

## Voting recommendations for the vote 4<sup>th</sup> of April on the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)

Tomorrow Thursday 04 April, the plenary of the European Parliament will vote on the **post-2020 European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)**, the financial instrument to protect our oceans, safeguard nature at sea through sustainable management of our resources and supporting the livelihoods of coastal communities.

**Birdlife, ClientEarth, Seas At Risk and WWF call on you to vote for ambitious amendments that lead to a better EMFF and ensure public money contributes to ending overfishing and reducing damage to the marine environment.** In particular, we call on you to consider these recommendations:

- Support the protection and restoration of marine biodiversity and ecosystems including ring-fencing at least 25% of the budget allocated to these activities. **Support AMs 283, 291 and 315. Reject AMs 108, 170, 178.**
- Increase the funds allocated to monitoring and control of fishing activities and data collection from 15% to 25%. **Support AMs 282 and 314.**
- Eliminate the most harmful subsidies that increase fishing capacity: construction of new fishing vessels and ports, and engine replacement. These subsidies are not only prohibited by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal on the oceans, seas and marine resources (SDG 14.6), but have traditionally led to the EU fleet's current state of overcapacity and jeopardised the future of the very industry they set out to support. **Support 1<sup>st</sup> part of AM 127 (until 'vessel')** and **reject 2<sup>nd</sup> part. Support 1<sup>st</sup> part of AMs 285, 318, 322 (until 'qualification' and reject 2<sup>nd</sup> part). Support AM 281. Reject AMs 104, 110, 120, 123, 126, 135, 137, 221, 287, 295, 298, 304, 308, 310, 312 and 319.**
- Do not weaken the conditions to access to funds for the extraordinary cessation of fishing activities. This type of aid prevents the structural changes needed to end overfishing. In some cases, this subsidy has artificially maintained excessive fishing capacity and its associated environmentally and economically damaging effects. Other government social schemes are available to support loss of income incurred during fisheries closures needed to rebuild stocks. **Reject AMs 148-153, 155-159, 305, 306, 313 and 320.**
- Do not weaken the conditions to access to funds for the permanent cessation of fishing activities. While the intended purpose of this aid is to remove fishing vessels from the system, evidence suggests that, paradoxically, these may contribute to increase fishing capacity further by re-injecting the aid into the business. That is why co-legislators phased out this harmful subsidy in the current EMFF 2014-2020. It is therefore essential that conditions are respected and not weakened, that appropriate control mechanisms exist before allocating any aid, and that evidence is provided to show that fishing capacity will indeed be reduced. **Support AM 286. Reject AMs 141-147.**
- Ensure that funding for aquaculture is directed at activities that do not damage the marine and freshwater environment and with a proven public benefit for society and the environment. **Support AMs 163, 164, 172, and 189. Reject AMs 188 and 295.**
- Reject subjective criteria in the definition of 'small-scale coastal fishing'. This might entail unforeseen consequences and will lead to a lack of a level playing field throughout the EU. **Reject AM 80.**
- Increase transparency on how the EMFF is used in the Member States. **Support AMs 302 and 303.**