

European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)

A political agreement on the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) is now in place following protracted negotiations between the European Parliament, the European Commission and the Council of Ministers.

The fund is worth EUR 6.5 billion to the fisheries and aquaculture sectors in the EU for the period 2014 to 2020. Negotiations on the EMFF broke down before Christmas due to a disagreement over the allocation of funding for data collection and control.

Funding for data collection has been increased to €520m and for control and enforcement to €580m with an increased co-funding share through the EMFF. This will help to combat illegal fishing which still takes place at an alarmingly high level in some fisheries, with 40 per cent of the catch being illegal, and to improve the situation for data-limited fish stocks in European seas, allowing for better scientific assessments.

http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/news_and_events/events/national_strategic_plans/emff_en.pdf