years. The growth needs to be sustained through prudent, as well as steady, expansion using both the open-sea cage aquaculture method, which offers a better outlook, and onshore activities.

Following are the key reasons why an aquaculture development policy should be applied and supported:

- Good environmental conditions for aquaculture. The hot climate, clean and oligotrophic seas, high water temperature and relatively low wind intensity ensure good growth rates for a wide range of marine species and tend to mitigate any environmental and other production-related problems.
- Availability of appropriate locations with accessible depths at a reasonable distance from the coastline, which makes farm management possible and minimises any potential negative environmental impact.
- Maintenance of its position among leading Mediterranean countries that use the open-sea aquaculture method.
- Existence of suitable infrastructure, manpower with the necessary skills, knowledge and training, as well as research facilities and investment potential.
- Expansion in the domestic market. The annual per capita consumption of farmed products is only 2.4 Kg/person, compared to 18 kg of fisheries products consumed per person on annual basis.
- Creation of new employment opportunities / jobs, which could enable workers from the ever-shrinking fishing sector to find employment if necessary.

- The country's proximity to the Middle East – where the aquaculture sector, using the open-sea cage method in particular, is still in a very early stage – offers greater opportunities both in terms of placing the products on the market and the prospects for transfer of know-how.

Moreover, any further growth in the sector should take into account the fact that the farms must achieve individually profitable scale economies and must look into a possible differentiation in terms of species, products and markets. The industry should maintain environmental sustainability and coexist harmoniously with other marine area users, notably tourism, fishing and shipping. The problems associated with the small size and insular nature of Cyprus, its geographic location and the long distance from the central European markets should be addressed, notably the significantly higher costs incurred to deliver / transport the products to the main European market.

The strategy adopted consists in the following:

1. Encouraging the financial sustainability of undertakings.
2. Improving business control and collection of information on operating procedures and the resulting impact.
3. Guaranteeing the safety of food and the health and welfare of the species farmed.
4. Utilising the comparative advantages relating to the geographic location of Cyprus, the favourable climatic conditions and the existence of interest on the part of businessmen.
5. Including the environmental dimension in policy implementation and mitigation of environmental impact.
6. Creation of collective support structures.

7. Improving the required relevant legislative and institutional framework.
8. Siting of aquaculture activities in the coastal zone, to establish their location and tackle problems that impede the growth of aquaculture.

The strategy was based on the Multiannual National Strategic Aquaculture Plan 2014-2020, to ensure the cohesion and consistency of the OP and of the proposed intervention measures with the long-term strategic goals, as set out in the multiannual plan. Following are the key priorities to be supported by the OP through specific measures.

1. Setup of collective harbour and onshore infrastructure.

The absence of specific infrastructure facilities providing services to the farms is one of the weaknesses identified by the SWOT analysis of the OP and of the strategic plan. The setup of infrastructure is expected to contribute towards increasing the capacity of specific aquaculture areas / sites and strengthening competitiveness, and lays the foundation for increasing production and strengthening cooperation between producers.

2. Strengthening of competitiveness, including the productivity and efficiency of aquaculture farms

The SWOT analysis of the strategic plan and of the OP indicated that aquaculture in Cyprus is marked with drawbacks and threats including, *inter alia*, the high raw material transportation costs, the long distance from large commercial centres, the low overall production, the high energy costs of onshore farms, the absence of investment in innovative technologies and the increased competition. The OP will aim to support actions for strengthening competitiveness in the sector and increasing production through projects relating to the modernisation, expansion of production, use of innovative technologies and management methods, as well as for improving the quality or added value of aquaculture products.

3. Inclusion of aquaculture in the physical plan and setup of aquaculture sites.

Given the limited length of the Cypriot coastline, the OP and the strategic plan have recognised that one of the key problems concerning the growth of marine aquaculture is intense competition from other users and activities in marine areas. The lack of established aquaculture areas / zones is an obstacle to the setup of new farms and/or the increase in the production of existing ones. Therefore, ensuring the sustainable growth of aquaculture by means of an integrated physical plan is an important priority. That is why plans are being made in the context of the OP to prepare a study for the siting and establishment of aquaculture sites, which is expected to tackle problems of competition with other marine area users and to lay the foundation for setting up new and/or expanding existing farms. Moreover, the setup of aquaculture sites will ensure the operation of farms by creating a safe investment environment, while at the same time being expected to cut down on the time taken by red tape procedures for issuing new authorisations.

Proper siting will help keep environmental impact at a minimum level.

UP3

To implement a fisheries control programme covering the entire wide range of the checks required under the national and Community legislation, it has to be based on a strategy aiming to ensure the identification, description and making available of the most cost-effective control tools and inspection equipment, adapted to the nature and estimated risk level and to the target-setting. The specific control programme for red tuna fishing, which has harmonised the control and inspection procedures for the different types of fishing, will be used as a model, to ensure the success of the management plans. By way of extension, common rules will be established for the controls and

inspections to be carried out. The target relates to the establishment of control plans / programmes which do not target a specific type of fishing, thus ensuring maximum utilisation of available resources. This is possible if it is based on thorough staff training, use of technology through easy access and handling, and implementation of a risk management system. The control system will be based on the EU regulations, including the new provisions under the revised Common Fisheries Policy, and the new rules to result, such as a gradual reduction in discards. Emphasis will also be placed on informing the parties concerned of their obligations, to ensure that the transition to the new rules is smooth.

To implement the general goal of the Common Fisheries Policy on protecting the environment and fostering the rational use of resources, it is necessary to promote the provision of scientific knowledge and data collection. Such promotion will be possible by supporting the collection, management and use of the data required for fisheries management, as referred to in Article 25(1) and (2) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 and Council Regulation (EC) No 199/2008.

In particular, support will be provided for the following:

- multi-annual sampling programmes for stocks covered by the Common Fisheries Policy;
- monitoring of commercial and recreational fisheries, including incidental capture of such species as sea mammals and turtles;
- research surveys-at-sea (e.g. MEDITS);
- calculation of ecosystem indicators;
- collection of socioeconomic data from the fisheries, aquaculture and processing sectors;
- participation of representatives in regional coordinating meetings and meetings of the regional fisheries management organisations;
- enhancing data collection and management systems, including the implementation of pilot studies;
- upgrading and administration of the database;
- such issues as the costs for staff, experts and consultants and the costs for equipment and consumables to be incurred for implementing the collection programme.

The work programmes for data collection and management will be adapted to the specific needs of Cyprus, as determined on the basis of the SWOT analysis, relating *inter alia* to the strengthening of scientific knowledge, the filling of existing gaps relating to fisheries, fish stocks and biodiversity, and the drawing up of appropriate management plans.

UP4

The aim is to maintain the social and economic prosperity in fisheries and aquaculture areas, to utilise fisheries and aquaculture products and to maintain and create jobs. To that end, an integrated plan is being promoted for improvement and further development using the ‘Community-led local development’ (CLLD) approach, whereby the development needs of the areas concerned will be determined more accurately and dealt with more effectively through area-specific local development strategies. Sustainable development in the areas concerned requires that a spatial approach be used to determine their potential, with a view to determining the targets and specifying more accurately any measures to be included in the local development strategies of the fisheries local action groups (FLAGs). The implementation of integrated local development strategies and the setup of FLAGs, based in particular on the experience gained from the implementation under priority axis 4 of the 2007-2013 Fisheries OP, will boost economic growth and restructuring, creation of employment opportunities, cooperation and innovation. The key challenges include creating new forms of income and new jobs and utilising the comparative advantages of the areas concerned with a view to improving their attractiveness as tourist destinations, utilising the advantages with a view to developing sustainable aquaculture, protecting the marine environment and biodiversity in those

areas, and utilising the potential created in the blue economy sector, as well as further promoting angling and diving tourism. As regards the sea fishing sector, an effort is being made to promote primarily measures intended to strengthen the income of fishermen by supporting alternative activities, such as angling tourism, and providing them with vocational training on fisheries, navigation, safety, health and environmental issues.

UP5

The development policy regarding the marketing and processing of fisheries products in Cyprus, which is in harmony with the principles of the Common Fisheries Policy, focuses on quality improvement and fostering of the fisheries product trading system. The targets will be achieved by implementing measures aiming primarily to support processing plants for the production of smoked, salted and marinated products, the processing of fisheries products obtained locally from collecting fishing activities, as well as the setup of producer organisations. There are significant advantages to the marketing of local fisheries products in Cyprus compared to other Member States, such as high product quality, small distance between the landing countries and the points of marketing, thus making it possible to provide consumers with fresh products, and their strong preference for fresh local products. The lack of cooperation and trust among producers and the absence of proper organisational structures lead to a system that is incapable of ensuring optimal fisheries management. Moreover, the fact that consumers find it difficult to accept new species and the increased competition from local fisheries products against imported ones tend to aggravate the difficulties in the sector. There are similar problems in the fisheries products processing sector too, primarily due to the difficulty in supplying local raw materials for processing and the increased costs associated with imported raw materials. By supporting the processing sector, it is possible to promote local fisheries products that are marked with low demand.

The controls and production procedures currently in place ensure that top quality and hygiene products are produced and marketed. However, aquaculture products are sometimes faced with problems due to the concepts prevailing among consumers. However, the competitiveness and social acceptance of aquaculture products is expected to improve through relevant information campaigns. A possible development of specific labelling aiming to highlight the quality of products in relation to the consumers' doubts, e.g. environmental sustainability, no use of antibiotics or other medications, etc., is expected to play a significant role in information campaigns.

UP6

The environmental dimension of the EU Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP) is laid down in the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) (Directive 2008/56/EC), which entered into force in July 2008 and sets out a legal framework for the protection and management of European seas, thus ensuring the long-term and sustainable use thereof. The Directive has set an ambitious target, i.e. to achieve and maintain good environmental status (GES) in European seas by 2020. Cyprus has already completed the 1st MSFD implementation phase carried out an initial evaluation of its marine waters, determined the good environmental status (GES) and prepared environmental targets and relevant indicators. The next steps in implementing the MSFD consist in preparing monitoring programmes and programmes of measures for maintaining and/or achieving the GES of the marine waters up until the following cycle of evaluation. The initial evaluation identified significant knowledge gaps in respect of numerous descriptive characteristics of the marine environment specified by the MSFD, e.g. food webs, alien species, in the open and deep sea in particular. Therefore, emphasis will be placed on the conduct of studies, to strengthen the knowledge base required to ensure a thorough and objective evaluation of the status of the environment and of the living marine resources, which will, in turn, drive the taking of protection and sustainable management measures. The research will not be restricted only to the MPAs (Natura 2000 and other areas) or to the coastal ecosystems, but will also include the broader sea-floor in the Cypriot EEZ and

the deep sea, in accordance with the guidelines set out in the MSFD and Directive 92/43/EEC. In addition to that, an effort will be made to collect, make available and effectively utilise and manage the fragmented existing knowledge and data to result from the scientific research on the marine environment by developing a database and an electronic management system. An effort will also be made to implement monitoring programmes and programmes of measures, as well as generally to elaborate actions for implementing the provisions of the MSFD concerning the marine environment of Cyprus.

Finally, it is expected to foster the achievement of the Integrated Maritime Surveillance (IMS) targets and, in particular, the fulfilment of the common information sharing environment (CISE) targets for the surveillance of the Union maritime domain, as well as to improve the awareness of the status of marine activities. The Department of Merchant Marine is the competent body responsible for coordinating the necessary CISE actions.

3.2 Specific objectives and result indicators

Union priority	1 - Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge-based fisheries.
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Specific objective	1 - Reduction of the impact of fisheries on the marine environment, including the avoidance and reduction, as far as possible, of unwanted catches		
Result indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Not applicable
1.4.a - Change in unwanted catches (tonnes)	0.00000	tonnes	
1.4.b - Change in unwanted catches (%)	0.00000	%	
1.5 - Fuel efficiency of fish capture	0.00000	litres fuel / tonne landed catch	

Specific objective	2 - Protection and restoration of marine biodiversity and ecosystems		
Result indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Not applicable
1.5 - Fuel efficiency of fish capture		litres fuel / tonne landed catch	✓
1.10.a - Change in the coverage of Natura 2000 areas designated under the Birds and Habitats directives		Km ²	✓
1.10.b - Change in the coverage of other spatial protection measures under Article 13(4) of Directive 4 2008/56/EC	140.00000	Km ²	

Specific objective	3 - Ensuring a balance between fishing capacity and available fishing opportunities		
Result indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Not applicable
1.3 - Change in net profits	-3 520.00000	thousand euros	
1.6 - Change in the % of unbalanced fleets	100.00000	%	

Specific objective	4 - Enhancement of the competitiveness and viability of fisheries enterprises, including of small-scale coastal fleet, and improvement of safety and working conditions		
Result indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Not applicable
1.1 - Change in the value of production		thousand euros	✓
1.2 - Change in the volume of production		tonnes	✓
1.3 - Change in net profits	0.00000	thousand euros	
1.5 - Fuel efficiency of fish capture		litres fuel / tonne landed catch	✓
1.7 - Employment created (FTE) in the fisheries sector or complementary activities		FTE	✓
1.8 - Employment maintained (FTE) in the fisheries sector or complementary activities	762.00000	FTE	
1.9.a - Change in the number of work-related injuries and accidents	0.00000	number	
1.9.b - Change in the % of work-related injuries and accidents in relation to total fishers	0.00000	%	

Specific objective	5 - Provision of support to strengthen technological development and innovation, including increasing energy efficiency and the transfer of knowledge		
Result indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Not applicable
1.1 - Change in the value of production		thousand euros	✓
1.2 - Change in the volume of production		tonnes	✓
1.3 - Change in net profits	0.00000	thousand euros	

Union priority	2. Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge-based fisheries
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Specific objective	1 - Provision of support to strengthen technological development, innovation and transfer of knowledge		
Result indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Not applicable
2.1 - Change in volume of aquaculture production		tonnes	✓
2.2 - Change in value of aquaculture production		thousand euros	✓
2.3 - Change in net profits		thousand euros	✓

Specific objective	2 - Enhancement of the competitiveness and viability of aquaculture enterprises, including the improvement of safety and working conditions, in particular of SMEs		
Result indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Not applicable
2.1 - Change in volume of aquaculture production	2 000.00000	tonnes	
2.2 - Change in value of aquaculture production	11 000.00000	thousand euros	
2.3 - Change in net profits	100.00000	thousand euros	

Specific objective	3 - Protection and restoration of marine biodiversity and enhancement of ecosystems related to aquaculture and promotion of resource-efficient aquaculture		
Result indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Not applicable
2.4 - Change in the volume of organic aquaculture production		tonnes	✓
2.5 - Change in the volume of recirculation system production	4.00000	tonnes	
2.6 - Change in the volume of aquaculture production certified under voluntary sustainability schemes	0.00000	tonnes	

Specific objective	3 - Protection and restoration of marine biodiversity and enhancement of ecosystems related to aquaculture and promotion of resource-efficient aquaculture		
Result indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Not applicable
2.7 - Aquaculture farms providing environmental services		number	✓

Union priority	3 - Fostering the implementation of the CFP
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Specific objective	1 - Improvement and supply of scientific knowledge and collection and management of data		
Result indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Not applicable
3.B.1 - Increase in the percentage of fulfilment of data calls	100.00000	%	

Specific objective	2 - Provision of support for monitoring, control and enforcement, by strengthening the institutional capacity and effectiveness of public administration without increasing the administrative burden		
Result indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Not applicable
3.A.1 - Number of serious infringements detected	39.00000	number	
3.A.2 - Landings that have been subject to physical control	0.04000	%	

Union priority	4 - Increasing employment and territorial cohesion
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Specific objective	1 - Promotion of economic growth, social inclusion and job creation, and providing support to employability and labour mobility in coastal and inland communities which depend on fishing and aquaculture, including the diversification of activities within fisheries and into other sectors of maritime economy		
Result indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Not applicable
4.1 - Employment created (FTE)	50.00000	FTE	
4.2 - Employment maintained (FTE)	100.00000	FTE	
4.3 - Businesses created	20.00000	number	

Union priority	5 - Fostering marketing and processing
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Specific objective	1 - Improvement of market organisation for fishery and aquaculture products		
Result indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Not applicable
5.1.a - Change in value of first sales in POs		thousand euros	✓
5.1.b - Change in volume of first sales in POs		tonnes	✓

5.1.c - Change in value of first sales in non-POs		thousand euros	✓
5.1.d - Change in volume of first sales in non-POs		tonnes	✓

Specific objective	2 - Encouragement of investment in the processing and marketing sectors		
Result indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Not applicable
5.1.a - Change in value of first sales in POs		thousand euros	✓
5.1.b - Change in volume of first sales in POs		tonnes	✓

Specific objective	2 - Encouragement of investment in the processing and marketing sectors		
Result indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Not applicable
5.1.c - Change in value of first sales in non-POs	90.00000	thousand euros	
5.1.d - Change in volume of first sales in non-POs	30.00000	tonnes	

Union priority	6 - Fostering the implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy
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Specific objective	1 - Development and implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy		
Result indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	Not applicable
6.1 - Increase in the Common Information Sharing Environment (CISE) for the surveillance of the EU maritime domain	100.00000	%	
6.2.a - Change in the coverage of Natura 2000 areas designated under the Birds and Habitats directives	0.00000	Km ²	
6.2.b - Change in the coverage of other spatial protection measures under Article 13(4) of Directive 2008/56/EC	140.00000	Km ²	

3.3 Relevant measures and output indicators

Union priority	1 - Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge-based fisheries.
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Specific objective	1 - Reduction of the impact of fisheries on the marine environment, including the avoidance and reduction, as far as possible, of unwanted catches			
EMFF measure	Output indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	To be included in the performance framework
02 - Article 38 Limitation of the impact of fishing on the marine environment and adaptation of fishing to the protection of species (+ Article 44(1)(c) Inland fishing)	1.4 - Number of projects for conservation measures, reduction of the fishing impact on the environment and adaptation of fishing to the protection of species	20.00	Number	
04 - Article 40(1)(a) Protection and restoration of marine biodiversity - collection of lost fishing gear and marine litter	1.6 - Number of projects for the protection and restoration of marine biodiversity and ecosystems	2.00	Number	
05 - Article 43(2) Fishing ports, landing sites, auction halls and shelters - investments to facilitate compliance with the obligation to land all catches	1.3 - Number of projects for added value, quality and use of unwanted catches, as well as for the fishing ports, landing sites, auctions halls and shelters	3.00	Number	✓

Justification for the combination of the EMFF measures (supported by the *ex ante* evaluation and the SWOT analysis)

There are three directions in the intervention logic: clean-up, reduction of the pressure on fishing fields and gradual reduction of discards. The importance of clean-up, in the Mediterranean basin in particular, in which restoration rates are slow, is vital and is supported by the measure contemplated in Article 40(1)(a). The reduction in unwanted catches is supported by the measure contemplated in Article 38, through actions aiming to increase selectivity and eliminate discards, and an estimated 20 fishing boats will invest in this direction. The reduction in unwanted catches is also supplemented by the measure contemplated in Article 43(2) on investing in fishing shelters to comply with the fisheries landing obligation.

Specific objective	2 - Protection and restoration of marine biodiversity and ecosystems			
EMFF measure	Output indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	To be included in the performance framework
01 - Article 40(1)(b) to	1.6 - Number of	14.00	Number	✓

(g) and (i) Protection and restoration of marine biodiversity - contribution to a better management or conservation, construction, installation or modernisation of static or movable facilities, preparation of protection and management plans related to Natura 2000 sites and spatial protected areas, management, restoration and monitoring of marine protected areas, including Natura 2000 sites, environmental awareness, participation in other actions aimed at maintaining and enhancing biodiversity and ecosystem services (+ Article 44(6) Inland fishing)	projects for the protection and restoration of marine biodiversity and ecosystems			
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Justification for the combination of the EMFF measures (supported by the *ex ante* evaluation and the SWOT analysis)

The achievement of the specific objective is supported by a wide range of actions under the measure contemplated in Article 40(1)(b) to (e) and (g). All the actions under the measure respond to meeting the identified needs that resulted from the SWOT analysis on issues relating to the marine environment and are expected to contribute considerably towards the achievement of the above objective.

Specific objective	3 - Ensuring a balance between fishing capacity and available fishing opportunities			
EMFF measure	Output indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	To be included in the performance framework
01 - Article 34 Permanent cessation of fishing activities	1.5 - Number of projects for permanent cessation	55.00	Number	✓

Justification for the combination of the EMFF measures (supported by the *ex ante* evaluation and the SWOT analysis)

This specific objective is supported by the measure contemplated in Article 34 and responds to the identified problem of over-capitalisation of the small coastal boats making up the Cypriot fishing fleet. It should be noted that the coastal fisheries sector in Cyprus produces 56% of the total production (2012) and, therefore, the reduction to result from permanent cessation is an effective measure for achieving the target of transition to maximum sustainable yield.

Specific objective	4 - Enhancement of the competitiveness and viability of fisheries enterprises, including of small-scale coastal fleet, and improvement of safety and working conditions			
EMFF measure	Output indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	To be included in the performance framework
02 - Article 30 Diversification and new forms of income (+ Article 44(4) Inland fishing)	1.9 - Number of projects for promoting human capital and social dialogue, diversification and new forms of income, start-ups for fishermen and health / safety	20.00	Number	
04 - Article 32 Health and safety (+ Article 44(1)(b) Inland fishing)	1.9 - Number of projects for promoting human capital and social dialogue, diversification and new forms of income, start-ups for fishermen and health / safety	200.00	Number	
07 - Article 40(1)(h) Protection and restoration of marine biodiversity - schemes for the compensation of damage to catches caused by mammals and birds	1.6 - Number of projects for the protection and restoration of marine biodiversity and ecosystems	300.00	Number	
09 - Article 43(1) and (3) Fishing ports, landing sites, auction halls and shelters – Investments improving the infrastructure of fishing ports, auctions halls, landing sites and shelters; construction of shelters in order to improve the safety of fishermen (+ Article 44(1)(f) Inland fishing)	1.3 - Number of projects for added value, quality and use of unwanted catches, as well as for the fishing ports, landing sites, auctions halls and shelters	8.00	Number	✓

Justification for the combination of the EMFF measures (supported by the *ex ante* evaluation and the SWOT analysis)

Improving the working conditions is a need identified by the SWOT analysis. Improving the health and safety conditions will help make the sector ‘more attractive’ and may reduce the young people’s unwillingness to enter the sector. The above targets are expected to be achieved through the measure contemplated in Article 32, aiming to modernise 200 fishing boats. Trying to achieve equal opportunities for additional income through complementary activities is an important solution in dealing with the poor economic situation and is expected to make fishing more competitive and help fishermen acquire an additional income. The differentiation is supported by the measure contemplated in Article 30, aiming to support 20 fishermen. The above are supplemented by the measure contemplated in Article 40(1), through the compensation for damage to catches caused by mammals (dolphins) and is expected to be granted to 300 fishermen per year in the period 2014-2020.

Specific objective	5 - Provision of support to strengthen technological development and innovation, including increasing energy efficiency and the transfer of knowledge			
EMFF measure	Output indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	To be included in the performance framework
02 - Article 28 Partnerships between scientists and fishermen (+ Article 44(3) Inland fishing)	1.1 - Number of projects for innovation, advisory services and partnerships with scientists	5.00	Number	
03 - Article 41(1)(a), (b) and (c) Energy efficiency and mitigation of climate change – Investments on board; energy efficiency audits and schemes; studies to assess the contribution of alternative propulsion systems and hull designs (+ Article 44(1)(d) Inland fishing)	1.7 - Number of projects for energy efficiency and mitigation of climate change	20.00	Number	
04 - Article 41(2) Energy efficiency and mitigation of climate change – replacement or modernisation of main or ancillary engines (+ Article 44(1)(d) Inland fishing)	1.8 - Number of projects for replacement or modernisation of main or ancillary engines	20.00	Number	

Justification for the combination of the EMFF measures (supported by the *ex ante* evaluation and the SWOT analysis)

The objective concerned is supported by the measure contemplated in Article 28 through the setup of a network of scientists and fishermen with a view to transferring knowledge to fishermen, as well as by the measures contemplated in Article 41(1)(a), (b) and (c) and Article 41(2) including investments aimed at reducing the emission of pollutants and increasing energy efficiency. As identified by the SWOT analysis, the Cypriot fishing fleet is marked with high fuel consumption levels in relation to the quantities landed, which needs to be dealt with to fulfil UP1 on resource efficient fisheries. An estimated 20 fishing boats will replace their engines under the measure contemplated in Article 41(2). The experience gained from the implementation of the schemes under the Fisheries OP in the period 2007-2013 was used to estimate the objective. Financing for changing the engines is granted only to boats which belong to a part of a fleet for which the fishing capacity report showed that there is balance with the fishing opportunities of that part (Article 22(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013).

Union priority	2. Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge-based fisheries
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Specific objective	1 - Provision of support to strengthen technological development, innovation and transfer of knowledge			
EMFF measure	Output indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	To be included in the performance framework
01 - Article 47 Innovation	2.1 - Number of projects for innovation, advisory services and stock insurance	2.00	Number	
02 - Article 49 Management, relief and advisory services for aquaculture farms	2.1 - Number of projects for innovation, advisory services and stock insurance	3.00	Number	

Justification for the combination of the EMFF measures (supported by the *ex ante* evaluation and the SWOT analysis)

The objective is supported by the measure contemplated in Article 47 on introducing innovation in the aquaculture sector and the measure contemplated in Article 49 on the management and advisory services for the sector. As stressed by the SWOT analysis and in the Multiannual Strategic Aquaculture Development Plan, innovation and modernisation are key challenges for the further development of aquaculture.

Specific objective	2 - Enhancement of the competitiveness and viability of aquaculture enterprises, including the improvement of safety and working conditions, in particular of SMEs			
EMFF measure	Output indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	To be included in the

				performance framework
01 - Article 48(1)(a) to (d) and (f) to (h) Productive investments in aquaculture	2.2 - Number of projects for productive investments in aquaculture	9.00	Number	<input type="checkbox"/>

Justification for the combination of the EMFF measures (supported by the *ex ante* evaluation and the SWOT analysis)

The objective is supported by the measure contemplated in Article 48(1)(a) to (d), (f) and (h) and, as shown by the SWOT analysis, the limited production levels both in aggregate and by individual undertaking is one of the sector's weaknesses, resulting largely from the limited space available to set up new farms. Therefore, the specific objective is also supported by the measure contemplated in Article 51 of specific objective 3, which will lead to a potential increase in jobs in the aquaculture sector. The need for the investments to focus on modernisation is one of the Commission's recommendations to Cyprus, with which the operational programme complies. The actions under the measure contemplated in Article 48(1)(a) to (d), (f) and (h) have correctly expanded to include, in addition to conventional investments, increase in production, farming of new products and use of new techniques. There is a pressing need for focusing on diversified production, by either resorting to new species or adopting new promotion and marketing strategies, to significantly strengthen the knowledge-based competitiveness of the sector.

Specific objective	3 - Protection and restoration of marine biodiversity and enhancement of ecosystems related to aquaculture and promotion of resource-efficient aquaculture			
EMFF measure	Output indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	To be included in the performance framework
01 - Article 48(1)(k) Productive investments in aquaculture – Increasing energy efficiency, renewable energy	2.2 - Number of projects for productive investments in aquaculture	3.00	Number	
02 - Article 48(1)(e), (i) and (j) Productive investments in aquaculture – Resource efficiency, reducing usage of water and chemicals, recirculation systems minimising water use	2.2 - Number of projects for productive investments in aquaculture	2.00	Number	
03 - Article 51 Increasing the potential of aquaculture sites	2.4 - Number of projects for increasing potential of aquaculture sites and measures on public and animal health	3.00	Number	✓

Justification for the combination of the EMFF measures (supported by the *ex ante* evaluation and the SWOT analysis)

This objective focuses both on private undertakings by encouraging investment with a specific environmental dimension (measures contemplated in Article 48(1)(e), (i), (j) and (k)) and on a physical plan that, firstly, allows undertakings to function without conflicting with other uses and, secondly, minimises the negative environmental impact of aquaculture (Measure contemplated in Article 51). This specific objective responds to identified needs of the sector concerned. Moreover, the measures contemplated in Article 48(1)(e), (i), (j) and (k) are expected to promote energy efficiency projects which, in conjunction with dealing with the impact of climate change, represent challenges to the strengthening of sustainable undertakings in the aquaculture sector.

Union priority	3 - Fostering the implementation of the CFP
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Specific objective	1 - Improvement and supply of scientific knowledge and collection and management of data			
EMFF measure	Output indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	To be included in the performance framework
01 - Article 77 Data collection	3.2 - Number of projects for supporting the collection, management and use of data	2.00	Number	✓

Justification for the combination of the EMFF measures (supported by the *ex ante* evaluation and the SWOT analysis)

This specific objective is supported by the measure contemplated by Article 77. Despite Cyprus having fulfilled the relevant *ex ante* conditionality, the increased requirements of the new Common Fisheries Policy have made ongoing improvement in this field an immediate priority. The financing of the measure, given the amount of the total budget, is deemed to be satisfactory.

Specific objective	2 - Provision of support for monitoring, control and enforcement, by strengthening the institutional capacity and effectiveness of public administration without increasing the administrative burden			
EMFF measure	Output indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	To be included in the performance framework
01 - Article 76 Control and enforcement	3.1 - Number of projects for implementing the Union's control, inspections and enforcement system	33.00	Number	✓

Justification for the combination of the EMFF measures (supported by the *ex ante* evaluation and the SWOT analysis)

This specific objective is supported by the measure contemplated by Article 76. Despite Cyprus having fulfilled the relevant *ex ante* conditionality, the increased requirements of the new Common Fisheries Policy have made ongoing improvement in this field an immediate priority. The financing of the measure, given the amount of the total budget, is deemed to be satisfactory. It is expected that 33 projects, corresponding to 33 actions, will be implemented under this measure, as detailed in chapter 12.4.

Union priority	4 - Increasing employment and territorial cohesion
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Specific objective	1 - Promotion of economic growth, social inclusion and job creation, and providing support to employability and labour mobility in coastal and inland communities which depend on fishing and aquaculture, including the diversification of activities within fisheries and into other sectors of maritime economy			
EMFF measure	Output indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	To be included in the performance framework
01 - Article 62(1)(a) Preparatory support	4.2 - Number of projects for preparatory support	3.00	Number	
02 - Article 63 Implementation of local development strategies (including running costs and animation)	4.1 - Number of local development strategies selected	3.00	Number	✓
03 - Article 64 Cooperation activities	4.3 - Number of cooperation projects	3.00	Number	

Justification for the combination of the EMFF measures (supported by the *ex ante* evaluation and the SWOT analysis)

The specific objective supported by the above measures is expected to ensure the continuation of the existing FLAG and the creation of 2 new ones.

Union priority	5 - Fostering marketing and processing
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Specific objective	1 - Improvement of market organisation for fishery and aquaculture products			
EMFF measure	Output indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	To be included in the performance framework

02 - Article 67 Storage aid	5.2 - Number of projects for marketing measures and strengthening storage aid	1.00	Number	
03 - Article 68 Marketing measures	5.2 - Number of projects for marketing measures and strengthening storage aid	8.00	Number	✓

Justification for the combination of the EMFF measures (supported by the *ex ante* evaluation and the SWOT analysis)

The producer group, as set up by the common market organisation, is expected to contribute significantly towards a better organisation of the fisheries sector and a more effective promotion of fisheries products.

Adopting new promotion strategies in the aquaculture sector will be greatly assisted by the setup of producer organisations. The operation of the producer organisation may, through centralisation of the production offered, help cut down on costs, as indicated by the SWOT analysis, owing to the distance of Cyprus from the central markets, as well as to the creation of a strong brand name based on the excellent quality of the Cypriot aquaculture production due to the use of the open-sea cage method.

Specific objective	2 - Encouragement of investment in the processing and marketing sectors			
EMFF measure	Output indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	To be included in the performance framework
01 - Article 69 Processing of fisheries and aquaculture products	5.3 - Number of projects for processing	5.00	Number	

Justification for the combination of the EMFF measures (supported by the *ex ante* evaluation and the SWOT analysis)

Achieving the specific objective is expected to contribute significantly towards a better organisation of the processing sector and a more effective promotion of fisheries and aquaculture products. The measure contemplated in Article 69 aims to implement energy savings or environmental impact mitigation actions, as well as to improve health and safety and working conditions.

Union priority	6 - Fostering the implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy
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Specific objective	1 - Development and implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy			
EMFF measure	Output indicator	Target value for 2023	Measurement unit	To be included in the

				performance framework
01 - Article 80(1)(a) Integrated maritime surveillance	6.1 - Number of projects for Integrated Maritime Surveillance	1.00	Number	
02 - Article 80(1)(b) Promotion of the protection of marine environment, and sustainable use of marine and coastal resources	6.2 - Number of projects for the protection and improvement of knowledge on marine environment	3.00	Number	✓
03 - Article 80(1)(c) Improving the knowledge on the state of the marine environment	6.2 - Number of projects for the protection and improvement of knowledge on marine environment	3.00	Number	✓

Justification for the combination of the EMFF measures (supported by the *ex ante* evaluation and the SWOT analysis)

The measure contemplated in Article 80(1)(a) will enable Cyprus to comply with the Commission's requirements on the setup of the CISE, with a view to pursuing cooperation with all the authorities entrusted with maritime control / surveillance powers.

A maritime surveillance subgroup was set up in the context of preparing the IMP national action plan, to look into any synergies / collaborations in respect of the projects to be implemented in the period 2014-2020, including the EMFF, the ISF and transnational cooperation projects. The Department of Fisheries and Marine Research, the Department of Merchant Marine, which is responsible for the vessel traffic information system (VTMIS), the Port and Marine Police, the Rescue Coordination Centre of the Ministry of Defence, the Customs and Excise Department and the port authorities take part in the subgroup.

The measures contemplated in Article 80(1)(b) and (c) will contribute, primarily in conjunction with the measure contemplated in Article 40(1)(b) to (e) and (g), towards protecting and restoring marine biodiversity and ecosystems.

3.4 Description of the programme's complementarity with other ESI Funds

3.4.1 Complementarity and coordination arrangements with other ESI Funds and other relevant Union and national funding instruments

In the context of implementing the operational programme, complementarity is ensured between the measures under the EMFF Union priorities and other measures which are financed by other funds, to prevent overlapping. The central coordination is carried out by the Directorate-General for European Programmes, Coordination and Development (GDEPSA) of Cyprus, which, being the national programming authority, issues appropriate guidelines to ensure that the separation criteria contained in the programmes are observed.

Complementarity between the funds is ensured at both the programming and implementation stages. Complementarity between the funds is ensured during the programming stage by appointing a national programming authority (Directorate-General for European Programmes, Coordination and Development), which is responsible for coordinating the actions necessary for drawing up the Partnership Agreement and submitting it to the Commission. The Department of Agriculture and the

Department of Fisheries and Marine Research of the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment, being the managing authority for the rural development programme and the intermediate body for the 'Thalassa' programme, respectively, are involved in the process of drawing up the Partnership Agreement.

The 'Thalassa' operational programme contributes towards the achievement of 4 of the 11 thematic objectives, namely objectives 3, 4, 6 and 8.

Thematic objective 3 is expected to cover ERDF, EAFRD and EMFF actions, the long-term goal being to support the effort to restructure the Cypriot economy by taking measures relating to a wide range of factors which have an effect on improving the competitiveness of SMEs in Cyprus. More specifically, the actions implemented in the context of the programme and of the EMFF are targeted and consist in fostering the growth of the aquaculture and fisheries sectors and diversifying economic activity in fisheries and aquaculture areas through new forms of income, as well as strengthening undertakings at a local level and attracting quality manpower with a view to ensuring the upgrading and growth of fisheries and aquaculture areas.

Thematic objective 4 is expected to cover Cohesion Fund, ERDF, EAFRD and EMFF actions focusing on the energy sector, with the aim of ensuring the supply of energy and meeting Cyprus' energy needs at the lowest possible cost for the economy and the environment. The need to reduce final energy consumption by SMEs, in the context of the 3rd national energy efficiency action plan, is expected to contribute towards cutting down on Cyprus' energy costs due to its dependence on imported oil products. It will also help cut down on the operating costs of undertakings (by reducing their energy costs), thus making them more competitive. To promote energy efficiency and the use of RES by SMEs, the ERDF will finance investments in SMEs engaging in all economic activity sectors, except for the agricultural sector, which will be covered by the EAFRD. As regards this programme, the actions to be financed through the EMFF will focus on increasing energy savings in the fisheries sector. More specifically, it is expected to promote energy efficiency and RES projects which, in conjunction with dealing with the impact of climate change, represent challenges to the strengthening of sustainable undertakings, primarily in the aquaculture sector. The strong advantages of Cyprus in respect of the potential for RES generation, which represent an important challenge, will help in this direction, as utilising them will contribute towards the achievement of Cyprus' national targets in the context of the 'Europe 2020' strategy, both in terms of increasing the production and consumption of RES energy and reducing greenhouse emissions. In the fisheries sector, the energy efficiency of fishing boats is expected to improve through projects aiming to reduce the emission of pollutants and greenhouse gases and to increase energy efficiency.

In the context of the programme CYPADART – LIFE10 ENV/CY/723 'Development of a national strategy for adaptation to the impacts of climate change in Cyprus', the current and future impacts of climate change on the different economic sectors have been identified, the ones assessed as critical for taking adaptation action have been chosen, and the necessary studies and monitoring systems have been specified. Cyprus will adapt to climate change through combined interventions from the ESI Funds, primarily in relation to the EAFRD and the CF. The EMFF in particular is not expected to contribute directly towards achieving adaptation to climate change. However, relevant actions have been included indirectly in the corresponding Union priorities.

Thematic objective 6 is expected to cover Cohesion Fund, ERDF, EAFRD and EMFF aiming to ensure that Cyprus complies fully with the *acquis communautaire* in respect of the environment, as well as sustainable development actions also contributing to the restructuring of the economy. In respect of this programme, the actions to be financed under the EMFF will focus on protecting the marine environment, marine biodiversity and ecosystems, and protecting and restoring marine biodiversity and ecosystems in the context of sustainable fishing activities. In particular, as regards the actions relating to Natura 2000 areas which fall under the scope of more than one fund, the ERDF

will contribute towards the implementation of actions in Natura areas, including coastal Natura areas, with a view to highlighting the areas and improving the conservation status of ecosystems and species, whereas projects in Natura 2000 marine areas will be implemented by the EMFF. The EAFRD, on the other hand, will implement ecotourism development projects outside Natura 2000 protected areas and will grant financing for income foregone relating to actions which farmers should implement to preserve biodiversity and combat overgrazing. The interventions must comply with the national strategy on biodiversity and be included in the 2014-2020 priority action framework. More specifically and in relation to the priorities set concerning Natura 2000 marine protected areas, coastal-marine habitats and species falling under the priority action framework for Natura 2000 areas, actions will be promoted relating to the preparation of protection and management plans for Natura 2000 areas, the management, strengthening, monitoring and surveillance of marine protected areas, etc.

Actions under thematic objective 8 are expected to be implemented primarily by the EAFRD and the EMFF, as well as by the ESF. The CLLD approach will be used in rural areas and in fisheries and aquaculture areas, under one fund only. The FLAGs which are active in joint intervention areas may apply one common local development strategy for both funds. Where a FLAG decides to include in its strategy actions from both funds, the actions that can be financed from the EAFRD and the ones that can be financed from the EMFF should be specified. Given that the intervention areas of the LAGs under the rural development programme will focus on mountainous and semi-mountainous areas with development problems, whereas the FLAGs under the 'Thalassa' operational programme will focus on coastal areas with significant fishing activity, the intervention areas associated with the two programmes will, to a large extent, be distinct. Where certain areas fall under both programmes, there will be particular cooperation between the competent managing authorities and the special committees to be set up, to ensure complementarity and synergy in the implementation of local development strategies. Moreover, participation of all jointly competent bodies in the OP monitoring committees will further facilitate coordination and strengthen the pursued complementarity of the interventions.

Furthermore, to ensure the required complementarity with the LIFE programme too, there is also involvement and cooperation between the Department of Environment, being the competent authority for the LIFE Programme in Cyprus and a member of the OP monitoring committee, and the national programming authority. This cooperation aims to promote the financing of complementary actions in the context of projects with an integrated approach or actions supporting the use of solutions, methods and approaches developed in the context of the LIFE programme.

3.4.2 Main actions planned to achieve a reduction in administrative burden

Simplifying the administrative procedures for the implementation of the programme and reducing the administrative burden for the beneficiaries relate to actions implemented both during the preparation, submission and selection of co-financed interventions and the relevant implementation stage.

It will be possible to mitigate the administrative burden during preparation and submission of proposals and/or during submission of information for payment of the public contribution for projects following inclusion thereof by considering the possibility of reducing the number of legalising documents to be submitted by the beneficiaries and the number of validations required and/or by enabling the body responsible for the evaluation and inclusion of the project to search for some of the legalising documents (e.g. tax clearance certificate, criminal record information, etc.). To mitigate the burden as per the above, it may be necessary to ensure the interoperability of the systems used by the management bodies with those of other State agencies (e.g. Social Security, VAT, Internal Revenue, Department of Labour, etc.) or to develop other tools and systems.

As far as subsidy schemes are concerned, an effort will be made, where so permitted by the regulations, to revise the provisions of the schemes with a view to allowing for a simplified procedure to be used for granting financing to beneficiaries, by reviewing all the accompanying certificates, documents and attestations attached to a request both for inclusion in the scheme and for collecting payment of the subsidy after the project is included, reviewing the usefulness of each document, allowing for information to be obtained through a simpler procedure without the beneficiary being involved, and making less complex the effort of the beneficiary to submit the document.

There are additional options for mitigating the administrative burden during the project implementation phase too. Streamlining the monitoring and management system, with a view to strengthening the follow-up of the results of co-financed actions, and reducing the project verification and control levels by using a risk assessment system at beneficiary and project levels are actions that can help cut down on administrative costs. During this phase in particular, it is necessary to restructure the procedures and reduce those processes that result on an administrative burden being imposed on the beneficiaries, to strengthen the options for electronic project monitoring by the management bodies, to simplify the submission of progress and monitoring information, and, at the same time, simplify the MIS to make it easier to use. A measure which will also help mitigate the administrative burden consists in better evaluating physical object verifications by the use of a sampling method, as well as of sampling risk assessment tools, in conjunction with better organisation and coordination of all system audit bodies, to make them more effective and more efficient.

To support the beneficiaries, the managing authority and the intermediate bodies will develop and issue guidelines focusing on the effort made to mitigate the administrative burden imposed on beneficiaries during preparation of the projects submitted for approval and on the provision of support in respect of monitoring the interventions and submitting the necessary monitoring reports. Such guidelines may be issued throughout the programming period, depending on the progress made in issuing the calls under the programmes and the relevant adjustments, to be used in connection with the monitoring and management system. Further simplification will be pursued with a view to mitigating the administrative burden imposed on beneficiaries in the context of the management information system, by reducing the number of, or simplifying, primarily the project monitoring reports required for public procurement projects. Removing some of the verification levels will also help reduce the information submission requirements at the intermediate control levels, as well as the need to create parallel files at the intermediate bodies.

The above will be implemented in September 2015, after the first version of the MIS 2014-2020 is issued. Moreover, as regards the procedures for verifying public procurement information, actions are being promoted by the competent public procurement authority for certifying the awarding authorities in respect of the procurement management capacity, intensifying the training provided to the bodies involved in the implementation of co-financed projects in respect of public procurement implementation issues, and putting trust in self-controls instead of the external certification of procedures.

3.5 Information on the macro-regional or sea-basin strategies (where relevant)

In addition to being an EU Member State, Cyprus is one of the parties to the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea, along with other Mediterranean Member States and non-Member States. The overall activity of the Convention is governed, *inter alia*, by the Ecological Approach (EcAp) principle, including joint determination of the good environmental status (GES) and of the relevant ecological targets at a Mediterranean level, as well as programmes for monitoring the marine environment through regional cooperation.

In essence, the Barcelona Convention is, thanks to the EcAp, largely in harmony with the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (Directive 2008/56/EC) which, in turn, promotes and strengthens the Convention and the cooperation between the eight EU Member States and the other 14 Mediterranean coastal States. In this context, a number of the actions to be promoted under the OP will also help achieve the MSFD and EcAP targets. Such actions include, for example, deep ecosystem research, mapping of the priority habitat ‘Posidonia oceanica meadows’ and monitoring alien species, logging and evaluating cetacean populations, studying food webs, programmes for monitoring the marine waters of Cyprus, etc.

In addition to the above, any actions that are expected to be promoted under the OP will take into account the European strategy for more growth and jobs in coastal and maritime tourism (COM(2014)86).

4 REQUIREMENTS CONCERNING SPECIFIC EMFF MEASURES

4.1 Description of the specific needs of Natura 2000 areas and the contribution of the programme to the establishment of a coherent network of fish stock recovery areas as laid out in Article 8 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013

The SWOT analysis demonstrated that the effective management of Natura 2000 marine areas and other marine protected areas (MPAs) in Cyprus poses a significant challenge. The key weaknesses include inadequate surveillance of the implementation of administrative measures, those relating to fisheries in particular, general negative attitudes and the resulting difficulties in terms of cooperation with local communities in conjunction with inadequate information provided to the parties directly involved and the local community. Moreover, the broader culture that prevails due to the relatively limited information and awareness among the Cypriot people makes it even harder to protect and preserve the marine protected areas and biodiversity. Furthermore, the SWOT analysis demonstrated the vital importance of the need to strengthen scientific knowledge and fill the gaps concerning marine environment issues, as regards the open and deep sea in particular, as well as specific descriptive characteristics set out in the MSFD for achieving the GES. In addition to that, acquiring such scientific knowledge is also necessary for protecting and preserving significant species and habitats by establishing MPAs in the open sea, as required both by international and regional conventions and by the EU. In particular, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) aims to protect and conserve 10% of the coastal and marine areas by 2020 through a comprehensive and effectively-managed network of MPAs (Aichi Biodiversity Target 11). Along the same lines, the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity of the Barcelona Convention focuses on the protection of endangered species in the Mediterranean Sea by the establishment of MPAs.

In addition to the above, the Habitats Directive focuses on the protection of species and habitats by establishing, *inter alia*, a coherent network of Natura 2000 marine areas, and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (Directive 2008/56/EC) calls for specific protective measures aiming to establish coherent and representative networks of MPAs, even outside the Natura 2000 network. Efforts have been made in this direction for recognising ecologically or biologically significant sea areas (EBSAs) in the Mediterranean, which demonstrated a considerable lack of knowledge and available scientific data concerning the deep and open sea in particular. In this context and taking into account the relevant correspondence from the Commission's DG Environment regarding the possible presence of species and habitats, as referred to in Directive 92/43/EEC, in the Eratosthenes Seamount area, the Republic of Cyprus deemed it appropriate to study deep ecosystems in order to obtain the knowledge required to contribute to, and serve as a basis for, the sustainable conservation and management of the marine environment.

A detailed description of the interventions expected to be financed under Union priorities 1 and 6 is provided in attachment 10. Most of those interventions are in perfect harmony with the priorities set under the priority action framework (PAF) regarding the marine environment and the Natura 2000 MPAs (see section G.1.c of the PAF).

4.2 Description of the action plan for the development, competitiveness and sustainability of small-scale coastal fishing

This action plan is not necessary for Cyprus as there are no more than 1 000 small-scale coastal fishing boats.

4.3 Description of the method for the calculation of simplified costs in accordance with Article 67(1)(b) to (d) of the CPR

Simplified costs are not expected to be used under this OP.

4.4 Description of the method for the calculation of additional costs or income foregone in accordance with Article 97

The measures included in Articles 53 and 54 of the EMFF are not expected to be implemented under this OP.

4.5 Description of the method for the calculation of compensation according to relevant criteria identified for each of the activities deployed under Articles 38(1), 53, 54, 55 and 70

To apply Article 40(1)(a), fishing boats will be allowed to take part in a clean-up campaign instead of engaging in fishing activities. Initially, a study will be conducted, using the public procurement procedure, to determine the implementation areas and then, using the same procedure, the task of collecting waste in the selected areas will be awarded to certain bodies. The clean-up will be carried out in cooperation with fishermen, to whom a boat rental fee will be paid (master's remuneration, boat expenses, daily income foregone, etc.) by the contractor concerned each time.

Actions will be implemented under Article 40(1)(b) to (e) and (g) for combating the species silver-cheeked toadfish (*Lagocephalus sceleratus*) in the coastal areas of Cyprus, to protect biodiversity. The compensation calculation method will be the same as that used for the respective scheme under the operational programme 'Fisheries' 2007-2013. The fishing gear that comes in contact with the silver-cheeked toadfish (static fishing nets, longlines, handlines) suffers significant damage, estimated at EUR 15.00 per fishing trip. When bait is used, an estimated EUR 5.00 is spent on purchasing them. An estimated one hour is spent by fishermen on the overall process, possibly including fishing gear preparation and repair, which corresponds to an estimated cost of EUR 10.00 on the basis of the average income of fishermen. In view of the above and given that the average total weight of silver-cheeked toadfish was 15 kg for each fishing campaign, the fishing cost for 1 kg of silver-cheeked toadfish stands at EUR 2.00. Moreover, also taking into account the refrigeration cost (EUR 0.3/kg), the cost of transportation for destruction (EUR 0.4/kg) and the destruction cost (EUR 0.3/kg), the total costs for the destruction of 1 kg of silver-cheeked toadfish stand at EUR 3.00/kg.

As regards applying Article 40(1)(h), the compensation for the loss of / damage to catches caused by protected mammals will be calculated also taking into account the damages to catches and average annual value of each fisherman's production. According to a survey carried out by Rocklin et al. 2009 in the Mediterranean coast of France, which covered 614 fishing trips, the damages to coastal catches caused by the common bottlenose dolphin represented 8.3% of the total catch in weight. Although this ratio does not apply necessarily to all parts of the Mediterranean Sea, it provides a fair indication of how extensive the damages to this type of fishing activity can be. The average value of production per fisherman in Cyprus stands at EUR 11 471.00 per year (2012). If we acknowledge that the damages to catches are evenly distributed between all types of fisheries, we may apply the 8.3% ratio to the value of production. Therefore, given the total number of fishermen (494 in 2012), the average loss per fisherman in Cyprus is calculated at EUR 952 per year. Unfortunately, there are no similar surveys for our area and, therefore, we cannot be certain of the accuracy of the above results. Carrying out such a survey would entail increased costs, administrative burden and time and, therefore, it is not deemed to be cost-effective. Therefore, it was decided that the amount to be paid to each fisherman should be lower than that calculated as per the above and should stand at EUR 600.00 per fisherman per year and be granted approximately to 300 fishermen. This measure will be implemented throughout the programming period 2014-2020.

Articles 53, 54 and 55 are not expected to be applied under this OP.

4.6 As regards the measures for the permanent cessation of fishing activities under Article 33, such description shall include the targets and measures to be taken for the reduction of the fishing capacity in accordance with Article 22 of the CPR. A description of the method for the calculation of the premium to be granted under Articles 33 and 34 shall also be included.

An analysis and evaluation of the fishing capacity of parts of the Cypriot fleet in relation to fishing opportunities for 2013, based on the new common guidelines prepared by the Commission (see COM (2014) 545 final), the coastal small-scale fleet is not in balance with the fishing opportunities available to that fleet. The lack of balance is due to biological, economic and technical reasons. Therefore, an action plan has been prepared for the coastal small-scale fleet, aiming to ensure that the fleet is in balance by 2020.

The key tool for ensuring balance under the action plan is the permanent cessation of fishing activities by withdrawing the fishing boats included in that fleet. Please note that the implementation of the permanent cessation of fishing activities started in the previous programming period 2007-2013, in which 107 boats were withdrawn, and is expected to be completed in the new programming period by withdrawing another 55 boats. In total, the coastal fishing fleet is expected to be reduced by approximately 30% upon completion of the measure of permanent cessation, as regards full-time coastal fishing activity.

Moreover, plans have been made for amending the national legislation on fisheries management. Under the proposed amendment, the maximum number of coastal small-scale fishing authorisations has been reduced to such a level that corresponds to the number of authorisations already withdrawn under the previous withdrawal schemes, and provision has also been made to the effect that, where coastal fishing authorisations are withdrawn for small boats under further withdrawal schemes, a *pro rata* number of authorisations will also be withdrawn from the total maximum number of authorisations. The legislation also empowers the Director of the Department of Fisheries and Marine Research to restrict, by decision published in the Cyprus Government Gazette, the quantity, size and type of fishing gear used by each category of boat authorisation holder. This provision enables the Department of Fisheries and Marine Research to directly impose further restrictions, as appropriate for achieving the administrative targets set.

Following is the timeframe for the implementation of the action plan:

- completion of the implementation of the permanent cessation of fishing activities by withdrawing 55 coastal small-scale fishing boats by the end of 2017;
- annual assessment of the fishing capacity of the coastal fishing fleet on the basis of the common guidelines;
- upon completion of the withdrawal and on the basis of the annual assessments, implementation of any further administrative measures to achieve the fleet balance target by 2020;
- the implementation of management plans for the marine protected areas during the programming period will contribute, through the anticipated improvement and protection of biodiversity and of fishing stocks, towards the sustainability of the fleet.

As referred to above, in the context of the permanent cessation of fishing activities, it is expected to withdraw 55 coastal small-scale fishing boats (A or B category authorisations) by the end of 2017. The boats included in that fleet have an approximate average capacity of 3.2 GT and 46 kW (information obtained from the Department of Fisheries and Marine Research in 2011). Please note that all authorised boats are deemed to be active for the purposes of the scheme.

The projects will be selected on the basis of a comparative evaluation of the applications filed, against specific criteria. The criteria are subject to approval by the programme monitoring committee, and any further details specified while drawing up the scheme will be notified to the monitoring committee.

The amount of financing granted for withdrawing fishing boats will be set in accordance with the length of each boat, as shown in the fishing fleet register, the reference date being 31 December 2014. The initial compensation amount for boats with a length of up to four (4) metres is EUR 25 000.00. Then, any boats with a length of more four (4) metres will receive an additional amount of EUR 50.00 for each centimetre in excess of four (4) metres.

Vessel length - Compensation amount

- Length up to 4.0 metres : EUR 25 000
- Length from 4.1 metres to 12.00 metres: EUR 25 000 + EUR 50 for each centimetre
- The minimum and maximum compensation amounts stand at EUR 25 000 and EUR 65 000, respectively

E.g. boat with a length of 4.6 metres = EUR 25 000 + EUR 50 60 = EUR 28 000*

boat with a length of 10 metres = EUR 25 000 + EUR 50 600 = EUR 55 000*

The above method was based on the following:

- It was decided to set an initial compensation amount, as each boat, irrespective of tonnage and power, carries out a minimum fishing activity, the fishing areas are coastal and the distances are limited, thus the tonnage not being a crucial factor for the usual amounts of fishing gear used.
- In addition to the minimum fishing capacity of a boat, the fishing capacity is deemed to increase for longer boats, as longer boats are able to use larger (within permitted limits) fishing gear and, therefore, capable of carrying out fishing activity in additional areas. This was the basis for the decision made to grant a specific amount for each length unit (cm) in excess of 4 metres.
- In setting said amount, account was taken of the insurable value of the boats, the value of fisheries, the level of profit and other aid possibly granted to fishermen.
- On the basis of the experience gained from the previous withdrawal scheme for the period 2007-2013, it was decided to increase the amount of financing compared to the previous scheme, in order to have interest expressed in withdrawal by the fishermen carrying out most of the fishing activity in respect of this type of fleet.
- Consultation was carried out with coastal fishermen before a decision was made on the financing method.
- The initial compensation amount was set at EUR 25 000.00, which corresponds to the average of the 5 highest insurable values of the boats withdrawn under the previous withdrawal scheme in the programming period 2007-2013.

4.7 Mutual funds for adverse climatic events and environmental incidents

The measures included in Article 35 are not expected to be implemented under this OP.

4.8 Description of the use of technical assistance

4.8.1 Technical assistance at the initiative of the Member States

The technical assistance measure aims to ensure the maximum possible level of implementation of the measures under the OP and the effective uptake of the Community and national contribution for the programming period 2014-2020 by granting financing for preparation, monitoring, administrative and technical support, evaluation, fiscal audit and control actions.

Under technical assistance, it is expected that all such actions will be implemented as required for the appropriate and effective preparation of the programme, as well as for monitoring, implementation and necessary controls (audits and on-the-spot controls) during delivery of the programme, including the salaries paid to the staff engaged in the above activities and the training provided to them in that respect.

Actions will also be promoted relating to the provision of services by experts / consultants, which may include the elaboration and conduct of studies aiming to assist with the implementation of other measures under the programme, as well as the provision of advisory services for the monitoring, implementation and control of the programme.

Moreover, actions will be promoted relating to the publicity and communication of the programme both to would-be beneficiaries and the general public, such as publications and reports on the programme, organisation of daily information workshops and other information activities, media actions, etc.

4.8.2 Establishment of national networks

Under the technical assistance, it is possible to grant, as appropriate, financing for establishing a national network aiming at disseminating information, capacity building, exchanging best practices and supporting cooperation between the FLAGs.

The establishment of a national network will depend on the number of FLAGs expected to be set up in the period 2014-2020 under Union priority 4.

Consideration will also be given to the possibility of cooperating with the national agricultural network and setting up an integrated network, given that the FLAGs are also active as LAGs under the rural development programme, and to the possibility of setting up a common strategy for both the EMFF and the EAFRD.

The operation of the network of FLAGs is expected to start later on, within one year of approval of the local development strategies.

5. SPECIFIC INFORMATION ON INTEGRATED TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT

5.1 Information on the implementation of Community-led local development (CLLD)

5.1.1 Description of the CLLD strategy

Using the ‘Community-led local development’ (CLLD) approach is expected to contribute towards the implementation of the ‘Europe 2020 - Strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth’ and of the Common Fisheries Policy. More specifically, sustainable development in the fisheries and aquaculture areas is expected to contribute towards the achievement of Union priority 4 ‘Increasing employment and territorial cohesion’ under the EMFF and of thematic objective 8 ‘Promoting employment and supporting labour mobility’ under the CSF.

The most important challenges faced under the CLLD approach relate mainly to the new Common Fisheries Policy and the utilisation of the aid options offered under the EMFF in various Cypriot areas with intense fisheries and aquaculture activity. As regards fisheries and aquaculture areas, the key challenges include creating new forms of income and new jobs and utilising the comparative advantages of the areas concerned with a view to improving their attractiveness as tourist destinations, utilising the advantages with a view to developing sustainable aquaculture and protecting the marine environment and biodiversity in those areas. As further details are specified concerning the local strategies for each implementation area, this will possibly stress the specific needs of each one of them in terms of taking measures to adapt to climate change and prevent its impact, as well as promote the use of renewable energy sources (solar energy in particular) and improve energy efficiency in those areas.

Sustainable development in fisheries and aquaculture areas requires using a spatial approach for determining the possibilities and limitations relating to such development. This will help determine the targets and then the measures and actions to be included in the local development strategies of the fisheries local action groups (FLAGs). The implementation of integrated local development strategies and the setup of FLAGs, based in particular on the experience gained from the implementation of priority axis 4 under the operational programme ‘Fisheries’ 2007-2013, will boost economic growth in fisheries and aquaculture areas and place specific emphasis on economic restructuring, creation of employment opportunities, cooperation and innovation.

Four (4) measures will be implemented under the CLLD approach under the EMFF, relating to the following:

- (a) preparatory support costs;
- (b) implementation of projects under the community-led local development strategy;
- (c) preparation and implementation of the local action group’s cooperation activities;
- (d) running costs and coordination of the local development strategy.

The CLLD approach will be used in rural areas and in fisheries and aquaculture areas in Cyprus, with financing from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF), respectively. Therefore, the FLAGs will be able to implement local development strategies with financing from the EAFRD and the EMFF. Therefore, a more comprehensive approach is expected to be used in areas in which the agricultural and fisheries sectors coexist and play a significant role in the lives of local people.

Where a FLAG decides to include in its strategy actions from both funds, the actions that can be financed from the EAFRD and the ones that can be financed from the EMFF should be specified.

The FLAGs may, in the context of the CLLD approach, obtain preparatory support for actions relating mainly to the development and processing of their strategy. More specifically, the

preparatory support costs may be used to cover the costs incurred for studies relating to the area concerned, the costs relating to processing the local development strategy, including those incurred for hiring consultants, as well as the costs incurred for consultations with the stakeholders in view of preparing the strategy and administrative costs, i.e. running costs and staff costs. Said preparatory support will be eligible regardless of whether the local development strategy planned is finally selected for financing.

Given the need to speed up the process for approving the FLAGs, with a view to starting the implementation of strategies as soon as possible, the preparatory support may be financed in the context of the programming period 2007-2013, under the technical support measure of the rural development programme, as the FLAG has included actions under both funds in the strategy.

5.1.2 A list of criteria applied for selecting the fisheries areas

‘Fisheries and aquaculture areas’ means the coastal municipalities and communities in the Republic of Cyprus in which a significant part of the population engages in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors or there is a substantial amount of fisheries and aquaculture products produced, as well as the communities of Troodos in which there are aquaculture farms (trout farms).

‘Fishing activity’ means the sector of the economy, including all activities of production, processing and marketing of fisheries and aquaculture products.

The same method will be used in selecting the fisheries and aquaculture areas for the period 2014-2020 as that used for priority axis 4 under the operational programme ‘Fisheries’ 2007-2013. More specifically, in the programming period 2007-2013, a study was prepared on how to implement priority axis 4 in Cyprus and an analysis was carried out in the context of said study of the current state of play in the fisheries sector, to identify specific areas to obtain support under priority axis 4. The study was based on material and information obtained from the following sources: questionnaires, public consultation with the stakeholders, and material provided by State agencies. A preliminary selection was made in the context of the study of areas with intense fisheries and aquaculture activity. The map attached as attachment 6.4 shows the proposed areas of intervention.

In addition to the above, however, the monitoring committee will be able to revise the fisheries and aquaculture areas in the event that additional areas meet the criteria and there is interest expressed in those areas for submitting proposals relating to the local development targets, i.e. areas with fisheries activity, and addressed to persons who are associated with the fisheries sector.

The area of intervention selected by a FLAG should be sufficiently coherent from a geographical, economic and social point of view. The following more specific criteria will apply:

1. The geographical area of action of the group must be clearly cited. The area need not be defined on the basis of its geographical boundaries.
2. Each area (community / municipality) must belong to one FLAG only (FLAGs with areas overlapping with other groups do not meet this criterion). At least 3 communities / municipalities must take part in the FLAG.
3. The area covered by the FLAG must be coherent and have adequate critical mass in matters of human resources, as well as financial resources, to support a sustainable development strategy.
4. The area’s definition must include its population, as well as documentation of the existence of adequate financial and human resources. The area should have a population of 10 000 people minimum to 150 000 people maximum.
5. A key prerequisite for selecting the areas is that they must be coastal areas, except for the

communities in the Troodos area where aquaculture operations are carried out.

6. A relatively large number of persons engaging in the fisheries sector must be established and/or employed in the area of intervention, fishing or aquaculture must represent a relatively significant activity in the area, and a relatively large amount of fisheries products must be landed / produced in the area.

5.1.3 A list of selection criteria for local development strategies

The FLAGs must plan and implement an integrated local development strategy which must relate to one or more specific areas, must be marked with multisectoral planning, must take into account the interaction between the bodies and projects in various local economic sectors and must use a bottom-up approach with partner participation in decision-making both at planning and implementation levels. The strategy must also include innovative elements at local level, networking and, as appropriate, cooperation with other FLAGs.

Moreover, each FLAG must constitute a partnership and consist of representatives of public and private local social and economic bodies, including associations of professional fishermen, aquaculture operators or other bodies related to the fisheries sector, to ensure that the interests of the fisheries sector in the area of intervention are sufficiently represented. At a decision-making level, the public authorities or a certain integrated group of common interest must not represent more than 49% of the voting rights.

The FLAG must also choose a partner from within the group to serve as leader in respect of administrative and financial matters. Finally, the FLAG must have legal status. It must have the legal form of a limited liability company with guarantee without a share capital or a limited liability company with shares, the members of which should be various social and economic bodies (public and private ones) in the area concerned.

To select and evaluate the strategy, a public call for proposals will be prepared in such a manner as to ensure the following:

- complete transparency in the selection process;
- adequate information to the public and candidates;
- fair competition between candidates.

The call for proposals should aim to select: (a) the fisheries and aquaculture areas to obtain aid, (b) the local programme to be implemented in these areas, and (c) the FLAG to plan and implement the local programme in the relevant areas.

The initial round of selection of all local development strategies will be completed within two years of the date of approval of the Partnership Agreement at the latest. Additional strategies may also be selected even after that date, but no later than 31 December 2017.

A key factor for the success of the local programme consists in preparing a local development strategy that meets the required quality standards. The procedure for selecting the local development strategies will be based on specific criteria relating to (a) the eligibility of the area of intervention, (b) the quality of the strategy, and (c) the quality of the partnership. Following is an indicative list of the selection criteria to be used:

A. Criteria relating to the area of intervention

1. total population and population engaged in the fisheries sector;
2. communities in which fisheries or aquaculture activity is carried out or in which a significant amount of fisheries or aquaculture products are produced;
3. homogeneity and coherence in the area of intervention;
4. prospects for complementary development of ties between local economic sectors;
5. prospects for developing complementarity between the programmes and policies implemented in the area concerned and in the broader region;
6. substantiated reasons presented for selecting the area of intervention concerned;
7. prospects for mobilising private funds from interested parties in the area.

B. Criteria relating to the local development strategy

1. analysis of the existing situation, using reliable and specific data and indicators;
2. development of a SWOT analysis that is inseparably linked to the area of intervention concerned;
3. clear definition of targets, quantification thereof and of the results expected after the implementation of the programme;
4. quality of the strategy for the achievement of the targets and correlation with the actions proposed;
5. consistency and coherence of the local programme with the EMFF, the Common Fisheries Policy and the 2014-2020 'Thalassa' operational programme;
6. ways and methods used to comply with the broader national and Community policies on the environment, gender equality and non-discrimination;
7. level of assurance of the economic viability of the local programme and of the sustainability of resources;
8. level of utilisation of local natural and human resources relating to the actions proposed;
9. complementarity to, relevance and correlation with, other programmes and policies implemented in the area of intervention (structural and investment funds, rural development programme);
10. realistic overall costs in relation to the ability to implement the programme in the area concerned (level of mobilisation of private funds, balanced and substantiated allocation of resources to the corresponding actions);
11. innovative actions in the area of intervention.

C. Criteria relating to the partnership and the organisational structure of the FLAG:

1. number and type of partners;
2. level of mobilisation of local bodies with a view to strengthening the partnership;
3. partner participation in formulating the targets of the local programme;
4. level of representation of the local population through (professional, social, etc.) associations in the partnership;
5. determination of the decision-making level and of the range of representation of private associations therein;

6. method used to ensure transparency, sound administration and autonomy at a decision-making level;
7. method used to achieve the development targets adopted by the partnership;
8. information and awareness methods, as well as an information programme for the population, as adopted by the partnership.

Following are the criteria relating to the organisational structure of the FLAG:

1. potential previous experience in the implementation of programmes;
2. quality and stability in terms of the internal staff structure of the FLAG, concerning the contents and needs of the programme proposed for implementation;
3. relationship between the operational scheme of the FLAG and the decision-making level;
4. readiness for implementing the programme (readiness of the scheme, level of preparation for implementation);
5. project assessment and selection procedure.

Cooperation projects: The cooperation projects will be selected by the FLAGs.

5.1.4 A clear description of the respective roles of the FLAGs, the managing authority or designated body for all implementation tasks relating to the strategy

To implement the actions of the FLAGs, the existing administrative structures and procedures will be used, i.e. the ones already used as a basis for implementing priority axis 4 under the operational programme 'Fisheries' in the programming period 2007-2013. The FLAG, in cooperation with the managing authority / intermediate body, will be responsible for implementing the projects during the submission, evaluation, inclusion and monitoring thereof, always within the bounds of the local development strategy.

1. The FLAG will prepare and submit the plan / call to the managing authority / intermediate body for approval, and the latter will approve or reject it depending on whether it complies with the local development strategy used, also assessing the effectiveness and reliability of the implementation mechanisms proposed.
2. The call will be issued by the FLAG, to ensure that sufficient information is provided to the public and would-be beneficiaries about their being able to submit proposals and about the procedures to be used for selecting the beneficiaries, implementing the project and paying the public aid. More specifically, the procedures will be set out in circulars to be issued by the managing authority, to ensure full transparency, equal terms and fair competition.
3. The FLAG will be responsible for collecting the proposals from the beneficiaries, evaluating them and verifying their completeness. Should there be any incomplete proposals, the FLAG will request additional information to be submitted within a specific period of time. Following the above process, the FLAG will forward the proposals to the managing authority / intermediate body for final approval.
4. The FLAG will, upon completion of the project by the beneficiaries, carry out an initial certification of the works and submit its findings to the managing authority / intermediate body for verification, i.e. for the latter to carry out sample checks to verify the validity of the information submitted to them.
5. The payment requests submitted by the beneficiaries will also be collected by the FLAG, which will carry out an initial verification of the supporting documents and submit them to the managing authority / intermediate body for a complete verification to be carried out, the latter being under obligation to pay the financing to the beneficiaries and notify the FLAG.
6. The FLAG will have to keep an organised archive of the documents that are relevant to every action associated with its internal operation and the communication and control of approved

proposals.

7. The monitoring and control reports on projects will, in accordance with the guidelines provided by the managing authority / intermediate body, be drawn up by the FLAG at regular intervals. These reports must include all the information required to ascertain that the projects have functioned properly, as well as forecasts on their future actions.

5.1.5 Information on advance payments to FLAGs

There is provision made for making advance payments to FLAGs. The amount of the advances shall not exceed 50% of the public support related to the running costs and organisation.

5.2 Specific information on integrated territorial development

	EMFF measures covered
	Article 38 Limitation of the impact of fishing on the marine environment and adaptation of fishing to the protection of species (+ Article 44(1)(c) Inland fishing)
	Article 40(1)(a) Protection and restoration of marine biodiversity - collection of lost fishing gear and marine litter
	Article 43(2) Fishing ports, landing sites, auction halls and shelters - investments to facilitate compliance with the obligation to land all catches
	Article 47 Innovation
	Article 49 Management, relief and advisory services for aquaculture farms
	Article 77 Data collection
	Article 62(1)(a) Preparatory support
	Article 63 Implementation of local development strategies (including running costs and animation)
	Article 64 Cooperation activities
	Article 67 Storage aid
	Article 68 Marketing measures
	Article 80(1)(a) Integrated maritime surveillance
	Article 80(1)(b) Promotion of the protection of marine environment, and sustainable use of marine and coastal resources
	Article 80(1)(c) Improving the knowledge on the state of the marine environment
	Article 40(1)(b) to (g) and (i) Protection and restoration of marine biodiversity - contribution to a better management or conservation, construction, installation or modernisation of static or movable facilities, preparation of protection and management plans related to Natura 2000 sites and spatial protected areas, management, restoration and monitoring of marine protected areas, including Natura 2000 sites, environmental awareness, participation in other actions aimed at maintaining and enhancing biodiversity and ecosystem services (+ Article 44(6) Inland fishing)
	Article 48(1)(a) to (d) and (f) to (h) Productive investments in aquaculture
	Article 76 Control and enforcement
	Article 69 Processing of fisheries and aquaculture products
	Article 34 Permanent cessation of fishing activities
	Article 48(1)(k) Productive investments in aquaculture - Increasing energy efficiency, renewable energy

	Article 48(1)(e), (i) and (j) Productive investments in aquaculture - Resource efficiency, reducing usage of water and chemicals, recirculation systems minimising water use
	Article 51 Increasing the potential of aquaculture sites
	Article 30 Diversification and new forms of income (+ Article 44(4) Inland fishing)
	Article 32 Health and safety (+ Article 44(1)(b) Inland fishing)
	Article 40(1)(h) Protection and restoration of marine biodiversity - schemes for the compensation of damage to catches caused by mammals and birds
	Article 43(1) and (3) Fishing ports, landing sites, auction halls and shelters – Investments improving the infrastructure of fishing ports, auctions halls, landing sites and shelters; construction of shelters in order to improve the safety of fishermen (+ Article 44(1)(f) Inland fishing)
	Article 28 Partnerships between scientists and fishermen (+ Article 44(3) Inland fishing)
	Article 41(1)(a), (b) and (c) Energy efficiency and mitigation of climate change – Investments on board; energy efficiency audits and schemes; studies to assess the contribution of alternative propulsion systems and hull designs (+ Article 44(1)(d) Inland fishing)
	Article 41(2) Energy efficiency and mitigation of climate change – Replacement or modernisation of main or ancillary engines (+ Article 44(1)(d) Inland fishing)

Indicative financial aid from the EMFF (in EUR)

6. FULFILMENT OF *EX ANTE* CONDITIONALITIES

6.1 Identification of applicable *ex ante* conditionalities and assessment of their fulfilment

6.1.1 Applicable EMFF specific *ex ante* conditionalities

<i>Ex ante</i> conditionality	Union priorities subject to conditionalities	Fulfilled
1 - Report on fishing capacity has been submitted in accordance with Article 22(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013	1	Partial
2 - The establishment of a multiannual national strategic plan on aquaculture by 2014, as referred to in Article 34 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013	2	Yes
3 - Administrative capacity: Administrative capacity is available to comply with the data requirements for fisheries management set out in Article 25 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 and Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 199/2008	3	Yes
4 - Administrative capacity: Administrative capacity is available to comply with the implementation of a Union control, inspection and enforcement system as provided for in Article 36 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 and further specified in Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009	3	Yes

6.1.2 Criteria and evaluation of fulfilment thereof

<i>Ex ante</i> conditionality	Criterion	Fulfilled	Benchmark	Explanation
1 - Report on fishing capacity has been submitted in accordance with Article 22(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013	1 - The report is made in accordance with common guidelines issued by the Commission	No	<u>References 1.1:</u> The time limit for submitting the 2013 report was set at 30 September 2014 (Ares(2014) 141 1406-02/05/2014). The guidelines from the Commission are set out in document COM(2014) 545 final - 2/9/2014	<u>Criterion 1.1:</u> The report was prepared in accordance with the common guidelines from the Commission and was submitted within the time limit. In accordance with the guidelines from the Commission, the action plan for Cyprus has been prepared to meet the <i>ex ante</i> conditionality for the report on balance (attachment 11).

<p>1 - Report on fishing capacity has been submitted in accordance with Article 22(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013</p>	<p>2 - Fishing capacity does not exceed the fishing capacity ceiling set up in Annex II to Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p><u>References 1.2:</u> The graph showing the ceilings and development of the fishing capacity of the Cypriot fishing fleet is provided by the Commission and is available at http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/fleet/index.cfm?method=RES1.Stat&country=CYP&graph_type=line</p> <p>The graph is attached, as Annex I, to the Cyprus fishing capacity report submitted on 30 September 2014.</p>	<p><u>Criterion 1.2:</u> Fishing capacity does not exceed the fishing capacity ceiling set up in Annex II to Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013</p>
<p>2 - The establishment of a multiannual national strategic plan on aquaculture by 2014, as referred to in Article 34 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013</p>	<p>1 - A multiannual national strategic aquaculture plan is transmitted to the Commission at the latest by the day of transmission of the operational programme</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p><u>References 2.1:</u> Decision of the Council of Ministers of 23 July 2014. Letter of 13 August 2014 from the Department of Fisheries and Marine Research to the Commission.</p> <p>The Multiannual National Strategic Aquaculture Plan 2014-2020 is attached hereto as attachment 7.</p>	<p><u>Criterion 2.1:</u> The multiannual national strategic plan on aquaculture was prepared by the Department of Fisheries and Marine Research, and then the Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment was prepared by independent experts. Upon issuance of an opinion on the Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment by the Department of Environment, it was submitted to and approved by the Council of Ministers. It was submitted to the</p>

				Commission by a letter of 13 August 2014.
2 - The establishment of a multiannual national strategic plan on aquaculture by 2014, as referred to in Article 34 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013	2 - The operational programme includes information on the complementarities with the multiannual national strategic plan on aquaculture	Yes	<p><u>References 2.2:</u> Decision of the Council of Ministers of 23 July 2014. Letter of 13 August 2014 from the Department of Fisheries and Marine Research to the Commission.</p> <p>The Multiannual National Strategic Aquaculture Plan 2014-2020 is attached hereto as attachment 7.</p>	<u>Criterion 2.2:</u> The strategy was based on the Multi-annual National Strategic Aquaculture Plan 2014-2020 in order to ensure the cohesion and consistency of the operational programme and of the proposed intervention measures with the long-term strategic goals, as set out in the multi-annual plan concerned.
3 - Administrative capacity: Administrative capacity is available to comply with the data requirements for fisheries management set out in Article 25 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 and Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 199/2008	1 - A description of the administrative capacity to prepare and apply a multiannual programme for data collection, to be reviewed by STECF and accepted by the Commission	Yes	<p><u>References 3.1:</u> Commission Decision No E(2009)6812 of 14 September 2009. Commission Decision No E(2011)1088 of 23 February 2011. Commission Decision No E(2013)5568 of 30 August 2013.</p>	<u>Criterion 3.1:</u> The Department of Fisheries and Marine Research is the sole beneficiary concerning the implementation of the national programme. The national correspondent comes from the Department of Fisheries and Marine Research and is directly involved in the preparation and implementation of the national programme. The Department of Fisheries and Marine Research is responsible for the overall preparation and submission of the national programme, as drawn up on the basis of the

				<p>guidelines from the Commission and the recommendations from STECF. In preparing the programme, specific individuals will be appointed for the preparation of the individual sections, as well as for coordinating the preparation and controlling the final form of the proposal on the national programme. The administrative capacity of the Department of Fisheries and Marine Research is proved by the fact that the national data collection programmes for the years 2009-2010 and 2011-2013 were submitted within 1 month of the legal time limit, were evaluated by STECF and approved by the Commission. On the basis of a Commission decision, the national programme of Cyprus for the period 2011-2013 was extended to include also the period 2014-2016.</p>
<p>3 - Administrative capacity: Administrative capacity is available to comply with the data requirements for fisheries management</p>	<p>2 - A description of the administrative capacity to prepare and implement work plans for data collection, to be reviewed by STECF</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p><u>References 3.2:</u> A. 2009 Ετ.Ε: Αres(2011) 985649 – 16.09.2011, 2010 Ετ.Ε: Αres(2012) 438492-</p>	<p><u>Criterion 3.2:</u> The Department of Fisheries and Marine Research will undertake the overall preparation and</p>

<p>set out in Article 25 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 and Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 199/2008</p>	<p>and accepted by the Commission</p>		<p>11.04.2012, 2011 Et.E; Ares(2014) 181149</p> <p>B. Ares(2013)248 7965 – 26.06.2013).</p> <p>C. 2010: Ares(2011)328 172 – 24.03.2011, 2011:..JRC DCF data calls 2011 coverage and quality summary report, Ares(2012)781 425 - 28.06.2012. 2012: JRC DCF data calls 2012 summary data coverage report</p>	<p>submission of work plans, on the basis of the guidelines from the Commission. To implement the programme, specialised staff of the Department of Fisheries and Marine Research will carry out all data collection activities.</p> <p>Evaluation of the administrative capacity of the Department of Fisheries and Marine Research on the basis of the following:</p> <p>A. The annual reports for the years 2009 to 2012 were submitted within one month of the legal time limit and were approved by the Commission.</p> <p>B. The annual report for 2013 was submitted within one month of the legal time limit. Its approval is pending.</p> <p>C. Transmission of data to end-users: Data are transmitted annually upon request. As regards the period 2010-2012, financial reductions were imposed for the period 2011-2012 due to failure to transmit certain data (see relevant</p>
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				reports). As regards 2013, the Commission has not yet assessed the transmission of data to end-users. Measures have been taken to ensure that data transmission is done in a complete and timely manner.
3 - Administrative capacity: Administrative capacity is available to comply with the data requirements for fisheries management set out in Article 25 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 and Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 199/2008	3 - Description of the capacity in human resources allocation to undertake bilateral or multilateral agreements with other Member States if the work to implement the data collection obligations is shared	Yes	<u>References 3.3:</u> The bilateral agreement is annexed to the Cyprus national programme 2011-2013 and to the national reports for the years 2011, 2012, 2013.	<u>Criterion 3.3:</u> A bilateral agreement between Cyprus and Malta has been in place since 2009 on the collection of data from Cypriot boats landing fisheries in Malta. The bilateral agreement is annexed to the national programme and to the national reports.
4 - Administrative capacity: Administrative capacity is available to comply with the implementation of a Union control, inspection and enforcement system as provided for in Article 36 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 and further specified in Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009	1 - A description of the administrative capacity to prepare and implement the section of the operational programme pertaining to the 2014-2020 national control financing programme as referred to in point (o) of Article 18(1)	Yes	<u>References 4.1:</u> See accompanying document (attachment 5)	<u>Criterion 4.1:</u> The Department of Fisheries and Marine Research of the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment is the implementing body responsible for the control and inspection system for fishing activities. For a detailed description, see accompanying document (attachment 5).
4 - Administrative capacity: Administrative capacity is available to comply with the implementation of a Union control, inspection and	2 - Description of the administrative capacity to prepare and implement the national control action programme for multiannual plans, as	Yes	<u>References 4.2:</u> See accompanying document (attachment 5) National Control	<u>Criterion 4.2:</u> The Department of Fisheries and Marine Research, being the competent authority, prepares

<p>enforcement system as provided for in Article 36 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 and further specified in Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009</p>	<p>provided for in Article 46 of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009</p>		<p>Action Programme 2014 – Notified to the secure part of the website in accordance with Article 116(1)(g) of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009</p>	<p>the national action control programme that applies to the sole species that is currently subject to a quota scheme in the Mediterranean Sea, i.e. red tuna (<i>Thunnus thynnus</i>). The national control action programme for red tuna is posted on the secure part of the website, in accordance with Article 116(1)(g) of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009.</p> <p>The national control action programme for red tuna falls under the joint control action programme for red tuna which is coordinated by EFCA and implements the relevant action plan.</p>
<p>4 - Administrative capacity: Administrative capacity is available to comply with the implementation of a Union control, inspection and enforcement system as provided for in Article 36 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 and further specified in Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009</p>	<p>3 - Description of the administrative capacity to prepare and implement a joint control action programme that may be developed with other Member States, as provided for in Article 94 of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>References 4.3: See accompanying document (attachment 5)</p> <p>National Control Action Programme 2014 – Notified to the secure part of the website in accordance with Article 116(1)(g) of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009</p>	<p>Criterion 4.3: The Department of Fisheries and Marine Research, being the competent authority responsible for applying the control and inspection system for fishing activities, is responsible for applying any control, inspection and surveillance programmes together with other Member States. The</p>

				<p>administrative capacity for applying such programmes does exist and is proved by the successful participation in and application of the programme for red tuna.</p> <p>So far, there has been no need to apply any joint control action programme.</p>
<p>4 - Administrative capacity: Administrative capacity is available to comply with the implementation of a Union control, inspection and enforcement system as provided for in Article 36 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 and further specified in Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009</p>	<p>4 - Description of the administrative capacity to prepare and implement the specific control and inspection programmes, as provided for in Article 95 of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p><u>References 4.4:</u> See accompanying document (attachment 5)</p> <p>National Control Action Programme 2014 – Notified to the secure part of the website in accordance with Article 116(1)(g) of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009</p>	<p>Criterion 4.4: The Department of Fisheries and Marine Research, being the competent authority responsible for applying the specific control and inspection programmes, takes part in a joint control action programme adopted by the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA), which relates to the programme for the conservation of red tuna stocks. The Commission takes part in the EFCA's joint control action programme for red tuna, being a party to the ICCAT. The programme sets out specific reference criteria for inspection in accordance with risk management, which are revised periodically following analysis of the results achieved and develop gradually</p>

				<p>up until the target criteria are achieved.</p> <p>All such measures are adopted as required to successfully apply the programme and the (human and financial) resources are allocated properly.</p> <p>For a detailed description, see the accompanying document (attachment 5).</p>
<p>4 - Administrative capacity: Administrative capacity is available to comply with the implementation of a Union control, inspection and enforcement system as provided for in Article 36 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 and further specified in Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009</p>	<p>5 - Description of the administrative capacity to apply a system of effective, proportionate and dissuasive sanctions for serious infringements, as provided for in Article 90 of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009</p>	Yes	<p><u>References 4.5:</u> See accompanying document (attachment 5)</p> <p>Decree RAA 403/2014</p>	<p><u>Criterion 4.5:</u> The Department of Fisheries and Marine Research applies systems for effective, proportionate and dissuasive penalties in the event of illegal fishing. In accordance with the national legislation, both a financial fine and an administrative fine are applied, and the penalty to be imposed is subject to the approval, or non-approval, of the Director of the Department of Fisheries and Marine Research, whereas the issue may also be settled on an out-of-court basis. In certain cases, the fishing gear is seized immediately during the inspection. Furthermore, Union legislation</p>

				<p>on a point system for serious infringements is fully applied. For the purposes of applying Union legislation, national legislation was adopted, i.e. the Community Decisions and Regulations on Fisheries Application Law 134(I) of 2006.</p> <p>For a detailed description, see the accompanying document (attachment 5).</p>
<p>4 - Administrative capacity: Administrative capacity is available to comply with the implementation of a Union control, inspection and enforcement system as provided for in Article 36 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 and further specified in Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009</p>	<p>6 - Description of the administrative capacity to apply the point system for serious infringements, as provided for in Article 92 of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p><u>References 4.6:</u> See accompanying document (attachment 5)</p> <p>Decree RAA 403/2014</p>	<p><u>Criterion 4.6:</u> The point system for serious infringements has been in place since 1 January 2012, i.e. on the date set by Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 and Implementing Regulation (EU) No 404/2011. Moreover, for the purpose of transposing the relevant provisions in the national legislation, Decree RAA 216/2012 was adopted on 15 June 2012 on applying a point system for serious infringements both on the holder of the fishing authorisation and of the boat and on the masters of the boats.</p> <p>The system</p>

				requires that an administrative decision be issued for imposing the points, subject to a specific procedure and timeframe, to make it more direct and effective.
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6.1.2 Applicable general *ex ante* conditionalities and assessment of their fulfilment

It appears that full compliance has been achieved in respect of the general *ex ante* conditionalities, due to the existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of Union anti-discrimination law and policy in the field of ESI Funds (Cond. 1), the existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of Union gender equality law and policy in the field of ESI Funds (Cond. 2), the existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of the United Nations Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities (UNCRPD) in the field of ESI Funds in accordance with Council Decision 2010/48/EC of 26 November 2009 (Cond. 3), the existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union public procurement law (Cond. 4), the existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union State aid rules in the field of the ESI Funds (Cond. 5). There is an exception in respect of the *ex ante* conditionality concerning the existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union environmental legislation (Cond. 6) and the conditionality concerning the existence of a statistical basis necessary and of a system of result indicators (Cond. 7), which is directly linked to the process of preparing the programmes for the period 2014-2020 and the development of the new management information system, and therefore this conditionality is not fully met.

The general *ex ante* conditionalities which are not met currently, as referred to above, include the arrangements for training and dissemination of information for staff involved in the implementation of the EIA and SEA Directives (Cond 6(b)), and the conditionality concerning the existence of a statistical basis necessary and of an effective system of result indicators (Cond. 7) (attachment 9).

6.2 Description of the actions to be taken, the bodies responsible and the timetable for their implementation

6.2.1 Actions envisaged to achieve the fulfilment of the EMFF specific *ex ante* conditionalities

<i>Ex ante</i> conditionality	Criterion	Actions to be taken	Time limit	Bodies responsible for fulfilment
1 - Report on fishing capacity has been submitted in accordance with Article 22(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013	1 - The report is made in accordance with common guidelines issued by the Commission	According to the evaluation, Cyprus has partly met the <i>ex ante</i> conditionality on the fishing capacity report. Therefore, it has made a commitment to adopt an action plan (attachment 11), to the effect that the Cypriot authorities should submit a fishing capacity report for 2014 by 31 May 2015 including the following: (a) completion of the analysis provided in the 2013 report, also including the trawler fleet categories carrying out fishing activities only in international waters; (b) an explanation for all discrepancies in the number of boats for this year and last year between the fishing capacity report, the fishing fleet register and the annual financial report; (c) better separation of boat categories with polyvalent inactive gear with a length of 06-12m (authorisation categories A and B) and 00-06 m (authorisation categories C); (d) an explanation for the estimated number of boats to be withdrawn; and (e) preparation of action plans for the fleet categories that are out of balance with the fishing opportunities.	31 May 2015	Department of Fisheries and Marine Research

6.2.2 Actions envisaged to achieve the fulfilment of the general *ex ante* conditionalities

The general *ex ante* conditionalities which are not met currently include the arrangements for training and dissemination of information for staff involved in the implementation of the EIA and SEA Directives (Cond 6(b)) and the conditionality concerning the existence of a statistical basis necessary and of an effective system of result indicators (Cond. 7). The action plan is attached, as attachment 9, to the OP.

7. DESCRIPTION OF THE PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK

Table 7.1: Performance framework

Union priority	1 - Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge-based fisheries.
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Indicator and measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Targets for 2023
Financial indicator	4 750 000.00	14 450 666.00
1.3 - Number of projects for added value, quality and use of unwanted catches, as well as for the fishing ports, landing sites, auctions halls and shelters	4.00	11.00
1.5 - Number of projects for permanent cessation	55.00	55.00
1.6 - Number of projects for the protection and restoration of marine biodiversity and ecosystems	2.00	14.00

Union priority	2. Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge-based fisheries
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Indicator and measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Targets for 2023
Financial indicator	3 050 000.00	11 400 000.00
2.2 - Number of projects for productive investments in aquaculture	5.00	9.00
2.4 - Number of projects for increasing potential of aquaculture sites and measures on public and animal health	2.00	3.00

Union priority	3 - Fostering the implementation of the CFP
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Indicator and measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Targets for 2023
Financial indicator	2 000 000.00	10 282 602.00
3.1 - Number of projects for	8.00	33.00

implementing the Union's control, inspections and enforcement system		
3.2 - Number of projects for supporting the collection, management and use of data	1.00	2.00

Union priority	4 - Increasing employment and territorial cohesion
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Indicator and measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Targets for 2023
Financial indicator	1 000 000.00	6 500 000.00
4.1 - Number of local development strategies selected	3.00	3.00

Union priority	5 - Fostering marketing and processing
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Indicator and measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Targets for 2023
Financial indicator	400 000.00	800 000.00
5.2 - Number of projects for marketing measures and strengthening storage aid	4.00	8.00

Union priority	6 - Fostering the implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy
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Indicator and measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Targets for 2023
Financial indicator	550 000.00	1 400 000.00
6.2 - Number of projects for the protection and improvement of knowledge on marine environment	2.00	6.00

Table 7.2: Justification for the choice of output indicators to be included in the performance framework

Union priority	1 - Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge-based fisheries.
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<p>Rationale for the selection of output indicators included in the performance framework, including an explanation of the share of financial allocation represented by operations which will produce the outputs, as well as the method applied to calculate the share, which must exceed 50% of the financial allocation to the priority</p>	<p>Indicator 1.5: According to the annual report on the fishing capacity of Cyprus for 2013, as regards the fleet segment relating to small-scale coastal fishing, no balance is ensured between the fishing capacity and the available fishing opportunities, as stressed also in the Cyprus-specific recommendations from the Commission.</p> <p>Indicator 1.6: The implementation of interventions requires effective management and expansion of the marine protected areas with artificial reefs.</p> <p>Indicator 1.3: The modernisation and upgrading of fishing shelters will serve a number of specific targets, such as health and safety, management of unwanted catches, improvement of product quality, and safe mooring.</p>
<p>Data or evidence used to estimate the value of milestones and targets and the calculation method (e.g. data on unit costs, benchmarks, standard or a past rate of implementation, expert advice and the conclusions of the ex ante evaluation)</p>	<p>Indicator 1.5: The experience gained from the implementation of similar plans in the previous programming period 2007-2013 was used to estimate the milestone and target. The measure contemplated in Article 34 will be completed in 2017, which explains why the 2018 milestone and the 2023 target are the same.</p> <p>Indicator 1.6: Cost elements based on the experience gained from the corresponding sector of the Department of Fisheries and Marine Research and the implementation of similar projects in the previous programming period 2007-2013, as well as the additional needs under the EU and national legislation, were used to estimate the milestone and target.</p> <p>Indicator 1.3: Relevant preliminary studies from the competent Department of Public Works concerning improvement projects for fishing shelters that are to be modernised were used to estimate the milestone and target, and the cost from the previous programming period 2007-2013 was used for the corresponding needs for intervention with the shelters to which aid is granted.</p>
<p>Information on how the methodology and mechanisms to ensure consistency in the functioning of the performance framework have been applied in line with the provisions of the Partnership Agreement</p>	<p>The indicators chosen and the relevant measures will contribute towards the achievement of thematic objectives 3 and 6 under the CSF. Actions are expected to be implemented under thematic objective 3, aiming to support the effort made to restructure the Cypriot economy and relating to fostering development in the fisheries</p>

	sector. Under thematic objective 6, aiming to ensure that Cyprus fully complies with the acquis communautaire in the field of the marine environment, the actions to be financed will focus on the protection of the marine environment and marine biodiversity, also including actions relating to the Natura 2000 actions. An effort will also be made to ensure the sustainable exploitation of fish stocks in the available resources.
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Union priority	2. Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge-based fisheries
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Rationale for the selection of output indicators included in the performance framework, including an explanation of the share of financial allocation represented by operations which will produce the outputs, as well as the method applied to calculate the share, which must exceed 50% of the financial allocation to the priority	<p>Indicator 2.4: A key need identified by the SWOT analysis, as also confirmed by the <i>ex ante</i> evaluation, is to increase the production capacity of aquaculture farms with a view to achieving scale economies, which requires an increase in the capacity of aquaculture sites and establishment thereof, with a view to creating favourable investment conditions in the sector in the context of a broader marine physical plan, which is a key tool of the Integrated Maritime Policy.</p> <p>Indicator 2.2: The implementation of actions for strengthening the competitiveness of the Cypriot aquaculture sector and increasing production is fostered through projects relating to modernisation, expansion of production, use of innovative technologies and management methods, as well as projects aiming to improve the quality or added value of aquaculture products.</p>
Data or evidence used to estimate the value of milestones and targets and the calculation method (e.g. data on unit costs, benchmarks, standard or a past rate of implementation, expert advice and the conclusions of the ex ante evaluation)	Indicator 2.4: The target value for 3 projects relates to the implementation of a large infrastructure project that includes an infrastructure consisting of onshore and offshore facilities for the mooring of aquaculture boats and the provision of services to aquaculture farms in the Vasilikon area, which is expected to serve 7 of the 9 aquaculture farms in Cyprus, as well the preparation of relevant environmental impact assessments and the determination of the production capacity of aquaculture farms. The cost of the assessments was calculated on the

	<p>basis of the cost of previous ones, and the cost of the infrastructure project was calculated on the basis of a preliminary study outsourced by the Department of Fisheries and Marine Research to an independent expert using the bidding method.</p> <p>Indicator 2.2: The experience gained from the implementation of similar plans in the previous programming period 2007-2013 was used to estimate the milestone and target.</p>
<p>Information on how the methodology and mechanisms to ensure consistency in the functioning of the performance framework have been applied in line with the provisions of the Partnership Agreement</p>	<p>The indicators chosen and the relevant measures will contribute towards the achievement of thematic objective 6 under the CSF. Support is expected to be provided to the aquaculture sector under thematic objective 6, in the context of an integrated marine and coastal physical plan with a view to creating and establishing aquaculture sites and promoting environmentally sustainable undertakings in the aquaculture sector.</p>

Union priority	3 - Fostering the implementation of the CFP
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<p>Rationale for the selection of output indicators included in the performance framework, including an explanation of the share of financial allocation represented by operations which will produce the outputs, as well as the method applied to calculate the share, which must exceed 50% of the financial allocation to the priority</p>	<p>It was deemed appropriate to include both output indicators under priority 3 in the performance framework, as they represent the two pillars on which the aid granted in the context of the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy is based, as included in the EMFF Regulation for the first time.</p>
<p>Data or evidence used to estimate the value of milestones and targets and the calculation method (e.g. data on unit costs, benchmarks, standard or a past rate of implementation, expert advice and the conclusions of the <i>ex ante</i> evaluation)</p>	<p>Output indicators 3.1 and 3.2 are intended to meet the needs identified by the SWOT analysis, and cost elements and the experience gained from the implementation of previous programmes for the control and collection of data, as well as the additional needs under the new Commission regulations, were used to assess the milestones and targets.</p>
<p>Information on how the methodology and mechanisms to ensure consistency in the functioning of the performance framework have been applied in line with the provisions of the Partnership Agreement</p>	<p>The indicators chosen and the relevant measures will contribute towards the achievement of thematic objective 6 under the CSF. More specifically, actions are expected to be implemented aiming to ensure top quality collection and analysis of all necessary fishing data, to provide an optimal scientific opinion on issues relating to the fisheries sector, in the context of the Common Fisheries Policy. As regards inspection, the actions aim to identify,</p>

	describe and allocate appropriate cost-effective control instruments and inspection means, in relation to the nature and the estimated level of each risk, and to achieve target benchmarks.
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Union priority	4 - Increasing employment and territorial cohesion
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Rationale for the selection of output indicators included in the performance framework, including an explanation of the share of financial allocation represented by operations which will produce the outputs, as well as the method applied to calculate the share, which must exceed 50% of the financial allocation to the priority	Output indicator 4.1 takes up 93% of the public expenditure under Union priority 4. This was the sole criterion used to choose that indicator for the performance framework, as all thirteen indicators under Union priority 4 have the same target and are critical for the achievement of the corresponding common specific objective.
Data or evidence used to estimate the value of milestones and targets and the calculation method (e.g. data on unit costs, benchmarks, standard or a past rate of implementation, expert advice and the conclusions of the <i>ex ante</i> evaluation)	The target was calculated by dividing the public expenditure budget available under Union priority 4 by the corresponding amount granted to the sole FLAG in the previous programming period 2007-2013, increasing it, though, to meet the new needs that resulted from the adverse economic situation in Cyprus. Data based on the implementation of priority axis 4 in the previous programming period 2007-2013 and the effort made to create more FLAGs in the new period were used to estimate the milestone and target.
Information on how the methodology and mechanisms to ensure consistency in the functioning of the performance framework have been applied in line with the provisions of the Partnership Agreement	The indicator chosen and the relevant measure will contribute towards the achievement of thematic objective 8 under the CSF. Actions are expected to be implemented under thematic objective 8, aiming to create jobs and support diversification within and outside fishing activities, as well as to support the professional skills and mobility of manpower in the fisheries and aquaculture sector.

Union priority	5 - Fostering marketing and processing
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Rationale for the selection of output indicators included in the performance framework, including an explanation of the share of financial allocation represented by operations which will produce the outputs, as well as the method applied to calculate the share, which must exceed 50% of the financial allocation to the priority	Output indicator 5.2, as chosen, represents 51% of the public expenditure under Union priority 5. Apart from this criterion, the indicator was chosen as the product trading and marketing sector is a key obstacle to the development of aquaculture.
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Data or evidence used to estimate the value of milestones and targets and the calculation method (e.g. data on unit costs, benchmarks, standard or a past rate of implementation, expert advice and the conclusions of the <i>ex ante</i> evaluation)	The output indicator was calculated by dividing the public expenditure budget by the average aid granted in the previous programming period 2007-2013, increased by the inflation rate. Moreover, data based on the previous programming period 2007-2013 were used to estimate the milestone and target.
Information on how the methodology and mechanisms to ensure consistency in the functioning of the performance framework have been applied in line with the provisions of the Partnership Agreement	The output indicator chosen and the relevant measure will contribute towards the achievement of thematic objective 3 under the CSF. Actions are expected to be implemented under thematic objective 3, aiming to support the effort made to restructure the Cypriot economy, by taking measures aimed at strengthening the competitiveness of SMEs. The improvement of the marketing system and the promotion of fisheries products are preconditions for strengthening competitiveness in the sector concerned.

Union priority	6 - Fostering the implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy
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Rationale for the selection of output indicators included in the performance framework, including an explanation of the share of financial allocation represented by operations which will produce the outputs, as well as the method applied to calculate the share, which must exceed 50% of the financial allocation to the priority	Output indicators 6.2 take up 75% of the public expenditure under Union priority 6. This was the main criterion used to choose those indicators for the performance framework, as both indicators under Union priority 6 are equally important and are critical under priority 6 for the implementation of the IMP.
Data or evidence used to estimate the value of milestones and targets and the calculation method (e.g. data on unit costs, benchmarks, standard or a past rate of implementation, expert advice and the conclusions of the <i>ex ante</i> evaluation)	Cost elements based on the experience gained from the corresponding sector of the Department of Fisheries and Marine Research, as well as the additional needs under the EU and national legislation on the IMP, were used to estimate the milestone and target. The relevant measures include studies, monitoring programmes and preparation of actions for implementing the provisions of the MSFD in respect of the marine environment of Cyprus, etc.
Information on how the methodology and mechanisms to ensure consistency in the functioning of the performance framework have been applied in line with the provisions of the Partnership Agreement	The indicators chosen and the relevant measures will contribute towards the achievement of thematic objective 6 under the CSF. Actions are expected to be implemented under thematic objective 6, aiming to strengthen the knowledge of the marine environment and the collection, gathering and making available of scientific information and maritime data with a view to effectively utilising them in the context of the Integrated Maritime Policy and integrated maritime surveillance.

8. FINANCING PLAN

8.1 Total EMFF contribution planned for each year (in EUR)

Year	EMFF main allocation	EMFF Performance reserve
2014	0.00	0.00
2015	10 299 644.00	657 424.00
2016	5 229 881.00	333 822.00
2017	5 314 647.00	339 233.00
2018	5 438 314.00	347 126.00
2019	5 475 499.00	349 500.00
2020	5 574 312.00	355 807.00
Total	37 332 297.00	2 382 912.00

8.2 EMFF contribution and co-financing rate for the Union Priorities, Technical Assistance and other support (in EUR)

Union priority	Measure under the Union Priority	Total support			Main allocation (total funding less performance reserve)		Performance reserve		Performance reserve amount as proportion of total Union support
		EMFF contribution (performance reserve included)	National counterpart (performance reserve included)	EMFF co-financing rate	Support from the EMFF	National counterpart	EMFF Performance reserve	National counterpart	
		a	b	$c = a / (a + b) * 100$	$d = a - f$	$e = b - g$	f	$g = b * (f / a)$	
1 - Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge-based fisheries.	1 - Article 33, Article 34 and Article 41(2) (Article 13(2) of the EMFF)	1 580 000.00	1 580 000.00	50.00%	1 575 200.00	1 575 200.00	4 800.00	4 800.00	5.74%
1 - Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge-based fisheries.	2 - Financial allocation for the rest of the Union priority 1 (Article 13(2) of the EMFF)	11 348 000.00	3 782 667.00	75.00%	10 610 380.00	3 536 794.00	737 620.00	245 873.00	
2. Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge-based fisheries	-	9 450 000.00	3 150 000.00	75.00%	8 866 296.00	2 955 432.00	583 704.00	194 568.00	6.18%
3 - Fostering the implementation of the CFP	1 - Improvement and supply of scientific knowledge and collection and management of data (Article 13(4) of the EMFF)	3 541 528.00	885 382.00	80.00%	3 307 787.00	826 947.00	233 741.00	58 435.00	6.56%
3 - Fostering the implementation of the CFP	2 - Support to monitoring, control and enforcement, enhancing institutional capacity and an efficient public administration without increasing the administrative burden (Article 76(2)(a) to (d) and (f) to (l)) (Article 13(3) of the EMFF)	4 730 123.00	525 570.00	90.00%	4 422 665.00	491 408.00	307 458.00	34 162.00	
3 - Fostering the implementation of the CFP	3 - Support to monitoring, control and enforcement, enhancing institutional capacity and an efficient public administration without increasing the administrative burden (Article 76(2)(e)) (Article 13(3) of the EMFF)	420 000.00	180 000.00	70.00%	390 600.00	167 400.00	29 400.00	12 600.00	
4 - Increasing employment and territorial cohesion	-	5 250 000.00	1 750 000.00	75.00%	4 935 000.00	1 645 000.00	315 000.00	105 000.00	6.00%
5 - Fostering marketing and processing	1 - Storage aid (Article 67) (Article 13(6) of the EMFF)	270 558.00	0.00	100.00%	270 558.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.00%
5 - Fostering marketing and processing	2 - Compensation for outermost regions (Article 70) (Article 13(5) of the EMFF)								

5 - Fostering marketing and processing	3 - Financial allocation for the rest of the Union priority 5 (Article 13(2) of the EMFF)	975 000.00	325 000.00	75.00%	887 811.00	295 937.00	87 189.00	29 063.00	
6 - Fostering the implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy	-	1 400 000.00	466 667.00	75.00%	1 316 000.00	438 667.00	84 000.00	28 000.00	6.00%
7 - Technical assistance	-	750 000.00	250 000.00	75.00%	750 000.00	250 000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
Total		39 715 209.00	12 895 286.00	75.49%	37 332 297.00	12 182 785.00	2 382 912.00	712 501.00	6.00%

8.3 EMFF contribution to the thematic objectives of the ESI Funds

Thematic objective	EMFF contribution
03 - Enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs, of the agricultural sector (for the EAFRD) and of the fisheries and aquaculture sector (for the EMFF)	9 840 558.00
04 - Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	470 000.00
06 - Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency	23 404 651.00
08 - Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility	5 250 000.00

9. HORIZONTAL PRINCIPLES

9.1 Description of the actions to take into account the principles set out in Articles 5*, 7, and 8 of the CPR

9.1.1 Promotion of equality between men and women and non-discrimination

Promotion of gender equality, non-discrimination and accessibility for persons with disabilities is ensured by getting the competent bodies involved in the planning and implementation of the operational programme, in accordance with the provisions of Article 7 of the CSF.

More specifically, the measures provided for with a view to promoting gender equality and non-discrimination at the different OP implementation stages include the following:

- having appropriate guidelines and instructions issued by the managing authority to the intermediate body and beneficiaries on issues relating to the equality and non-discrimination both between men and women and between different social groups in the context of the inclusion, monitoring and verification stages for the projects implemented under the OP;
- the intermediate body will look into such issues in an appropriate and detailed manner during the inclusion process;
- to ensure compatibility with the relevant Community and national legislation, the intermediate body will, during the evaluation of the projects intended for inclusion, obtain opinions from the competent ministries which have jurisdiction as appropriate;
- using, where possible, specialised criteria relating to the accessibility of persons with disabilities during the process of selecting projects for co-financing;
- balanced participation of men and women in the monitoring committee and representation therein of public authorities (e.g. of the National Machinery for Women's Rights) which are responsible for equality issues, as well as of social organisations of specific population groups;
- taking appropriate measures to publicise the programme and the more specific actions included therein, to ensure the broadest possible accessibility to the co-financing granted by the Community;
- systematic monitoring of beneficiaries by the intermediate body to verify that they properly perform their obligations relating to those issues;
- providing relevant information to the monitoring committee and the Commission, by means of the annual report, about the measures taken in respect of providing equal opportunities in the context of the OP, the effectiveness of those measures and any corrective measures required to ensure non-discrimination.

The key targets regarding promoting gender equality through the implementation of the OP relate to the equal participation of women in the labour market, where possible, promoting the social integration of women, the inclusion of the gender dimension in social protection issues, providing support to families and reconciling work and family life, combating discrimination on grounds of gender and gender stereotypes.

There are no restrictions in Cyprus to prevent equal opportunities in the fisheries sector, other than the working conditions. The working conditions are very harsh, primarily in sea fishing, as well as in aquaculture farms and, therefore, the reduced participation of women appears to be natural. The employment of women in the aquaculture sector pertains mainly to jobs at the packaging plants and administrative offices of undertakings, and the presence of women in processing plants is significant.

Respectively, as regards ensuring non-discrimination, the implementation of the OP ensures equal access to the labour market, training and lifelong learning, promotion of social integration and

combating discrimination on grounds of racial or ethnic origin, religious or other convictions, disability, age or sexual orientation.

9.1.2 Sustainable development

The protection and improvement of the marine environment is a primary target of the policy in the fisheries sector. The preservation of biological balance in the marine ecosystem is the basis of the proper management and use of marine resources, thus ensuring the sustainable exploitation thereof. To achieve that target, it is necessary to acquire scientific knowledge of the biodiversity, of the ecological processes taking place in the marine ecosystem and of the factors/activities that have a negative impact thereon, to use all the above as a basis for taking appropriate management and protection measures. Above and beyond its importance for the fisheries sector and sustainable development in general, the marine environment is a valuable heritage that needs to be protected, conserved and, if possible, restored with a view to preserving biodiversity in the long run and thus keeping the sea clean and productive. That is why the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) (Directive 2008/56/EC) has established a legal framework for the protection and management of European seas to ensure the long-term and sustainable use thereof. The key aim of the Directive is to achieve and/or maintain good environmental status (GES) by 2020.

The minimisation of the environmental impact requires proper implementation of the national and Community legislation, also adapting the fishing effort to make it compatible with fish stocks, as well as to include the environmental dimension in policy implementation in the aquaculture sector by using farming methods that are environmentally compatible and/or capable of reducing significantly the impact on the marine environment. Apart from the above, Member States should, within the MSFD, draw up a marine strategy for their waters, by implementing suitable programmes of measures and monitoring programmes, to ensure that the marine environment is protected and preserved, preventing its decline or, if possible, restoring it in areas in which it has been affected negatively. To protect and conserve the marine environment and ecosystems, Member States should, in the context of the programme of measures for the achievement of the GES, implement measures for the protection of the space covered by marine protected areas (MPAs) both in accordance with the Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC) and other obligations under regional and international conventions.

The operational programme includes measures aiming to ensure coherence with the environmental dimension of the Common Fisheries Policy for preserving the stocks and mitigating the environmental impact, as well as contributing towards the achievement and/or maintenance of the GES in accordance with the MSFD. More specifically, under thematic objective 6 for protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency, provision has been made for implementing measures under Union priority 1, aiming to reduce the impact of fishing on the marine environment. Moreover, the measures under Union priority 3, as well as Union priority 6, which includes actions directly related to the MSFD targets, are expected to contribute in this direction.

Sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources are vital necessities for Cyprus in order to mitigate the adverse impact of climate change, preserve and restore its natural environment, maintain socio-economic growth and improve the quality of life of its people. The most serious risks to biodiversity in Cyprus are adverse climate change impact and invasive species.

Warming caused in the Mediterranean Sea by global climate change tends to aggravate human pressures and seriously affect marine biodiversity, even in the deep sea, which has an unavoidable impact on the economic sectors supported by it (e.g. tourism, fisheries, etc.). The most serious problem in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea relates to the establishment and expansion of non-indigenous tropical flora and fauna -some of the relevant species are considered as invasive and most

of them travel through the Suez canal-, which have an adverse impact on the composition and functioning of local ecosystems, as well as on fisheries, aquaculture and tourism.

In the context of the programme CYPADART – LIFE10 ENV/CY/723 ‘Development of a national strategy for adaptation to climate change adverse impacts in Cyprus’, the current and future climate change impacts on the different economic sectors have been identified, the ones assessed as critical for taking adaptation action have been chosen, and the necessary studies and monitoring systems have been specified.

The operational programme includes measures aiming indirectly to mitigate, and adapt to, climate change. More specifically, the estimated indicative amount of the aid to be used for the climate change targets is shown in the relevant table included in chapter 9.2.

9.2 Indicative amount of support to be used for climate change objectives

EMFF measures contributing towards the achievement of climate change targets	Rate %
02 - Article 38 Limitation of the impact of fishing on the marine environment and adaptation of fishing to the protection of species (+ Article 44(1)(c) Inland fishing)	40.00
04 - Article 40(1)(a) Protection and restoration of marine biodiversity - collection of lost fishing gear and marine litter	0.00
05 - Article 43(2) Fishing ports, landing sites, auction halls and shelters - investments to facilitate compliance with the obligation to land all catches	0.00
01 - Article 47 Innovation	
02 - Article 49 Management, relief and advisory services for aquaculture farms	
01 - Article 77 Data collection	
01 - Article 62(1)(a) Preparatory support	0.00
02 - Article 63 Implementation of local development strategies (including running costs and animation)	40.00
03 - Article 64 Cooperation activities	
02 - Article 67 Storage aid	0.00
03 - Article 68 Marketing measures	
01 - Article 80(1)(a) Integrated maritime surveillance	
02 - Article 80(1)(b) Promotion of the protection of marine environment, and sustainable use of marine and coastal resources	40.00
03 - Article 80(1)(c) Improving the knowledge on the state of the marine environment	40.00
01 - Article 40(1)(b) to (g) and (i) Protection and restoration of marine biodiversity - contribution to a better management or conservation, construction, installation or modernisation of static or movable facilities, preparation of protection and management plans related to Natura 2000 sites and spatial protected areas, management, restoration and monitoring of marine protected areas, including Natura 2000 sites, environmental awareness, participation in other actions aimed at maintaining and enhancing biodiversity and ecosystem services (+	40.00

Article 44(6) Inland fishing)	
01 - Article 48(1)(a) to (d) and (f) to (h) Productive investments in aquaculture	
01 - Article 76 Control and enforcement	0.00
01 - Article 69 Processing of fisheries and aquaculture products	
01 - Article 34 Permanent cessation of fishing activities	100.00
01 - Article 48(1)(k) Productive investments in aquaculture – Increasing energy efficiency, renewable energy	40.00
02 - Article 48(1)(e), (i) and (j) Productive investments in aquaculture – Resource efficiency, reducing usage of water and chemicals, recirculation systems minimising water use	
03 - Article 51 Increasing the potential of aquaculture sites	40.00
02 - Article 30 Diversification and new forms of income (+ Article 44(4) Inland fishing)	
04 - Article 32 Health and safety (+ Article 44(1)(b) Inland fishing)	0.00
07 - Article 40(1)(h) Protection and restoration of marine biodiversity - schemes for the compensation of damage to catches caused by mammals and birds	0.00
09 - Article 43(1) and (3) Fishing ports, landing sites, auction halls and shelters – Investments improving the infrastructure of fishing ports, auctions halls, landing sites and shelters; construction of shelters in order to improve the safety of fishermen (+ Article 44(1)(f) Inland fishing)	40.00
02 - Article 28 Partnerships between scientists and fishermen (+ Article 44(3) Inland fishing)	
03 - Article 41(1)(a), (b) and (c) Energy efficiency and mitigation of climate change – Investments on board; energy efficiency audits and schemes; studies to assess the contribution of alternative propulsion systems and hull designs (+ Article 44(1)(d) Inland fishing)	100.00
04 - Article 41(2) Energy efficiency and mitigation of climate change – replacement or modernisation of main or ancillary engines (+ Article 44(1)(d) Inland fishing)	100.00

The indicative EMFF contribution (EUR)	Share of the total EMFF allocation to the operational programme (%)
10 625 200.00	26.75%

10. EVALUATION PLAN

Objectives and purpose of the evaluation plan

The evaluation plan aims to provide an overall evaluation framework and ensure that it is included and used effectively as a management tool for the implementation of the operational programme (OP). The plan aims to ensure proper monitoring of the OP and facilitate any corrective actions and re-planning, to make sure that the anticipated results are achieved. The individual aims of the evaluation plan consist in ensuring:

- monitoring of the programme;
- intermediate progress in connection with the programme;
- two intermediate significant reports for the years 2017 and 2019;
- availability of the data / information required in terms of completeness and temporal readiness;
- possibility of reaching, at an EU level, overall conclusions on the effectiveness of the policies adopted.

Governance and coordination

The following bodies will be involved in the governance of the evaluation plan: the managing authority, the intermediate body and the monitoring committee. It may also be possible, on a case-by-case basis, to outsource the evaluations to external partners / experts.

Following are each body's individual powers:

Managing authority (MA) / intermediate body (IB):

The managing authority is the authority responsible for the management of the OP, as well as for applying and implementing the system used to monitor and assess the quality, validity and publicity of the results.

As regards monitoring, the MA should ensure that a secure electronic information system is in place, to be used for transmitting to the Commission information on the progress made concerning the performance of the indicators and on the projects being implemented. The MA should also draw up the annual implementation reports. The MA should also monitor the quality of the implementation of the programme against relevant indicators, also providing the monitoring committee with such information and documents as required to monitor the progress made in connection with the programme.

As regards the evaluation plan, the MA / IB will have to:

- plan and develop the evaluation plan and make sure that it complies with the monitoring and evaluation system;

- update the evaluation plan. The plan will be updated annually as well as when specific evaluation needs arise;
- process the evaluations and other related activities on the basis of the evaluation plan.

The MA will set up the evaluation unit, comprising staff members from the MA itself and from the IB. The evaluation unit will be responsible for monitoring the evaluation plan and will have to:

- provide advisory support during the planning and development of the evaluation plan;
- provide advisory support during the revision and updating of the evaluation plan;
- identify new evaluation needs, as these may arise during the implementation of the programme;
- organise the evaluation procedure;
- organise the procedure used to publicise the evaluation results.

Monitoring Committee:

The monitoring committee should approve the evaluation plan within one (1) year of adoption of the programme at the latest. It should also approve any changes to the evaluation plan during its updating.

The monitoring committee should monitor the implementation of the programme and the progress made in achieving its targets, primarily against indicators. It should also approve the annual implementation reports before they are submitted to the Commission.

The monitoring committee should monitor all evaluation activities and the results relating to the evaluation plan and may issue recommendations to the MA concerning the implementation of the programme and the evaluation and, following that, the monitoring of the actions taken in response to its recommendations.

The key bodies involved in the monitoring and evaluation of the operational programme are: the managing authority, the intermediate body, external independent evaluators, the beneficiaries and the monitoring committee.

The monitoring and evaluation system will be coordinated by the MA, which will appoint independent evaluators to provide support to the MA and the IB in connection with the required evaluations.

The evaluation plan will be updated on an *ad hoc* basis when new needs are identified for taking evaluation action.

Using the evaluations

The evaluations aim at two levels:

(A) The in-house learning process, aiming to improve the programme through the knowledge acquired.

The application of the evaluation conclusions will be integrated in the decision-making process. The following steps will be taken to ensure that this aim is achieved:

- an action plan will be drawn up to monitor the actions to be taken;
- work meetings will be organised concerning the level and method of utilisation of the

- recommendations resulting from the evaluations;
- integrating the regular monitoring of the evaluations.

(B) The external presentation of the results (see publicity below).

Presenting the results of the actions is a key component of democratic accountability, while at the same time also contributing towards a higher level of participation and activation and ensuring that the parties concerned act responsibly.

Evaluation topics and activities

Following is a summary of the minimum Union requirements concerning the evaluation plan:

- *ex ante* evaluation to be integrated in the operational programme;
- this evaluation plan;
- a set of common framework, output and result indicators;
- reporting obligation every two years.

The evaluation plan will include at least the following three main parts:

1. Objective

- introduction to set out the main targets of the plan;
- analysis of available data to decide on the focus of the process used to collect information for the evaluation.

2. Evaluation framework

This part will set out the following:

- the purpose of the evaluation;
- the evaluation procedure, as specified by the MA;
- the level of participation of partners in the evaluation;
- the level of contribution from experts;
- guidelines to ensure the dissemination of the evaluation results;
- the timeframe showing how the evaluations will contribute towards the implementation and the preparation of the different reports required under the programme;
- the total budget for the implementation of the plan (see resources below).

3. Scheduled evaluations

- A list and timeframes of the evaluations that need to be carried out throughout the period, including documentation of the selected topics to be covered.
- Moreover, the evaluation plan must specify for each type of evaluation:
- The subject and reasons, including the background, main approach (procedure or impact assessment) and key evaluation questions.
- The methods to be used and the information needed for the evaluations.
- A commitment that the information needed for certain evaluations will be available in a timely fashion or that the relevant timeframe will be made available in the future.
- The duration and an indicative date.

- The estimated budget for each evaluation (in relation to the selected methods during the effective period of the contract).

The strategy used concerning the data and information.

The data collection strategy consists in the need to secure all necessary information on the one hand and cut down on the costs of the relevant process on the other hand. In this context, actions will be utilised to the maximum possible degree, which will ensure the ‘internal’ obtaining of information and data, such as:

- Identifying other public bodies from which data can be obtained to supplement the database.
- Most of the information will be obtained from the beneficiaries themselves and, therefore, the forms used will be redesigned, as appropriate, to include those data that are necessary for carrying out the evaluations and obtaining the relevant result indicators.
- Upgrading the data collection process, as provided for by the operational programme itself (measure under Article 77).

Research and other appropriate means will be used insofar as those actions do not cover the required volume of data.

Timeframe

The evaluation unit should, on an annual basis, prepare a report on the evaluation of the programme to inform the MA and, where necessary, the monitoring committee.

It should also make sure that the evaluations are available for the timely preparation of the reports on the results of the OP, particularly the preparation of the annual implementation reports for the years 2016-2023 and the important annual reports for 2017 and 2019.

The MA should approve and submit to the monitoring committee for approval the evaluation plan within one (1) year of adoption of the programme at the latest.

Specific requirements for evaluation of CLLD

The FLAG should, during the implementation of the local programme, keep the MA / IB informed of the progress made in implementing it by drawing up relevant progress reports. The reports concerned will be considered and evaluated by the evaluation unit.

Communication

Publicising the results will ensure transparency, more active participation and developing a general evaluation culture.

Decisions will be made on the following at an initial state, as appropriate:

- the target groups of the publicity;
- the type of the information to be communicated;
- the size and level of detail of the information to be communicated.

Following is an indicative list of the actions to be taken for publicising the evaluation results:

- posting the evaluation results on the website of the programme;
- including the evaluation results in the annual implementation reports;
- presenting the key findings in relevant work meetings and daily workshops;
- posting on programme information reports.

Resources

Financial resources:

The estimated budget for the evaluations included in the evaluation plan stands at EUR 200 000.00. As the resources of the operational programme are limited, different cost reduction solutions will be used in connection with the relevant evaluations. Apart from self-evaluations, such methods will be used as appropriate as:

- organising brainstorming meetings with partners;
- carrying out preparation tasks for the operational programme to ensure that most of the necessary information is already available through the programme;
- using, where possible and as appropriate, questionnaires for online and telephone interviews.

Human resources:

As already referred to in the relevant part of the operational programme, the human resources available at the MA / IB are limited. Despite the dire straits faced by the State, the competent bodies make all possible efforts to fill the gaps, to ensure that the programme is implemented unhindered. The Republic of Cyprus will make sure that sufficient and appropriate staff are provided for the implementation of the programme and, therefore, of the evaluation plan. Consequently, the carrying out of evaluations may be outsourced to external partners / experts, except in those cases referred to above as in-house evaluations / self-evaluations. The evaluation units will, in respect of the evaluation plan, be staffed with persons from the MA and the IB. Those persons will work for the unit in addition to performing their other functions.

The staff members of the evaluation unit will attend training seminars to acquire the necessary know-how, as appropriate.

IT

The key components of the monitoring system are the INFOSYS database, as used to add data on each project / beneficiary / action, and the management information system (MIS).

11. PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTING ARRANGEMENTS

11.1 Identification of authorities and intermediate bodies

Authority / body	Name of the authority / body	Email
Managing authority	Directorate-General for European Programmes, Coordination and Development	ggeorghiou@dgepcd.gov.cy
Certifying authority	Treasury of the Republic of Cyprus	accountant.general@treasury.gov.cy
Audit authority	Internal Audit Service of the Republic of Cyprus	commissioner@internalaudit.gov.cy
Intermediate body of the managing authority	Department of Fisheries and Marine Research	ykyriacou@dfmr.moa.gov.cy

11.2 Description of the monitoring and evaluation procedures

The progress made in implementing the OP is monitored and evaluated by means of the performance framework. To formulate the performance framework for the programme, as described in chapter 7, output and financial indicators are used for each Union priority. The output indicators have been determined on the basis of the common output indicators set out in a Commission implementing act and are linked to the measures included in the programme.

The output indicators of the programme are monitored on the basis of Article 97 of Regulation (EU) No 508/2014 and the guidelines provided in a Commission implementing act, through the 'Infosys' system, which includes the cumulative data on the actions selected for financing, including the key characteristics of the beneficiary and of the project.

The key monitoring requirements include the existence of suitable and reliable information, with the emphasis placed on the systematic collection of information at a project measure and OP level, and the immediate entry in the system of the data necessary for monitoring and evaluation.

The monitoring process and the management information system associated with that process are the main source of suitable data for the system of indicators. More specifically, a mechanism for monitoring the performance of indicators in the context of the management information system (MIS) has already been in place in the current programming period. The MIS includes, in terms of functioning, independent subsystems for the following sections: programming, inclusion / amendment, monitoring, controls, verifications and reviews, cash flows. It can communicate with the Commission's SFC2007 application. The system supports all the bodies concerned, i.e. the managing authority, the intermediate bodies, the certifying authority, the audit authority and the beneficiaries. The MIS is used to enter, *inter alia*, the contributions from the different ministries / departments in the form of semiannual project / plan monitoring reports, which include a distinct section on the progress made concerning the performance of the indicators. In the context of the preparation for the programming period 2014-2020, the MIS is expected to be streamlined and upgraded, to ensure that the information on the progress made in connection with the OP indicators is automatically collected by the system and directly monitored.

Moreover, the progress made concerning the performance of the indicators is also monitored in the context of the preparation of the annual reports on the operational programme. The annual reports are considered and approved by the members of the monitoring committee before they are officially submitted to the Commission for approval.

The mechanism used to monitor the performance framework, as referred to above, allows for the systematical evaluation of the achievement of the milestones and targets, and any problems relating to performance and deviation from the specified targets will be identified early enough, to be addressed through appropriate corrective action.

11.3 General composition of the monitoring committee

The monitoring committee should be appointed on the basis of the provisions of Article 47 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013. The monitoring committee should be set up within three (3) months of the date of notification of the OP approval decision by the Commission. The functions of the monitoring committee are set out in Article 49 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and in Article 113 of Regulation (EU) No 508/2014.

The composition of the monitoring committee should be determined on the basis of a relevant recommendation from the MA, taking into account the institutional framework of Cyprus and the partnership principle concerning the management, monitoring and evaluation of the interventions, at all implementation stages of the OP. The monitoring committee should be chaired by the Director-General of the Directorate-General for European Programmes, Coordination and Development (GDEPSA), which is the MA of the programme.

The following persons will take part in the monitoring committee:

- Directors-General from the competent ministries;
- Directors-General from the semi-government organisations concerned;
- representatives of the social and economic partners;
- representatives of the local authority;
- representatives of NGOs.

Moreover, the following persons will take part in the monitoring committee as observers: the Accountant General, the Auditor General, the Commissioner of Internal Audit and the Commissioner for State Aid Control.

Equal, as far as possible, participation of men and women should be ensured in the composition of the monitoring committee. Non-permanent members may also be invited to attend the meetings of the monitoring committee, e.g. specialised scientists, experts, etc. who are related to the implementation of the data collection programme, adaptation to climate change or other matters depending on the items on the agenda. Representatives of the Commission may, at their own initiative, also take part in the monitoring committee without any voting rights.

The monitoring committee will function in accordance with its internal operating regulation, as set out in cooperation with the MA of the OP, to ensure that its functions are performed in the context of the requirements laid down in the relevant Regulations. The internal regulation will be approved at the initial meeting of the monitoring committee.

11.4 A summary description of the information and publicity measures to be carried out in accordance with Article 120

The measures will be drawn up by the IB in cooperation with the MA, taking into account the general framework of the publicity principles, and the MA is also responsible for drawing up instructions and guidelines on the implementation and evaluation thereof. Publicity measures will also be carried out by the beneficiaries concerning their projects.

The budget to be made available is included in the financing of the technical assistance measure.

The key aims include ensuring transparency during the implementation of the projects included in the OP and informing the public of the role played both by the European Union and the competent authorities of the OP, as well as of the OP implementation results.

Following are more details on these two aims:

- ensuring effective communication with all beneficiaries and would-be beneficiaries, including those having difficulty in accessing the information, on the content of the OP and the opportunities made available through the OP;
- providing information to, and enhancing awareness among, the beneficiaries concerning their obligations during the implementation of the projects;
- enhancing awareness among the general public, at local level in particular, concerning the benefits to result from the implementation of the OP;
- ensuring easy access of the general public to the sources of information on the management and implementation of the OP;
- ensuring appropriate and reliable dissemination of information on the progress made in implementing the OP.

The groups chosen, i.e. the target groups of the information and publicity measures, include:

- the beneficiaries and would-be beneficiaries;
- the local authorities concerned and other public authorities;
- the economic partners concerned, SMEs and the self-employed in particular, and professional organisations;
- the social partners concerned, NGOs (particularly those focusing on promoting gender equality and the protection and improvement of the environment) and volunteer organisations;
- the media;
- the general public.

To ensure information and publicity on the OP, the managing authority will, in cooperation with the intermediate body, choose some of the following indicative tools (the list is non-exhaustive), adapting their contents to the relevant target group:

- printed matter (information documents and guides, periodicals, newspapers, etc.);
- seminars, information meetings, conventions, activation of projects, etc.;
- points of information, teaching aids and teaching material;
- TV and radio, CDs;
- web pages.

The managing authority also operates the integrated web portal used to provide information on, and access to, all programmes, including the 2014-2020 'Thalassa' operational programme. In addition to the integrated web portal, a dedicated website has been set up for the 'Thalassa' OP, to provide all available information on the OP and the EMFF. The website is used to ensure that a summary of measures designed to ensure compliance with the CFP rules, including cases of non-compliance by Member States or beneficiaries, as well as of remedy actions such as financial corrections taken, is made publicly available.

12. INFORMATION ON THE BODIES RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTING THE CONTROL, INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT SYSTEM

12.1 Bodies implementing the control, inspection and enforcement system

Name of the authority / body
Division of Control and Structures of the Department of Fisheries and Marine Research

12.2 Brief description of human and financial resources available for fisheries control, inspection and enforcement

HUMAN RESOURCES

Following are the human resources available for fisheries control: 5 (4.1 FTE) officials, 19 (14.7 FTE) inspectors and 2 (0.7 FTE) secretaries; the staff of the Maritime Service is used for fisheries control at sea (sea patrols), comprising 2 (0.4 FTE) masters, 3 (0.6 FTE) boat engineers and 7 (1.4 FTE) seamen.

FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Following are the financial resources available for fisheries control per year:

4.1 officials: EUR 160 290.00

14.7 inspectors : EUR 281 700.00

0.75 secretaries: EUR 12 535.00

overtime: EUR 30 000.00

satellite services / charges: EUR 148 000.00

telecommunications equipment maintenance: EUR 210 000.00

purchasing of new electronic equipment: EUR 1 200.00

staff training: EUR 0.00

other: EUR 450.00

Moreover, following are the funds made available both for the staff of the Maritime Service and the operating cost of patrol boats, which does not relate specifically to fisheries control activities:

0.4 masters: EUR 9 555.00

0.6 boat engineers: EUR 18 370.00

1.4 seamen: EUR 35 450.00

purchasing fuel for the boats: EUR 30 000.00

boat maintenance: EUR 68 840.00

Most of the controls carried out by the competent authority for the control of fisheries activities aim to ensure that the provisions of the control regulations in force each time are applied. The obligation to comply with specific reference levels / points for landing, except for the fishing of red tuna, which is already subject to a multiannual plan, does not apply to other fisheries. Under Article 4(18) of Regulation (EU) No 1224/2009 and Article 98 of implementing Regulation (EU) No 404/2011, Cyprus will adopt a risk analysis based approach for the selection of targets for inspection, using all available information. The manner / methodology used to draw up the risk analysis is currently being prepared, in cooperation with the EFCA and other Member States, but has not been finalised yet. When the risk analysis is prepared, the inspections will be carried out on the basis thereof, thus optimally utilising the existing human and financial resources.

12.3 The major equipment available, in particular the number of vessels, aircraft and helicopters

The major equipment available, in particular the number of vessels, aircraft and helicopters, comprises 1 inspection vessel that is longer than 15m, 3 inspection boats with a length of 6-15m and 3 inflatable inspection boats.

The vessels used for fisheries control purposes (patrols) are vessels of the Maritime Service.

12.4 List of selected types of operations

Type of operations	Description
(a) The purchase, installation and development of technology, including computer hardware and software, vessel detection systems (VDS), closed-circuit television (CCTV) systems and IT networks enabling the gathering, administration, validation, analysis, risk management, presentation (by means of the websites related to control) and exchange of, and the development of sampling methods for, data related to fisheries, as well as interconnection to cross-sectoral data exchange systems	1. Purchasing and development of new technologies (hardware and software). 2. Upgrading of control electronic systems and software. 3. 10 closed circuit TV (CCTV) systems. 4. Other technology and devices for applying the provisions on fisheries control. 5. Other eligible operating costs
(b) The development, purchase and installation of the components, including computer hardware and software, that are necessary to ensure data transmission from actors involved in fishing and the marketing of fishery products to the relevant Member State and Union authorities, including the necessary components for electronic recording and reporting systems (ERS), vessel monitoring systems (VMS) and automatic identification systems (AIS) used for control purposes	1. 25 automatic identification systems (AIS). 2. 25 electronic recording and reporting systems (ERS). 3. 40 vessels monitoring systems (VMS). 4. Other eligible operating costs

<p>(c) The development, purchase and installation of the components, including computer hardware and software, which are necessary to ensure the traceability of fisheries and aquaculture products, as referred to in Article 58 of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009</p>	<p>1. Development of systems (hardware and software) for the traceability of fisheries products. 2. Other eligible operating costs</p>
<p>(d) Implementation of programs aiming at exchanging and analysing data between Member States</p>	<p>1. Networks for collection, management, ratification, analysis and risk management. 2. Purchasing, installation and technical support of computer technology and setup of IT networks, to ensure that data are exchanged and analysed in a more effective and secure manner in the context of the monitoring activities. 3. Other eligible operating costs</p>
<p>(e) The modernisation and purchase of patrol vessels, aircrafts and helicopters, provided that they are used for fisheries control for at least 60% of the total period of use per year</p>	<p>1. Purchasing 5 small inflatable boats for coastal patrolling. These boats will be used by fisheries inspectors who will be appropriately trained to use them; therefore, the Maritime Service will not have to get involved, as the latter is not under the Division of Fisheries Control in terms of operation. Upon purchasing those boats and using them for fisheries control purposes only, such control will become more flexible and effective and will be carried out to the full. The boats will be used to quickly respond to illegal fishing incidents as well as for coastal patrolling carried out only by the staff of the Division of Fisheries Control. The boats that are under the Maritime Service will be used only for long scheduled patrols inside and outside the territorial waters. 2. Modernisation of 7 existing boats owned by the Service. 3. Other eligible operating costs</p>
<p>(f) Purchase of other control means, including devices to enable the measurement of engine power and weighing equipment</p>	<p>1. Purchasing 5 vehicles for patrolling at ports and coasts. 2. Devices for measuring the engine power of fishing boats 3. 50 weighing systems 4. Equipment to ensure safety during fisheries control 5. Other equipment for effective fisheries control (bags, flashlights, etc.) 6. Other eligible operating costs</p>
<p>(g) The development of innovative control and monitoring systems and the implementation of pilot projects related to fisheries control, including fish DNA analysis or the development of websites related to control</p>	<p>1. One drone with a camera. The drone will be able to head to a specific fishing area to take photos of boats which might be carrying out illegal fishing activities. The drone will be flexible, silent and hard to detect, also equipped with a night (infrared) camera. It is a cost-effective and innovative</p>

	<p>device that falls under the field of new technology and may initially be used in the context of a pilot programme. 2. Implementation of pilot projects / programmes aiming to utilise new technologies to achieve better monitoring of fishing activities for fisheries control purposes. The pilot programmes will be implemented by a scientific or technical organisation recognised by the Republic of Cyprus. They may be implemented by the organisations either exclusively or in cooperation with the Department of Fisheries and Marine Research, to ensure that the results of the programmes are recognised and certified. 3. Development of innovative control systems. 4. Creation of websites relating to fisheries control. 5. Other eligible operating costs</p>
(h) Training and exchange programmes, including between Member States, of personnel responsible for the monitoring, control and surveillance of fisheries activities	<p>1. Training programmes on fisheries surveillance methods, using fisheries control technical methods, provision of information on the Community legislation that governs the control and implementation of the applicable system. 2. Training in boat safety and handling. 3. Programmes for the training and exchange, between Member States, of personnel responsible for the monitoring, control and surveillance of fisheries activities. 4. Travel costs incurred for inspectors to obtain training from the European Fisheries Control Agency. 5. Other eligible operating costs</p>
(i) Cost / benefit analyses and assessments of audits performed and expenditure incurred by competent authorities in carrying out monitoring, control and surveillance	<p>1. Cost / benefit analyses and assessments of audits performed while carrying out monitoring, control and surveillance</p>
(j) Initiatives, including seminars and media tools, aimed at enhancing awareness, among both fishermen and other players such as inspectors, public prosecutors and judges, as well as among the general public, of the need to fight illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and of the implementation of the CFP rules	<p>1. Organising training seminars. 2. Information campaigns for enhancing awareness among both fishermen and the general public, of the need to fight illegal fishing and of the implementation of the CFP rules. 3. Printing and distributing printed matter. 4. Other eligible operating costs.</p>
(k) Operational costs incurred in carrying out more stringent control for stocks subject to specific control and inspection programmes established in accordance with Article 95 of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 and subject to control coordination in accordance with	<p>1. Operational costs incurred in carrying out national and joint fisheries control programmes and costs incurred in the implementation of the more stringent control for stocks subject to specific control</p>

Article 15 of Council Regulation (EC) No 768/2005	and inspection programmes established in accordance with Article 95 of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 (overtime, daily remuneration, other costs). 2. Travel costs and incidental expenses incurred during the long presence of inspectors at the European Fisheries Control Agency for personnel training and exchange purposes.
(1) Programmes linked to the implementation of an action plan established in accordance with Article 102(4) of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009, including any operational costs incurred	1. Services provided by scientific advisors and possible research partnerships with higher and highest training institutes for the development of new technologies aimed to assist with the implementation of innovative means for fisheries control purposes. 2. Other eligible operating costs

12.5 Link to priorities defined by the Commission

The correlation of the actions with the priorities defined by the Commission as set out in Article 18(3) is described in the table included in attachment 5 - part B.

13. DATA COLLECTION

13.1 A general description of activities of data collection foreseen for the period 2014-2020

Part A: For the period 2014-2016

As regards the period 2014-2016, Cyprus will implement the national programme 2014-2016, as set out in Commission Decision No E(2013) 5568 of 30 August 2013[1].

Part B: For the period after 2016

As regards the period 2017-2020, the activities provided for relate to the collection of biological, technical, environmental and socioeconomic data on commercial fisheries, as well as the collection of commercial fisheries on the aquaculture sector and the fisheries products processing industry.

Upon adoption of the revised Data Collection Framework, Cyprus may amend said chapter of the operational programme accordingly, to respond to the new data collection obligations and actions.

The following activities will be carried out to **assess the status of exploited marine biological resources**:

- *Collection of biological data relating to specific commercial fishing activities (métier)*

Samples will be taken of fisheries obtained through primary fishing activities, to assess the allocation by length of the harvested stocks and the volume of discards. A probability sampling plan will be used and, where it is impossible to select the boats randomly, a non-probability sampling plan will be used. The sampling will be carried out at the landing sites and/or on board the vessels at sea. The analysis and assessment of variables will be based on methodologies proposed by appropriate scientific bodies. Please note that a bilateral agreement between Cyprus and Malta is in place for collecting biological data from Cypriot vessels carrying out fisheries operations by the use of a bottom trawl in the central Mediterranean Sea (GSA 15) and landing their catches in Malta.

- *Collection of data from recreational fisheries operations*

Provision has been made for carrying out a pilot survey to assess the importance of the impact of the different types of recreational fisheries in Cyprus. The results of the survey may be used to systematically monitor certain types of recreational fisheries.

- *Collection of biological variables relating to the stock*

Biological sampling will be carried out to collect individual data on specific stocks in order to assess the biological parameters. The size and number of the samples will be determined on the basis of such methodologies as proposed by appropriate scientific bodies and/or set out in the revised Data Collection Framework. Regional coordination is expected to be used in the event of shared stocks with other Member States.

- *Collection of technical data from commercial fisheries*

The variables to be collected on capacity, fishing effort and landings will be specified in a future Data Collection Framework. Wherever possible, data will be collected in an exhaustive way. If not, sampling will be carried out. National coordination will be ensured as appropriate, with a view to avoiding duplication of data collection for different purposes.

- *Research surveys at sea*

Provision has been made for carrying out an international bottom trawl survey in the Mediterranean (MEDITS). The sampling methodology to be followed and the fishing gear to be used are specified in the MEDITS methodology guide [2]. The sampling stations will be based on the stations used in previous years. The sampling will include the collection of biological data, environmental data and marine waste data.

Environmental data will be collected and environmental indicators will be calculated, as specified in the future data collection framework, with a view to evaluating the level of fishing and the impact of fishing activity on marine biological resources and marine ecosystems. The data will be collected and the indicators will be assessed by the use of such methodologies as proposed by appropriate scientific bodies and/or specified in the data collection framework.

The socioeconomic variables intended for evaluating socioeconomic performance in the fisheries sector will be collected by filling out questionnaires which will either be mailed to fishermen or provided to them during face-to-face interviews. To effectively implement the data collection plan, the fleet will be broken down into the following categories:

- A. small-scale coastal fishing boats (categories A and B) with a length of 0-6m;
- B. small-scale coastal fishing boats (categories A and B) with a length of 6-12m;
- C. small-scale coastal fishing boats (category C - used periodically) with a length of 0-6m;
- D. small-scale coastal fishing boats (category C - used periodically) with a length of 6-12m;
- E. Polyvalent vessels
- F. Trawlers (carrying out fishing operations in international and territorial waters)

A probability sampling plan will be used for the first four categories and, where it is impossible to select the boats for sampling randomly, a non-probability sampling plan will be used. The fishing data collection plan for polyvalent vessels and trawlers will cover the entire population (census).

The methodology to be followed will be based on recommendations from appropriate scientific bodies.

The socioeconomic variables in the fisheries products processing sector will be collected by filling out questionnaires. To effectively implement the fishing data collection plan, the plan will cover the entire population for those companies in which the total turnover in the fisheries products processing sector exceeds 50% compared to the company's other activities.

To evaluate socioeconomic performance in the aquaculture sector, the fishing data collection plan will cover the entire population.

Apart from the above and throughout the programming period, data collection surveys / studies will be carried out to obtain enhanced knowledge and ensure better management of fishing grounds and fish stocks.

Key categories of eligible costs throughout the period

Following are the key categories of eligible costs:

- Staff costs
- Travel costs and maritime bonuses
- Durable goods
- Consumable materials and supplies including computing costs
- Vessel costs
- Subcontracting costs in the context of public procurement
- Participation in and organising of eligible meetings

13.2 A description of data storage methods, data management and data use

The existing national programme for the collection and management of different categories of data is based on the following databases:

1. fishing data management system (SDAP)
2. fishing fleet register (MAS)
3. electronic recording system
4. satellite vessel monitoring system

Fishing and landing data from production datasheets and vessel logbooks are collected by the district units of the Department of Fisheries and Marine Research and transmitted to the headquarters of the Department for processing and entry in the SDAP.

The information security system is used with passwords provided to system users. There is a controlled area in the headquarters of the Department of Fisheries and Marine Research in which the system hardware is protected with passwords. Backup files are kept for data protection purposes.

Potential data collection biases affecting the quality and completeness of the data have been identified on the basis of the ICES WKACCU report (Report of the Workshop on Methods to Evaluate and Estimate the Accuracy of Fisheries Data used for Assessment (WKACCU), 27–30 October 2008, Bergen, Norway. ICES CM 2008\ACOM:32) and referred to extensively in the Cyprus national programme 2011-2013, along with the measures taken to address and minimise such biases.

All primary data recorded during the sampling are kept in case the initial data need to be looked into and compared against the data kept electronically. For the time being, data controls are not automated.

For the time being, the precision of the data collected on a sampling basis is evaluated by the use of analytical methods on Excel files. To enhance data quality, the relevant ICES reports are studied and followed (e.g. Report of the Workshop on methods to evaluate and estimate the precision of fisheries data used for assessment (WKPRECISE), 8-11 September 2009, Copenhagen, Denmark. ICES CM 2009/ACOM:40), Report of the Joint ICES – STECF Workshop on methods for merging metiers for fishery based sampling (WKMERGE), 19-22 January 2010, Copenhagen, Denmark. ICES CM 2010/ACOM:40).

As regards the data collected thoroughly using the electronic recording system (ERS) in accordance with the control regulations (Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 and Regulation (EU) No 404/2011), in particular from vessel logbooks, landing declarations and sales lists, there is a tool available in the

database currently used to enter them for cross-checking the relevant values entered. Where clarifications / corrections are considered necessary, the staff of the Department of Fisheries and Marine Research communicates with the masters / owners of fishing boats.

As regards aggregated data transmitted to end users through Official Data Calls, they are checked before transmission by the use of the data validation tools available on the data collection website (<https://datacollection.jrc.ec.europa.eu>).

The existing systems are used to record data, but are not flexible enough in terms of extracting data in accordance with the user's needs. Therefore, plans are being made for streamlining the systems used by the Department of Fisheries and Marine Research, to make them more functional. More specifically, the Department of Fisheries and Marine Research is planning to implement new, or upgrade the existing, systems as shown below:

- upgrading the electronic recording system;
- creating the data validation system, with automated data quality and completeness checking;
- upgrading the fishing fleet register;
- upgrading the fisheries resources management system;
- upgrading the marine environment database;
- upgrading the satellite vessel monitoring system;
- upgrading the existing, or creating a new, computer centre to host all the systems of the Department of Fisheries and Marine Research;
- interconnecting / integrating all the computer systems of the Department of Fisheries and Marine Research;
- upgrading the electronic fishing data control database.

A detailed examination and study of the above existing and new systems will be carried out, and the needs and obligations of the Department of Fisheries and Marine Research will be identified in the context of a contract to be implemented in 2015. The implementation of the above actions is expected to ensure control and enhance the quality and completeness, of the data that need to be collected.

13.3 A description of how sound financial and administrative management in data collection will be achieved

Sound financial and administrative management will be achieved through the following actions:

1. A national correspondent has been appointed from among the staff of the Department of Fisheries and Marine Research, to coordinate the national programme at national and regional levels and communicate with the Commission. The national correspondent is directly engaged in the preparation and implementation of the national programme, and his position is fixed.

2. The management structure used for the national programme is based on model 2, i.e. the public body (Department of Fisheries and Marine Research) in which the national correspondent is placed is the sole beneficiary for the implementation of the national programme. The carrying out of certain activities is outsourced to other scientific bodies through public procurement procedures.
3. The annual reports on the implementation of the national programmes are prepared entirely by the staff of the Department of Fisheries and Marine Research who are engaged in the preparation and implementation of the national programme. More specifically, there are responsible persons appointed to prepare the different sections and provide the relevant information. There is also a responsible person appointed to coordinate and verify the final format of the reports, to make sure that the required information is included therein.
4. Persons responsible for the implementation of the programme, from among the staff of the Department of Fisheries and Marine Research, take part in the regional coordinating meetings. The national correspondent and the persons responsible for the collection of biological and financial data are supposed to take part.
5. As regards participation in the scientific meetings on data collection, the responsible persons from among the staff of the Department of Fisheries and Marine Research engaged in the implementation of the national programme who are most related to the items on the agenda of each meeting take part therein.
6. As referred to above, the Department of Fisheries and Marine Research is the sole beneficiary for the implementation of the national programme, whereas the carrying out of certain activities is outsourced to other scientific bodies through public procurement procedures. The staff members of the Department of Fisheries and Marine Research are scientifically qualified and experienced. There is direct communication and cooperation between these individuals, and they are updated immediately on any modifications or recommendations made in connection with data collection, either by the Commission or in the context of meetings on data collection. However, due to the limited number of individuals engaged in data collection and given that they have to carry out other functions too, there is a risk of delayed / unsatisfactory fulfilment of data collection obligations. As far as technical resources are concerned, there are available laboratory facilities and the required equipment for sample processing and parameter evaluation at the Department of Fisheries and Marine Research. The national programme activities outsourced to other scientific bodies using public procurement procedures relate to the conduct of scientific surveys at sea (an international bottom trawl survey in the Mediterranean - MEDITS), including a research vessel, and the collection of biological data from large pelagic fisheries. The improvements already made include cutting down on subcontracting costs, as the staff of the Department of Fisheries and Marine Research undertook to carry out more activities under the programme, thus ensuring stability and investing in its ability to implement the programme. To ensure the implementation of the programme and enhancement of data quality, it is necessary for the management of the Department of Fisheries and Marine Research to make a commitment for employing sufficient human resources on a continued and satisfactory basis. The support provided by the Department of Fisheries and Marine Research in connection with the programme, with a high Community contribution ratio at that, is an opportunity for the Department to meet its human resources needs by restructuring its staff structure and/or securing additional staff on a hired services basis.

14. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

14.1 Description of the planned use of financial instruments

No financial instruments are expected to be used.

No financial instruments are expected to be used through the Department of Fisheries and Marine Research. Should a financial instrument be created in Cyprus for other programmes under the ESI Funds, it may be possible for the programme implemented by the Department of Fisheries and Marine Research to be included therein, depending on the nature and conditions of the relevant scheme to be prepared for SME financing.

14.2 Selection of the EMFF measures planned to be implemented through the financial instruments

	EMFF measure
	02 - Article 38 Limitation of the impact of fishing on the marine environment and adaptation of fishing to the protection of species (+ Article 44(1)(c) Inland fishing)
	04 - Article 40(1)(a) Protection and restoration of marine biodiversity - collection of lost fishing gear and marine litter
	05 - Article 43(2) Fishing ports, landing sites, auction halls and shelters - investments to facilitate compliance with the obligation to land all catches
	01 - Article 47 Innovation
	02 - Article 49 Management, relief and advisory services for aquaculture farms
	01 - Article 77 Data collection
	01 - Article 62(1)(a) Preparatory support
	02 - Article 63 Implementation of local development strategies (including running costs and animation)
	03 - Article 64 Cooperation activities
	02 - Article 67 Storage aid
	03 - Article 68 Marketing measures
	01 - Article 80(1)(a) Integrated maritime surveillance
	02 - Article 80(1)(b) Promotion of the protection of the marine environment, and sustainable use of marine and coastal resources
	03 - Article 80(1)(c) Improving knowledge on the state of the marine environment
	01 - Article 40(1)(b) to (g) and (i) Protection and restoration of marine biodiversity - contribution to a better management or conservation, construction, installation or modernisation of static or movable facilities, preparation of protection and management plans related to Natura 2000 sites and spatial protected areas, management, restoration and monitoring of marine protected areas, including Natura 2000 sites, environmental awareness, participation in other actions aimed at maintaining and enhancing biodiversity and ecosystem services (+ Article 44(6) Inland fishing)
	01 - Article 48(1)(a) to (d) and (f) to (h) Productive investments in aquaculture
	01 - Article 76 Control and enforcement
	01 - Article 69 Processing of fishery and aquaculture products
	01 - Article 34 Permanent cessation of fishing activities

	01 - Article 48(1)(k) Productive investments in aquaculture – Increasing energy efficiency, renewable sources of energy
	02 - Article 48(1)(e), (i) and (j) Productive investments in aquaculture – Resource efficiency, reducing usage of water and chemicals, recirculation systems minimising water use
	03 - Article 51 Increasing the potential of aquaculture sites
	02 - Article 30 Diversification and new forms of income (+ Article 44(4) Inland fishing)
	04 - Article 32 Health and safety (+ Article 44(1)(b) Inland fishing)
	07 - Article 40(1)(h) Protection and restoration of marine biodiversity - schemes for the compensation of damage to catches caused by mammals and birds
	09 - Article 43(1) and (3) Fishing ports, landing sites, auction halls and shelters – Investments improving the infrastructure of fishing ports, auctions halls, landing sites and shelters; construction of shelters in order to improve the safety of fishermen (+ Article 44(1)(f) Inland fishing)
	02 - Article 28 Partnerships between scientists and fishermen (+ Article 44(3) Inland fishing)
	03 - Article 41(1)(a), (b) and (c) Energy efficiency and mitigation of climate change – Investments on board; energy efficiency audits and schemes; studies to assess the contribution of alternative propulsion systems and hull designs (+ Article 44(1)(d) Inland fishing)
	04 - Article 41(2) Energy efficiency and mitigation of climate change – replacement or modernisation of main or ancillary engines (+ Article 44(1)(d) Inland fishing)

14.3 Indicative amounts planned to be used through the financial instruments

Total EMFF amount for the period 2014-2020 (in EUR)

Documents

Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent by
Summary description of the management and control system	Summary description of the management and control systems	10 July 2014	Attachment 4	Ares(2015)25747 91	Attachment 4	19 Jun 2015	nantocos
EACs for fisheries control (chapter 6.1.1) and correlation of actions (chapter 12.5)	Additional information	24 Sep 2014	Attachment 5	Ares(2015)25747 91	Attachment 5	19 Jun 2015	nantocos
Report on the <i>ex ante</i> evaluation of the OP	Report on the <i>ex ante</i> evaluation	29 Sep 2014	Attachment 2	Ares(2015)25747 91	Attachment 1	19 Jun 2015	nantocos
ACTION PLAN under Article 19 of Regulation (EU) 1303/2013 for the fulfilment of <i>ex ante</i> conditionality - Report on fishing capacity	Additional information	17 Apr 2015	Attachment 11	Ares(2015)25747 91	Attachment 11	19 Jun 2015	nantocos
List of partners that took part in the preparation of the 'Thalassa' OP	List of partners consulted	26 Aug 2014	Attachment 1	Ares(2015)25747 91	Attachment 1	19 Jun 2015	nantocos
Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment for the OP	Report on the strategic environmental assessment	24 Jul 2014	Attachment 3	Ares(2015)25747 91	Attachment 3	19 Jun 2015	nantocos
Review of the recommendations from the persons responsible for the conduct of the <i>ex ante</i> evaluation and summary description of how the recommendations were looked into (chapter 1.2.2)	Additional information	29 Sep 2014	Attachment 7	Ares(2015)25747 91	Attachment 7	19 Jun 2015	nantocos

Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent by
Actions to fulfil applicable general <i>ex ante</i> conditionalities	Additional information	9 Apr 2015	Attachment 9	Ares(2015)25747 91	Attachment 9	19 Jun 2015	nantocos
Maps related to the OP	Maps showing the size and location of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors, the location of key fishing harbours and aquaculture facilities and the location of protected areas (ICZM, MPAs, Natura 2000)	25 Sep 2014	Attachment 6	Ares(2015)25747 91	Attachment 6.1 Attachment 6.2 Attachment 6.3 Attachment 6.4	19 Jun 2015	nantocos
Opinion on the Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment from the Department of Environment	Additional information	7 Jan 2015	Attachment 8	Ares(2015)25747 91	Attachment 8	19 Jun 2015	nantocos
List of interventions to be financed under Union priorities 1 and 6 (chapter 4.1)	Additional information	30 Jan 2015	Attachment 10	Ares(2015)25747 91	Attachment 10	19 Jun 2015	nantocos