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Fishery Products

New European Fisheries Fund

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Report Highlights:

The European Commission recently published its proposal for a new European Fund for Fisheries (EFF). The new fund will replace the current financial program and provide aid to the European fishery industry for the period 2007-2013.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
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New European Fisheries Fund

Intro

The European Commission recently published its proposal for a new European Fund for Fisheries (EFF). Currently, the European fisheries sector receives financial aid under the Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance (FIFG). The current financial program covers the period 2000 to 2006 with funding up to EUR 3.7 billion for the EU-15 and the 10 new member states which joined the EU in May 2004. The new fund will replace the FIFG and provide aid to the European fishery industry for the period 2007-2013. The proposed financial allocation for the 2007-2013 period is EUR 4.963 billion for an enlarged Europe of 27. Three-quarters of this budget will be allocated to the regions lagging behind, most of which are located in the new member states. The new fund should help implement the major changes decided under the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) reform and will target five priority areas:

- 1) Measures for the adjustment of the EU fishing fleet.
- 2) Aquaculture, processing and trade of fisheries and aquaculture products.
- 3) Measures of collective interest.
- 4) Sustainable development of coastal fishing zones.
- 5) Technical assistance.

As the new EFF will replace four regulations currently governing the FIFG, the regulatory framework will be "radically simplified". The EFF proposal is part of a package of proposals on the EU's "financial perspectives for 2007-2013" and will come under the heading "sustainable management and protection of natural resources". Most of the expenditure for this heading stems from the reform of the common agricultural policy (CAP), rural development policy for the period after 2006, the new common fisheries policy (January 2003) and the environmental policy priorities.

The proposal for a new European Fisheries Fund can be downloaded from the Internet at http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/com/pdf/2004/com2004_0497en01.pdf.

1. Measures for the adjustment of the EU fishing fleet

Financial aid will be provided to vessel owners and crews affected by fishery stock recovery plans, temporary cessation of activities due to emergency measures, the non-renewal of a fisheries agreement or following natural disasters. Funds will also be available for socio-economic compensation in support of fleet management (including professional training), to finance investments on board vessels required to change fishing techniques and for the permanent removal of vessels. Aid for the renewal of the fleet will be stopped.

2. Aquaculture

The EFF may support investments in aquaculture. Such investments may cover the development and application of methods and practices that reduce the negative impact of aquaculture on the environment and to improve conditions relating to hygiene, human and animal health and product quality.

3. Measures of collective interest

Aid will be available to representatives or organizations from the fisheries or aquaculture sector to support collective actions contributing to the sustainable management or conservation of resources and to the transparency of markets in fishery and aquaculture

products and for promoting partnership between scientists and operators in the fisheries sector.

4. Sustainable development of coastal fishing zones

Financial aid should help coastal fishing areas affected by measures taken under multi-annual plans to lessen their dependence on the catching sector. Support may be granted for promoting "green tourism", protecting the marine, lake and coastal environment, the diversification of local economies and restoring production potential after natural or industrial disasters.

5. Technical assistance

The EFF may finance the preparatory, monitoring, administrative and technical support, evaluation, audit and inspection measures necessary for implementing the proposed regulation.

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