

Study for the Committee on Fisheries of the European Parliament
Navigating the new MFF approach for 2028-2034 –
Mapping threats and opportunities for the fisheries and
aquaculture sector

Main conclusions on aquaculture

Presentation for AAC on 9-6-2026
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Structure of the presentation

1. Context
2. Highlights
3. National and Regional Plan (**NRP**)
4. European Competitiveness Fund (**ECF**)
5. **Performance** Regulation
6. CFP '**Conditions**' Regulation

Context

1. Effective response to changing **geopolitical** situation.
2. Recommendation of the reports by **Draghi** and **Letta**.
3. Promotion of simplification, flexibility, streamlining and subsidiarity.
4. Decreasing role of fisheries and aquaculture in EU economy
 - **~0.06% of GDP** and 0.2% of employment.
5. 10% of EU **animal protein** production from F&A, of which about 2% from aquaculture.

Highlights on aquaculture

1. Aquaculture has **no independent role**.
2. No major change from **EMFAF**.
3. Earmarked total **funding** reduced to EUR 2 billion
 - a. National co-funding reduced proportionately.
 - b. No maximum aid intensity – to be set in NRP
 - c. Minimum national cofinancing 15-40-60% by level of regional income per capita.
 - d. No distinction between private and national contribution.
4. **AAC** to be funded from the EU facility.

NRP proposal

- **Shared management** - Operated by MS, EC approves and monitors
- **Flexibility** – for aquaculture no change
- **Simplicity** – depends on national implementation
- With lower earmarked funding role of national **managing authorities** reduced.
- Funding from **general allocation** is uncertain / unlikely.
- Effective **implementation period**: 4-5 years, not 7, due to delay and N+1 rule.

ECF proposal

Direct management - Operated by EC (as present Horizon)

Four policy windows:

- Clean transition and industrial decarbonisation (EUR 67.4 billion)
- Health, biotech, agriculture and bioeconomy (EUR 22.6 billion)
- Digital leadership (EUR 54.8 billion)
- Resilience and security, defence industry, and space (EUR 130.7 billion)

Governance: Strategic **Stakeholder** Board, multistakeholder consultations, advisory boards, annual work programmes

Focus: EU competitiveness, market failures, strategic priorities

Aquaculture: art. 37(1)(g): food security

Performance Regulation proposal

Major issues with **performance-based approach** (also ECA opinion 06/2026):

1. Output and result **indicators** are not defined
 - Differences of interpretation in MS
 - No links to the CFP objectives
2. Indicators not suited for **evaluation** of effects on the fisheries sector
 - **No distinction** between fishing and aquaculture
3. MS depend on **proposals** received from beneficiaries
4. Contribution of fisheries interventions to **social** policies (Annex I) is 0%!
5. Opinions of the **Managing authorities** seem disregarded.
 - Application and **consequences** are not clear to MS

CFP Conditions Regulation proposal

1. All measures of the NRP are to be evaluated against the 6 criteria of the **'do no significant harm' principle (DNSH)**:
 - climate change mitigation,
 - CC adaptation,
 - protection of water and marine resources,
 - circular economy,
 - pollution prevention and
 - control, protection of biodiversity and ecosystems.
2. **Guidelines** for application of DNSH will be available end of 2026.
3. **Impact** on the fisheries and aquaculture sector is **unclear**.

Thank you for your attention!

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Publication requested by the Committee on Fisheries (PECH) of the European Parliament

- [Full study](#), [At a glance note](#), Executive Summary: [EN](#), [DE](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)
- Study presentation during PECH Committee meeting on [6 May 2026](#)

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- [Research4committees.blog](#)
- [Think Tank](#) of the European Parliament