



# EMFAF 2021-2027 and Fisheries Local Action Groups

**#EUGreenDeal**

*FARNET Atlantic and North Sea Seminar, 25/5/2021*

# Overview

- Overall context
- European Green Deal and recovery
- EMFAF 2021-2027 and recovery
- Future for FLAGs in the Atlantic and North Sea

# A lot happened since 2018...

- Commission proposal for EMFF 2021-2027: 18/6/2018
- End 2019: new Commission – European Green Deal
- 2020: Covid-19 crisis hit hard and changed our perspective
- 2021: an EU at 27 MS after Brexit

# Policy drivers for EU recovery

- **European Green Deal** at the heart of the EU's recovery strategy
- Strengthen the **Single Market** and adapt it to the **digital** age
- **Fair and inclusive** recovery **for all**

 Build a **more resilient EU**

 **EU as global driver**





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*The European Green Deal is one of the key components of the European Union's growth strategy and a path to a green, robust and durable recovery from the health pandemic and its economic impact.*

#EUGreenDeal







EU Biodiversity Strategy  
for 2030



# Let's take care of our nature

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Climate change, the unprecedented loss of biodiversity and infectious diseases are sending a clear message: **it is time to fix our broken relationship with nature.**



[https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal/actions-being-taken-eu/eu-biodiversity-strategy-2030\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal/actions-being-taken-eu/eu-biodiversity-strategy-2030_en)

# A coherent Trans-European Nature Network

1 Establishing protected areas for at least:



**30%**  
of land in Europe



**30%**  
of sea in Europe



Incl. **10%**  
no take zones



# An EU Nature Restoration Plan

2 Restoring degraded ecosystems at land and sea across the whole of Europe by e.g. :



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Restoring at least  
25 000 km of EU  
rivers to a free  
flowing state



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Reducing the use  
and risk of  
chemical  
pesticides by 50%  
by 2030

Legally  
binding nature  
restoration  
targets in  
2021



A close-up photograph of a green leaf, showing the intricate network of veins. The leaf is a vibrant green color, and the veins are a slightly lighter shade, creating a complex, organic pattern. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the leaf's surface.

# | Farm to Fork Strategy



# Transition to a fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food system

- Have a neutral or positive environmental impact
- Mitigate climate change and adapt to its impacts
- Reverse the loss of biodiversity

Our food systems account for nearly one-third of global GHG emissions and consume large amounts of natural resources

- Ensure food security, nutrition and public health, making sure that everyone has access to sufficient, safe, nutritious, sustainable food
- Preserve affordability of food while generating fairer economic returns, foster competitiveness of the EU supply sector and promote fair trade







European Maritime, Fisheries  
and Aquaculture Fund

EMFAF 2021-2027



# EMFAF – State of play

- Commission proposal for EMF(A)F : 18/6/2018
- Provisional agreement between the Council and European Parliament: 4/12/2020
- Multiannual Financial Framework for 2021-2027: adopted on 17/12/2020
- Next steps:
  - Formal adoption by the Parliament and the Council
  - Publication in the Official Journal (July tbc)
  - Adoption depending also on Common Provisions Regulation for all European Structural and Investment Funds (June tbc)

# EMFAF - 4 Priorities

- 1) Fostering *sustainable fisheries* and the *restoration and conservation of aquatic biological resources*
- 2) Fostering *sustainable aquaculture* activities, and *processing and marketing* of fisheries and aquaculture products, contributing to food security in the Union
- 3) Enabling a sustainable *blue economy* in coastal, island and inland areas, and fostering the *development of fishing and aquaculture communities*
- 4) Strengthening *international ocean governance* and enabling *safe, secure, clean and sustainably managed seas and oceans*



# EMFAF in the wider EU context

- Recovery and resilience building
- Green transition
- Digital transformation and innovation
- Maximum impact of public support

# Recovery and resilience

## ➤ What is the issue?

- Recovery from the economic crisis
- Adaptation of the sector to changing global context
- Providing conditions for an economically viable activity and a strong crisis management capacity

## ➤ What can the EMFAF do?

- Structural investment to reduce operating costs (e.g. through energy efficiency)
- Capacity building, collective organisation (e.g. producer organisations), skills, dissemination of innovation
- Diversification of activities and income (e.g. of fishers as « shepherds of the seas »)
- Structural adaptations: restructuring of the fleet, reorganisation of markets, diversification



# Green transition

## ➤ What is the issue?

- Achieving the objectives of the European Green Deal (Biodiversity Strategy and Farm to Fork Strategy)
- Targeting 30% of EMFF expenditure to climate actions
- Achieving the objectives of the CFP towards sustainable fishing (MSY, low-impact fishing)

## ➤ What can the EMFAF do?

- Improve scientific knowledge on marine ecosystems and biodiversity to allow efficient management decisions
- Innovation and investment in low-impact fishing and aquaculture
- Reduction of the carbon footprint of fisheries and aquaculture and adaptation of fisheries to the consequences of climate change
- Management of marine protected areas and other protection measures for biodiversity and ecosystems

# Digital transformation and innovation

## ➤ What is the issue?

- Wide use of innovation for competitiveness and sustainability (technology saves resources and reduces operational costs)

## ➤ What can the EMFAF do?

- Support innovation and pilot projects
- Facilitate the transfer of innovation to private investment (notably through collective projects)
- Enhance digital skills
- Use technology to improve the supply chain of fisheries and aquaculture products (e.g. direct sales, short circuits) and enhance traceability and consumer information



# Optimal value added of public support

## ➤ What is the issue?

- Public money should generate collective benefits
- Public money should enable private investment, not replace it
- Sound financial management should go hand in hand with administrative simplification

## ➤ What can the EMFAF do?

- Promoting financial instruments as a way to leverage private investment
- Moving towards results-based payments (« financing not linked to costs ») and simplified cost options (focus on results and reduce checks on invoices)

# Sea Basin Analyses

To guide EMFAF programming of MS, European Commission prepared **Sea Basin Analyses**:

- *main common challenges* for common fisheries policy across the EU
- *regional challenges* for achieving the CFP objectives : **Baltic, North Sea, Atlantic, Mediterranean, Black Sea, EU Outermost Regions, Inland areas**
- **EMF(A)F Toolbox** : possible actions for EMFF support (not prescriptive/exhaustive)

[https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/sites/fisheries/files/swd-2020-206-a-sea-basin-perspective-to-guide-emff-programming\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/sites/fisheries/files/swd-2020-206-a-sea-basin-perspective-to-guide-emff-programming_en.pdf)



# Recent developments

## ➤ **Sustainable Blue Economy – Commission Communication 17/5/2021**

- **Climate neutrality and zero carbon footprint:** offshore energy, greening ports
- **Circular economy and reducing pollution:** new types of fishing gear, recycling of vessels, reduce (micro)plastics
- **Biodiversity and investing in nature:** protect 30% of sea areas, reduce environmental impact of fisheries on marine habitats
- **Climate adaptation and resilience of coastal communities:** build with nature, improve biodiversity and landscapes, sustainable tourism, diversifying coastal economy
- **Sustainable food production:** sustainable products (fish, algae, seagrass), solid fisheries control, R&I
- **Maritime spatial planning:** new Blue Forum for sea users – dialogue for better management sea space

## ➤ **Strategic guidelines for sustainable aquaculture in the EU – 17/5/2021**

- More competitive, resilient, better climate and environment performance, innovative and knowledge based, green transition





# Opportunities for FLAGs

## EMFAF 2021-2027



# Challenges in the Atlantic and North Sea

- pockets of small-scale fishing communities lacking critical mass
- reconciling the emergence of new marine sectors (e.g. offshore energy, tourism) with traditional sectors, and in particular small-scale coastal fisheries
- adapting to climate change
- adapting to impact of Brexit on fisheries

# Opportunities for FLAGs in the Atlantic and North Sea

- cooperate between fisheries-dependent communities for an Atlantic-wide approach to the blue economy and environmental challenges
- actions in favour of the (marine) environment, against marine litter
- promote the consumption and processing of local seafood
- increase social acceptance of aquaculture
- develop coastal tourism in relation to fishing and to benefit from climate change opportunities
- support the entry of younger fishers into the sector and attract young people and skilled youth to aquaculture production (in particular algae production)
- promote blue biotechnology as an alternative and innovative sector

# What can your FLAG do now?

- **Build on good experience** under EMFF and **prepare timely** for transition
- Focus on **local needs** and **fit them into** the European Green Deal, the Biodiversity and Farm to Fork Strategies
- **Think and plan strategically:**
  - use EMFAF to help the local community and businesses recover from the crisis and build resilience for the future
  - green local economic activities
  - support creativity, innovation and digital modernisation
  - cooperate with other FLAGs
  - link up with a regional Smart Specialisation Strategy - with the EU Atlantic Strategy
  - increase the collective impact of your FLAG
  - reinforce your FLAG: renew and attract people and organisations that will increase your positive impact





European  
Commission

# The future starts now

*#StrongerTogether*

*#NextGenerationEU*

*Alenka KAMPL, MARE.C2  
Structural support Atlantic, North Sea, Baltic and Outermost Regions*