



17 April 2014

GUIDANCE

EMFF RESULT INDICATOR "CHANGE IN UNWANTED CATCHES"

This note provides guidance on how to build and report the EMFF result indicator¹ "change in unwanted catches". This guidance should be considered only for the purposes of monitoring the implementation of the EMFF Operational Programmes, without prejudice to the ongoing discussions on the multiannual and discard plans in the context of the CFP regulation.

This result indicator refers to the Union Priority 1 of the EMFF and it is related to investments on fishing gears that would increase their selectivity (particularly size selectivity). This indicator intends to measure how the investments for the purpose of increasing selectivity are succeeding to improve the exploitation pattern (i.e. the size composition of the catches). The result indicator will be estimated on the basis of the information and data provided by beneficiaries in the application forms.

Indicator definition and reference period

- There are a number of measures in the EMFF where the indicator 'change in unwanted catches' should be used to measure how EMFF-funded actions have contributed to greater selectivity and progress in meeting in the landing obligations. Thus, this indicator should be used to assess the levels of unwanted catches made by beneficiaries of projects financed under these types of measures.
- For the purposes of the implementation of the EMFF alone, unwanted catches should be defined as the **level of residual, undersized catches that could not be avoided, and were landed for purposes other than human consumption**. Thus, the value should reflect unwanted catches that are landed as opposed to discarded at sea. By-catches that count against the quota of a targeted species are excluded from this indicator. Non-commercial species are also excluded from this indicator.

¹ Common result indicators represent the immediate effects of the programme on the direct addressees or recipients. These indicators relate to relevant specific objectives of the EMFF and allow MS and the Commission to monitor the implementation of the programmes, providing harmonised information on the results achieved. These indicators should provide a consistent set of data for the evaluation of the programmes during the implementation and ex-post.

- The assessment should be made by fleet segment², as described in Appendix III of the Data Collection Framework Regulation (Council Regulation (EC) No 199/2008).
- The recording of unwanted catches should be made over any period of 12 continuous months. Where fisheries are highly seasonal, Member States may present totals of unwanted catches over a shorter period, but evidence must be presented that this period covers a normal fishing season for the vessel and the activity concerned.

² Member States may use a further subdivision within each of these fleet segments if a finer level of detail is necessary.

Data reporting

- In practical terms, the EMFF beneficiary would provide an indicative value of unwanted catches in his/her application for support. This indicative value is based on the beneficiary's own estimate of current levels of unwanted catches. Thus, data should be reported at the inception of the operation (for indicative purposes) and again once the operation has been fully implemented. This will show the change in unwanted catches as a result of the EMFF operation, such as more selective gear.
- Catches of each species subject to quota or subject to a conservation reference size³ should be reported at aggregate level.
- Quantities of unwanted catches should be reported by average weight of whole, fresh fish per fishing day.
- An analysis of changes in unwanted catches must be made, both in absolute and in percentage terms.

³ For example in the Mediterranean.