

Preliminary assessment of Compromise Amendments to the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (2011 / 0380 COD) June 10th 2013

In February, in the vote on the Basic Regulation of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), the European Parliament plenary supported an ambitious target for the recovery of European fish stocks, strengthened fleet management, a discard ban, the provision of sufficient funding for data collection and making funding conditional on the implementation of the CFP and relevant environmental legislation. In taking a position on the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF), we urge you to ensure the same level of ambition, coherence and complementarity between your vote on the Basic Regulation and the EMFF.

In particular we urge you to eliminate EU subsidies that incentivise and support overfishing and instead to shift funds to measures which support sustainable fisheries. A failure to eliminate harmful subsidies undermines the implementation of the reformed CFP as well as commitments made by governments at the 2002 World Summit of Sustainable Development, in the World Trade Organisation, and at the Rio+20 Summit in 2012.

In your role as elected representatives of the European public, we call on you to take a determined stance on reforming the EMFF by ensuring that public aid will be effectively used to help restore overexploited fish stocks and degraded marine ecosystems as well as to generate sustainable and equitable livelihoods in the fishing sector.

Our preliminary assessment of key compromise amendments is as follows:

Art	Issue	Vote	Justification / Comment
3	Definitions	+ with SV	SV on: "(2a) 'diversification' means practices that render fisheries or aquaculture activities more versatile and which are directly complementary to or dependent on such activities;" and "or spend less than 24 hours at sea", which we recommend to reject.
12	Admissibility of applications	+	
13	Ineligible operations	+ with SV	SV on: ", except in the conditions referred to in Article 32b;" and on the deletions of "(c) temporary cessation of fishing activities"; and "(e) transfer of ownership of a business"; which we recommend to reject.
15	Budgetary resources under shared management	- (Or support with oral AM)	In line with the new priorities of the Reformed CFP and a more regionalised approach Member States should have the flexibility to spend more, but not less aid on data collection and control and enforcement. We therefore urge to support amendments 814, 818, and 820 by the Greens, or 815, 817, 819 by Rodust. Alternative option is to propose oral amendments to introduce in paragraph 2 the words "A maximum of", and in Paragraph 3 and 4 the words "A minimum of". A similar flexibility was already requested in the Council's General Approach from October 2012. Oral amendment change "shall" to "may" in 15.6 (otherwise mandatory investments in production and marketing plans). Another option would be again to introduce "A maximum of"
20	Content of Operational Programmes	+	
32a new	Start up support for young	-	Recovery of fish stocks and increased fishing opportunities are the best incentive for young fishermen to remain in the sector. Aid for purchase

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	fishermen		of second hand vessels will increase prices for such vessel and bring main benefit for those selling vessels.
32 b new	Investments for the fleet renewal	-	One of the biggest successes of the CFP reform in 2002 was to phase out aid for construction of vessels. Such aid risks to continue maintaining overcapacity, fuels overfishing and contradicts EU's international commitments at the UN and in the WTO
33 a new	Temporary cessation of fishing activities	-	Aid for temporary cessation does not remove the root causes of overfishing, but contributes to maintaining the status quo. Vessels should not receive funding for recurrent seasonal suspension of fishing activities as suggested in 33a 1.c. AM 1187 would be preferable.
33 b new	Mutual funds for the purpose of insurance	-	
35	Support to design and implementation of conservation measures under the CFP	+ With oral AM	Eligible beneficiaries should be extended to include the 60% of the advisory council not representing fishing or processing sector. We suggest an oral amendment " <i>The support referred to in paragraph 1 may be granted to public authorities, to Advisory Councils, to scientific bodies, to recognised organisations of fishermen and to producer organisations, and other relevant stakeholder groups provided that they are involved in the implementation of the multiannual plans and of the conservation measures under the CFP.</i> "
39	Energy efficiency and reduction of capacity.	-	Under-declaration of engine power is a common and general problem in the EU. Moreover, new engines are often more powerful, even with a smaller nominal KW, thus increasing the vessels' ability to catch fish.
78	Control and enforcement	+	
79	Data collection	+	
88	Advisory Councils	+ with SV (or oral AM)	It is not clear why organisations of fishermen, but not other stakeholders including processors, consumers, trade unions, environmental groups etc. should receive support for operational costs. NGOs therefore suggest SV on: "1a. The EMFF may support the operating costs of Advisory Councils where such costs promote the involvement and participation of organisations of fishermen.", which we recommend to reject. Or to submit an oral amendment: "1a. The EMFF may support the operating costs of Advisory Councils where such costs promote the involvement and participation of organisations of fishermen and other stakeholder groups. "
95	Intensity of public aid	-	100% MS funding in Article 95.3 should not be provided to direct fleet investments (chapter I), aquaculture (chapter II) and marketing and processing (chapter iv)

For further information please contact:

Johanna Karhu	BirdLife Europe	+32 (0)47 88 87 288	johanna.karhu@birdlife.org
Vanya Vulperhorst	Oceana	+32 (0) 25 13 22 42	vvulperhorst@oceana.org
Cathrine Schirmer	OCEAN2012 Coalition	+32 (0)483 66 69 67	cschirmer@pewtrusts.org
Saskia Richartz	Greenpeace	+32 (0)2 274 19 02	saskia.richartz@greenpeace.org
Rita Santos	WWF	+32 (0) 761 04 22	rsantos@wwf.eu