

European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)

Greece

Greece – overview

Coast and ports

- Greece has a coastline of 15.021 km (covering more than 6 000 islands and islets), representing 13.89 % of the total EU-23 coastline.
- Greece has many commercial harbours. The most important are: Pireaus, Thessaloniki, Patra, Kavala, Volos and Alexandroupolis.
- Main fishing ports: Keratsini (Pireaus), Michaniona (Thessaloniki), Patra, Kavala and Volos.
- Fisheries auctions: 11 auction sites also operate for wholesale fisheries marketing.

Potential

Greece has a longstanding tradition and history in the fisheries and maritime sector. Despite its limited contribution (less than 3.1 %) to the gross domestic product (GDP), the Greek fisheries sector represents a primary sector of significant socio-economic importance, particularly in coastal, traditionally fisheries-dependent areas.

In 2014, the Greek fishing fleet comprised 15 693 vessels (with 94 % of these relating to the small-scale coastal fisheries segment of less than 12 meters), with a combined gross tonnage of 76 700, a total engine power of 451 000 kW and an average age of 27 years.

In Greece, marine aquaculture is the largest aquaculture sector, in terms of both production volume and value. Marine aquaculture farms are mainly located in the island blocks of Dodekanissa, Euvoia, Kefalonia-Ithaki and in the sea areas of Thesprotia, Fthiotida and Aitolokarnania. Despite forming just one part of the vertically integrated industry, hatcheries and nurseries production of marine finfish outperforms all other segments of the sector in terms of value. Shellfish and freshwater aquaculture consists mainly of small family enterprises, producing mostly trout in tanks. Mussel aquaculture is the second most important segment of marine aquaculture, with most farms operating in the areas of Thessaloniki, Thessaloniki, Thessaloniki, Imathia and Pieria. Freshwater aquaculture comprises 83 trout farms overall, located mainly in Aitolokarnania.

Economic performance and employment

- For 2012, the total volume of seafood landings was around 108 000 tonnes, and first sale value reached EUR 457 million. In terms of employment, 19 396 full-time positions were reported in small-scale fisheries (SSF), and 4 548 in large-scale fisheries (LSF), respectively.



- The number of aquaculture enterprises businesses totalled 1 051 in 2012. The total aquaculture production volume amounted to 114 000 tonnes in 2012, dropping by 6 % compared to 2011. In the same period, production value increased by 4 %, reaching EUR 545 million in 2012. In terms of employment, 4 900 employees were reported for 2012.
- The fishery products processing sector were counting about 160 enterprises in 2007. These enterprises are located either in areas with traditional processing activities (northern Greece) or in big landing sites and consumer centres (Athens, Thessaloniki and Kavala). The majority of the fish processing units in Greece are classified as small industry units, engaging few employees: 55 % of enterprises have 10 employees or less, while 37 % of enterprises employ 11 - 49 employees. In terms of employment, 2 265 jobs reported in 2011.

Greece's Operational Programme









Budget

Total (EU + national):
€523 406 309

EU contribution:
€388 777 914
(6.76 % of the total EMFF amount)

National contribution:
€134 628 395
(25.72 % of the total OP)

The Operational Programme (OP) covers the six “Union Priorities” defined in the EMFF, namely:

1.  promoting environmentally sustainable, resource-efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge-based **fisheries**;
2.  fostering environmentally sustainable, resource-efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge-based **aquaculture**;
3.  implementation of the **Common Fisheries Policy (CFP)**;
4.  increasing **employment and territorial cohesion**;
5.  fostering **marketing and processing**;
6.  implementation of the **Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP)**.



1. Fisheries

What?

The marine fisheries sector in Greece faces the challenges of balancing the sustainability of stocks and that of the income of fishermen.

As 94 % of Greek fishing fleet consists of small scale coastal fishing vessels with limited capacity and age the sector has low competitiveness and economic performance, and needs development and infrastructure modernisation (fishing shelters and landing sites). Moreover, the human resources working in the fishing sector are characterised by old age and lack of training. There is a need for prompt and well-targeted interventions to address these weaknesses.

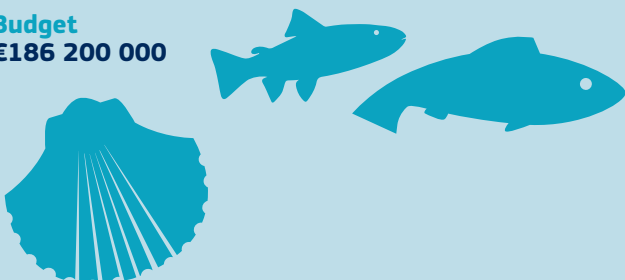
OP aim

EMFF funding will support the use of more selective fishing gear by Greek vessels, investments that add value to fishing products, on-board investments and equipment to improve hygiene, health, safety and the working conditions of fishermen, the creation and scientific monitoring of artificial reefs, the establishment of marine protected areas, and the modernisation of fishing infrastructures (landing sites, ports and shelters), aiming at the sustainable management of the fisheries sector, the protection and restoration of aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems as well as at ensuring economic viability of the sector.

Key result

A sustainable fisheries sector that ensures healthy stocks, sustainable marine and coastal ecosystems and environmental, economic and social stability for the coastal communities.

Budget
€186 200 000



2. Aquaculture

What?

Greece has developed a large aquaculture sector, representing a major share of national seafood production. The main species farmed are two finfish (sea bass and sea bream) and shellfish (mussels). Marine aquaculture heads the aquaculture sector, followed by mussels aquaculture.

There are several factors highlighting aquaculture as one of the key productive sectors where Greece possesses competitive advantages and dynamic potential for economic growth in the framework of smart specialisation strategies. The main factors are the favourable environmental and climatic conditions, the availability of adequate sea and inland areas, the longstanding experience and scientific know-how, the existing infrastructures and the skilled human resources. In addition, aquaculture products head Greece's export goods, confirming the extroversion of the sector, its contribution to the real economy and its outlook for further development. In view of this, a multiannual national strategic plan for the development of aquaculture has been drawn up, aimed at enhancing the competitiveness and sustainability of the sector by promoting innovation, high-level protection of the environment and a better levelled playing field.

OP aim

EMFF funding will support the competitiveness and the environmental and economic sustainability of the Greek aquaculture sector, mainly through the promotion of productive investments and new forms of aquaculture with high growth potential, investments that enhance quality and increase added value for aquaculture products, provide measures for public health and animal welfare, boost innovation and provide advisory services of a technical, scientific, legal or economic nature.

Key objective

By 2023, aquaculture is expected to be a leading primary sector, providing a high level of environmental protection and a significant contribution to high-quality food supply, employment and economic growth.

Budget
€89 758 781.33

3. Common Fisheries Policy (CFP)



What?

The Directorate General for Sustainable Fisheries of the Ministry of Rural Development and Food of Greece is responsible for the scientific assessment of fish stocks of key commercial species. It is also responsible for analysing the sector's economic situation and for data collection. In this aim, it is supported by two national research institutes, the Greek Fisheries Research Institute (FRI) and the Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (HCMR), which are responsible for the implementation of the national Data Collection Framework (DCF) programme and the collection of related data. With regard to fishery control activities and responsibilities, the Directorate-General for Sustainable Fisheries is supported by the competent services of the Hellenic Coast Guard.

OP aim

The CFP sets out rules for managing European fishing fleets and conserving fish stocks. Greece implements them by:

- improving and supplying scientific knowledge for fisheries and aquaculture, the collection and management of respective data;
- supporting fisheries monitoring, control and enforcement.

Key result

EMFF funding will support the collection, management and the use of data required by the CFP, as well as the implementation of a control, inspection and enforcement system as required by the CFP.

Budget

€92 088 225

4. Community-led local development strategies



What?

The development of fisheries and aquaculture sectors in Greece over time has led to the dependence of the country's coastal areas and islands on related activities; nevertheless these areas are characterised by demographic and socio-economic problems and weaknesses in basic infrastructure. On the other hand, the environmental advantages of those areas, together with their attractiveness as tourist destinations, are strong assets that can help achieve sustainable development at local level through the implementation of comprehensive, well-targeted and integrated local development strategies.

OP aim

EMFF funding will help increase employment and territorial cohesion in fisheries and aquaculture-dependent areas by:

- creating new jobs and diversifying activities to create new sources of income;
- promoting social well-being and maritime cultural heritage;
- enhancing and capitalising on environmental assets.

Key result

Help fisheries and aquaculture-dependent communities to diversify their economies and add value to their fishing activities.

Budget

€54 117 647

5. Marketing and processing



What?

Despite its limited size compared to other EU Member States, Greek processing and marketing of fisheries and aquaculture products represents important sectors that add value and support the main productive primary sectors, by serving as channels for the promotion of sales of fishery and aquaculture products. Freezing, processing (filleting, salting, drying, smoking, marinating, cooking, canning) of fish, and de-shelling of mussels are the main activities. In 2012, 147 active small and medium-sized fishery processing enterprises were in operation, employing 2 330 people.

OP aim

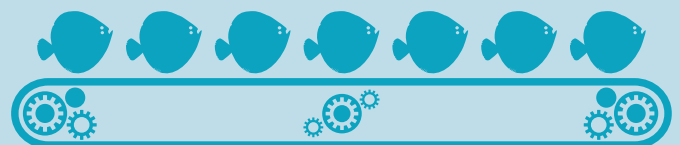
EMFF funding will support investments in the processing sector in view of increasing the sector's energy efficiency, improving safety, hygiene, health and working conditions. Incentives for processing catches of commercial fish unfit for human consumption and/or of by-products resulting from the main processing activities have also been planned. In addition, EMFF funding will support marketing activities (communication and promotional campaigns, identification of new markets and expansion, eco-labelling, etc.) and the improvement of market organisation for fisheries and aquaculture products.

Key result

- Modernisation of the processing sector.
- Enhancement of its economic performance and sustainability through investments in new technology and systems, the development of new or improved products, their expansion in new markets and better positioning in the existing market.

Budget

€78 277 020



6. Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP)



What?

The IMP seeks to provide a more coherent approach to maritime issues, with increased coordination between different policy areas.

OP aim

The Greek EMFF OP aims to promote interventions necessary for promoting the blue economy and strengthening the implementation of the IMP, and in particular actions that will help achieve the objectives of the Integrated Maritime Surveillance (IMS) by developing the Common Information Sharing Environment (CISE).

Key result

Contribution to the development of a comprehensive CISE for marine and maritime data.

Budget

€5 927 413

Simplification

- Interoperability between national administrative services and increased use of IT applications to reduce the administrative burden (e.g. inter-service communication for issuance/transfer of official documents and certificates, facilities for remote electronic monitoring of applications' progress by potential beneficiaries, use of e-signatures).
- Simplification of procedures for public procurement projects thanks to comprehensive information systems and enhanced support for certification and audit processes with IT systems.

Synergies

Financing from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development

(EARDF) and the EMFF will support Greece to implement community-led local development (CLLD) in fisheries and aquaculture areas where agricultural activities are equally important, through coherent and comprehensive strategies with complementary interventions and investments supported by both funds (the EARDF and the EMFF).

Synergy with the Internal Security Fund (ISF) has been planned in the framework of maritime surveillance, and likewise with the ERDF (the sectorial OP 'EPANEK' – 'Restart' and the 13 regional OPs) in view of increasing the competitiveness of the business sector (mainly of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)). Complementarities have been arranged with the financial instrument for the environment LIFE, for the implementation of Prioritised Action Framework (PAF) for investments in Natura 2000 and water basin management plans.

Success stories

Lower energy consumption through technical improvements to trawling

This pilot project developed and tested an innovative type of trawl net (thinner, lighter and more durable compared to the conventional type of net), and specialised software for modelling that takes into account the fishing vessel's technical characteristics and the deep-sea fishing ground in which the vessel is operating — allowing for more energy-efficient fishing. The pilot implementation of this project reduced energy consumption by 17 % to 18 %, and made fishing gear lighter and less bulky, resulting in reduced loads for both the vessel and the crew.

Total (public) cost: €286 442 (including EFF funding of €214 832)

Selectivity of rhomboid and square mesh nets for trawlers

The purpose of this project is to study the selectivity of rhomboid and square mesh use in trawl fisheries. In the pilot implementation of this project, a comparative analysis will be carried out of the biological and economic impact of the use of each mesh type, and therefore of their competitive advantages, in various sea depths and seasons over the year. The study focuses on selectivity parameters, the composition of catches, the rate of unwanted catches and the percentage of catches foregone.

Total (public) cost: €274 953 (including EFF funding of €206 215)

Production of aquaculture 'superfood' Spirulina

The project concerns the establishment of a new aquaculture unit at Therma (a village in the area of Nigrita-Serres) for the production and the processing of spirulina. According to a scientific study conducted at the University of Thessaloniki and led by Prof. Dr George Fytikas, this location has proven to be ideal for the cultivation of Spirulina thanks to the solar spectrum of the region, the large number of sunny days it sees, and the use of local geothermal energy to heat the water. Spirulina is a 100 % natural product, highly digestible (up to 95 %) and containing a large spectrum of nutrients, rendering it a complete high-protein 'superfood' rich in vitamins, essential lipids, metals, and antioxidants. It provides high levels of energy and endurance, reinforcing the immune system, enhancing mental and physical performance, preventing viral infections and inflammations, accelerating recovery and suppressing stress.

Total (public) cost: €290 457 (including EFF funding of €217 843)

Construction of fishing shelter at Antikyra Viotias

The project relates to the construction of a fishing shelter at Agios Isidoros in the fishing area of Antikyra Viotias. The opening celebration for the shelter took place on 28 March 2012.

Total (public) cost: €1 326 147 (including EFF funding of €835 473)

More information

● European Commission Fisheries

● EFF 2007-2013

● EMFF 2014-2020

● European Maritime and Fisheries Fund

● Aquaculture multiannual national plan