



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Directorate-General
for Fisheries

Summary of structural measures to assist
the fishing industry in the Netherlands:
FIFG financing
and Community initiative PESCA

European Union aid for the development of the fishing industry in the Netherlands (1994-99)

The fisheries sector in the Netherlands is going through a period of fundamental structural change. This is required mainly because of scarcity of resources in Community waters and increased competition for markets.

In order to support actions undertaken at the national level, the European Union has made available approximately ECU 67 million (about HFL 140 million) to the industry, the organizations and public authorities for the period 1994-99.¹

These finances have been allocated primarily through the FIFG (Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance) and cover the entire fisheries sector in the Netherlands: from fleet modernization to fishing port equipment, from aquaculture to the processing and marketing industries.

FIFG priorities and fields of action have been decided in partnership by both the European Commission and the Dutch authorities by means of two programming documents, the first concerning the province of Flevoland (which is covered by Objective 1 of the Structural Funds: regions whose development

is lagging behind) and the other one regarding the rest of the country.

Another kind of intervention is represented by the Community initiative PESCA, launched by the Commission with the aim of supporting European coastal regions.

This publication summarizes:

- (a) the contents and financial plans of the two FIFG programmes (pages 3-6);
- (b) the Dutch programme under the Community initiative PESCA (page 7);
- (c) the origin and purpose of all the Structural Funds, particularly of the FIFG (page 8).

¹ How to apply for financial aid:
see pages 3 (FIFG) and 7 (PESCA)

The common fisheries policy of the European Union

The common fisheries policy (CFP) is at the core of the European Community's fishing industry.

The CFP covers all activities involved in the fishing and farming of living aquatic resources, as well as the processing and marketing sectors.

The policy has gone through a number of transformations since the first CFP decisions were adopted in 1970, and today it is centred on four major areas:

- (i) conservation of stocks
- (ii) organization of markets
- (iii) international agreements
- (iv) structural measures (the subject of this publication).

Further information about CFP can be found in:

The new common fisheries policy, Luxembourg, EUR-OP, 1994 (in all EC languages; Dutch version: ISBN 92-826-7573-4).

The common fisheries policy, Information file, Brussels, EC Commission, DG XIV, 1994 (in English or French).

These publications may be ordered from:

European Commission
DG XIV-Fisheries
Rue de la Loi, 200
B-1049 Brussels
Fax (32-2) 299 48 17

The fisheries sector in the Netherlands: strengths and weaknesses

Total employment associated within the fishing and fish-farming sector (including related sectors) is approximately 15 000 person years (0.34% of total employment in the Netherlands).

In particular, the fishing sector provides 4 000 jobs, the fishing trade 7 000 and the supply sectors 2 000, as does the miscellaneous group (such as the retail trade).

Gross added value in 1990 was approximately ECU 782 million approximately 0.36% of the gross national product. In 1991 the total export value of fish and fish products was ECU 1 132 million.

Eighty per cent of the exports of fish and fish products are (1991) sold within the EC. The main importing countries are Italy, Germany, France, Belgium and Luxembourg. The sales to third countries consist largely of exports of frozen pelagic fish (herring, mackerel, horse-mackerel).

In recent years imports of fish and fish products have shown an upward trend. In 1991 total imports were ECU 660 million, an increase of 20% compared the previous period. The value of imports of fresh sea fish rose by 19% to approximately ECU 370 million.

In general, owing to fluctuations in the landings of certain fish species, the Netherlands, long a fish-exporting country, is becoming increasingly dependent on imports of fresh fish for processing.

As regards the fishing fleet, about 500 vessels operate with a total power of around 436 000 kW.

Among them, 12 are large pelagic freezer trawlers (between 70 and 120 m.) and 391 cutters (principally beam trawlers for flatfish).

Twenty-five per cent of the catches by the freezer trawlers are made outside EU waters, the remainder being taken from the North Sea and from around the British Isles. The cutters operate in the North Sea.

There are 12 major fishing ports with fish auctions in the Netherlands which — except from the fishing port of Urk — are all located along the North Sea coast.

The Netherlands is behind schedule in terms of achieving its objectives for the end of 1996 in terms of reduction of capacity.

The internal market in the European Union not only offers new chances for the fisheries sector but at the same time has also made evident the existing structural weaknesses and difficulties.

At present the fisheries sector is still largely marked by thinking in 'quantitative' terms and the various subsectors (fishing fleet, fishing port facilities, marketing, processing etc.) do not always take into account that the new markets require high-quality products which imply an integrated approach all the subsectors concerned.

The various fields of action in favour of the fishing fleet, the fishing port facilities, processing and marketing sector etc. will be developed on the basis of a coordinated and integrated strategy which considers the various parts as an interdependent network of links of a chain (*integrale ketenbeersing*), the final objective of which is to provide the consumer with a high-quality product.

Structural interventions 1994-99: eight fields of action

In the light of this situation, the structural interventions laid down by the two programmes for the Netherlands will contribute both to achieving a sustainable balance between resources and their exploitation, and strengthen the competitiveness of the sector.

These interventions follow eight fields of action:

1. Adjustment of fishing effort

The Dutch authorities have taken combined measures to reduce the fishing effort by reduction in capacity and adjustment in activity. This double strategy will be continued in the future in order to achieve a durable balance between the resources available and the fishing effort deployed.

A premium may be granted to stop vessels' activities permanently by scrapping, permanent transfer to a third country or permanent reassignment of the vessel to purposes other than fishing.

Beneficiaries: vessel owners.

2. Renewal and modernization of the fishing fleet

This measure covers four main categories of investments:

- (a) equipment on board the vessels to monitor fishing activities;
- (b) improvement of safety and working conditions;
- (c) improvement of the quality of products caught and preserved on board, the use of better fishing and preserving techniques and the implementation of legal and regulatory provisions regarding health;

- (d) the rationalization of fishing operations, in particular by the use of more selective fishing gear.

Beneficiaries: vessel owners.

3. Aquaculture

In order to develop this sector, four measures will be taken:

in the province of Flevoland (Urk):

- (a) creation of new facilities to develop aquaculture in order to reduce the dependency on sea fishing;

in the rest of the country:

- (b) aquaculture in sea water: improvement of the production of molluscs, mainly mussels and oysters, and reduction of the environmental impacts on the nature areas of Oosterschelde and the Wadden region;
- (c) land-based units: modernization of the existing installations (mainly eel, trout, catfish), to stimulate fish-farming of innovative species;
- (d) operations monitoring system: systematic collection and analysis of all operational technical parameters (water quality, waste substances, veterinary medicines, etc.).

Beneficiaries: individuals, private enterprises.

4. Fishing port facilities

The fishing port facilities form a key element in the chain from the catching up to the final product. The main types of investment will be:

- (a) improvement of the logistics (jetties, quays for loading and unloading of vessels, etc.);
- (b) improvement of the facilities for fishing vessels (water, electricity, etc.);
- (c) limitation of sewage water in the fishing ports;
- (d) renovation and new constructions of auction halls.

Beneficiaries: private enterprises.

(see page 6)

Access to financing and programming documents

In order to take part in the actions financed by FIG, potential beneficiaries, who are indicated at the end of each field of action, should contact the competent Dutch minister (see last page for the address).

Single projects proposed by beneficiaries are expected to be in line with the envisaged aims.

The detailed description of the fields of action, aims and contents, is included in two programming documents:

(a) for the province of Flevoland (Objective 1 of the Structural Funds): the single programming document, presenting the structural actions in all the economic sectors (fisheries is priority 4).

(b) for the rest of the country: the single programming document 'Objective 5a-Fisheries'.

These documents may be ordered from the addresses indicated on the last page.

For more information: European Community and the fishing industry. *Practical guide to structural aid*, Luxembourg, Office for Official Publications of the EC, 1994, ISBN 92-826-7762-L.

Flevoland ¹

(million ECU) ²

Fields of action	FIFG	Other EU Structural Funds	National public contribution	Private sector	Total
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(1 + 2 + 3 + 4)
1. Adjustment of fishing effort	1.50	–	1.50	–	3.0
2. Renewal/modernization of the fleet					
3. Aquaculture	0.45	–	0.45	4	4.9
4. Fishing port facilities					
5. Processing and marketing	6.30	–	6.30	30	42.6
6. Product promotion					
7. Socioeconomic measures ³					
8. Technical assistance	0.25	–	0.25	–	0.5
Total	8.50		8.50	34	51.0

¹ This region is covered by Objective 1 of the EU Structural Funds (areas whose gross national product per capita is less than 75% of the EU average).

² For information, based on monthly exchange rate in December 1995, ECU 1 = HFL 2.10.

³ These measures may be introduced following the modification of Council Regulation (EC) 3699/93 in November 1995. The amount allocated to them is still to be decided, but remains within the total financing allowed.

Rest of the country¹

(million ECU) ²				
Fields of action	FIFG	National public funding	Private sector	Total
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(1 + 2 + 3)
1. Adjustment of fishing effort	8	8	–	16
2. Renewal/modernization of the fleet	2.2	0.88	13.9	16.98
3. Aquaculture	1.5	0.26	5.2	6.96
4. Fishing port facilities	20.4	20.4	–	40.8
5. Processing and marketing	8.5	1.41	24.8	34.71
6. Product promotion	5.775	5.775	–	0.550
7. Socioeconomic measures ³	–	–	–	–
8. Other measures	0.225	0.225	–	0.450
Total	46.6	36.95	43.9	127.45

¹ Interventions carried out in the context of Objective 5a–Fisheries of the Structural Funds. All areas of the Netherlands are concerned except for Flevoland (see previous page).

² For information, based on monthly exchange rate in December 1995, ECU 1 = HFL 2.10.

³ These measures may be introduced following the modification of Council Regulation (EC) 3699/93 in November 1995. The amount allocated to them is still to be decided, but remains within the total financing allowed.

Legal references

On the FIGF (Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance):

• Council Regulation (EC) No 3699/93 of 21.12.1993 laying down the criteria and arrangements regarding Community structural assistance in the fisheries and aquaculture sector and the processing and marketing of its products (OJ L 346, 31.12.1993);

• Modifications:
Change of capacity:
Council Regulation (EC) No 1624/95 of 29.6.1995, (OJ L 155, 6.7.1995);
Socioeconomic measures (early retirement schemes, compensatory payments):
Council Regulation (EC) No 2719/95 of 20.11.1995 (OJ L 283, 25.11.1995);

• Council Regulation (EC) No 2080/93 of 20.7.1993, laying down provisions for implementing Regulation (EEC) No 2052/88 as regards the Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance (OJ L 193, 31.7.1993).

On the Structural Funds:

Framework Regulation:
• Council Regulation (EEC) No 2081/93 of 20.7.1993, amending Regulation (EEC) No 2052/88 on the tasks of the Structural Funds and their effectiveness and on coordination of their activities between themselves and with the operations of the EIB and the other existing financial instruments (OJ L 193, 31.7.1993).

Coordination Regulation:
• Council Regulation (EEC) No 2082/93 of 20.7.1993 amending Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88 laying down provisions for implementing Regulation (EEC) No 2052/88 as regards coordination of the activities of the different Structural Funds between themselves and with operations of the EIB and the other existing financial instruments (OJ L 193, 31.7.1993).

(from page 3)

5. Product processing and marketing

The main investments envisaged concern:

- (a) the improvement and control of hygiene and public health standards;
- (b) the improvement of quality and product value, by reorienting the business activities from the actual range of products (which still largely consists of filleting and deep-freezing activities) to more sophisticated and high value-added products;
- (c) the reduction of the adverse environmental impact.

Beneficiaries: private enterprises.

6. Product promotion

The following measures are envisaged:

- (a) market promotion for reared fish (particularly eel, trout, and catfish);
- (b) development and promotion of a quality label for fisheries and aquaculture products;
- (c) operations for structural marketing improvement for the shrimp sector in particular;
- (d) studies of consumer behaviour and preferences.

Beneficiaries: private enterprises.

7. Other measures

They are:

- (a) studies, pilot projects, demonstration projects;
- (b) services and technical assistance for preparing, accompanying and evaluating the previous fields of action;
- (c) concerted actions to remedy specific particular difficulties affecting specific aspects of the sector;
- (d) information campaigns.

Beneficiaries: private companies, public bodies, organizations within the fisheries sector, etc.

8. Socioeconomic accompanying measures

In order to minimize the negative effects of the reduction of the fleet, the Dutch authorities may decide to adopt two additional, optional, measures:

- (a) part-financing of national early-retirement schemes for fishermen, under certain conditions;
- (b) granting individual compensatory payments to fishermen leaving the profession.

Beneficiaries: fishermen.

1989-93:
Success story

In 1990, under the Community structural aid for fisheries, a large scale intensive eel farm equipped with the latest technology in the field of aquaculture was created.

The innovative water-recycling system enables the water consumption to be reduced to a minimum and at the same time avoids the release into the environment of polluting effluents.

The cultivation process is largely automated, and the production capacity of the farm reaches 500 tonnes per year.

Nijvis BV is one of the biggest eel farms in Europe using water-recycling technology.

Another instrument: PESCA

The Community initiative PESCA is complementary to the structural aid described above. Its objectives are: to put the fishing industry into a condition where it can succeed in its own transformation; to help it cope with the social and economic consequences by providing aid for the redeployment of the workforce and diversification of the enterprises; and to contribute to maintenance and creation of employment in the coastal areas.

The importance of PESCA lies less in the actual content of the possible schemes than in the way integrated, innovative projects can be devised and set in train by the participants in the local economy. PESCA may call on the combined possibilities of the FIGG, the European Regional Development Fund and the European Social Fund.

The eligible measures under PESCA in the Netherlands are the following:

- management of common fishing grounds: sea fisheries, fisheries in coastal areas (particularly mussels and cockles), Jsselmeer fisheries, inland fisheries;

- fishing port facilities: several investments aimed at both developing the fisheries sector and diversifying the economic activities in the areas of Scheveningen, IJmuiden, Yerseke, Goedereede, Eemsmond and Laaksum;
- projects of a general nature: studies and research into new markets and new outlets; measures in the fields of environment, hygiene and health standards, vocational qualifications; improvement of product quality and promotion; improvement of the shrimp sector, etc.;
- business services: various types of measures to aid the sector and to improve its competitiveness.

The final beneficiaries of these measures may be both:

- collective, public or private bodies (regional or local authorities, chambers of commerce, fishermen's cooperatives, profit or non-profit-making organizations);
- individual economic operators (craft enterprises, small and medium-sized businesses, fishermen and other workers in the fishing industry).

PESCA: Practical guide

Both potential beneficiaries and other interested people can seek additional information on this community initiative from the competent Minister (see last page for the address).

The complete text of the PESCA programme for the Netherlands may be ordered from the same authorities or from the European Commission, DG XIV (see address on the last page)

The Commission communication on the whole Community initiative PESCA (94/C 180/01) was published in OJ C 180, 31.7.1994.

Geographical distribution for PESCA-Netherlands

(million ECU)

Area	EU Structural Funds (1)	National public funding (2)	Private sector (3)	Total (1 + 2 + 3)
Flevoland	1.98	1.53	1.37	4.88
Rest of the country	8.65	2.28	18.37	29.30
Total	10.63	3.81	19.74	34.18

¹ ECU 2 million have been added to the total at the end of 1995, under the heading of the Community initiatives reserve.

The FIFG

Tasks of the FIFG:

To help the fisheries sector solve the problem of overcapacity of the Community fleet.

To improve the structures of the European fishing and aquaculture industry, and enhance its international competitiveness.

Areas for action:

adjustment of fishing effort
modernization of the fleet
development of aquaculture
protection of marine coastal areas
provision of fishing port facilities
processing and marketing
product promotion
grants for fishermen leaving the sector
other measures (technical assistance, etc.).

Community financing:

Depending on the category of investment, the Community contribution may be up to 75% or 50% of eligible expenditure in the Structural Funds Objective 1 regions, and up to 50% or 30% in other regions.

How to apply:

It is up to project sponsors to apply to their national or regional authorities to integrate their projects into Community programmes, so that FIFG financing will be available.

Useful addresses:

Ministerie van Landbouw, Natuurbeheer en Visserij, Directie Visserijen

Postbus 20401
Bezuidenhoutseweg 73,
2500 EK Den Haag
Tel. (31-70) 379 24 42
Fax (31-70) 382 56 48

European Commission Directorate-General XIV – Fisheries

Rue de la Loi 200
B-1049 Brussels
Fax (32-2) 296 30 33



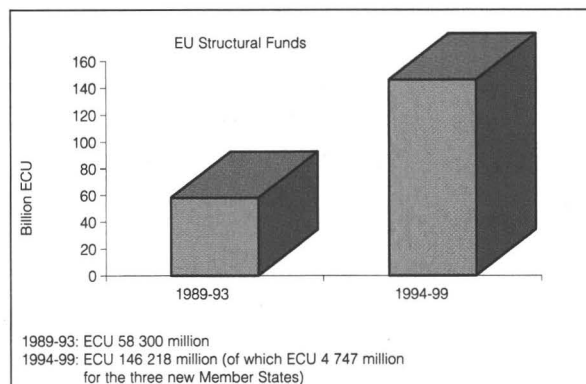
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This publication does not necessarily express the official views of the Commission.

For further information, please send a fax to (32-2) 296 73 60.

A great deal of additional information on the European Union is available on the Internet. It can be accessed through the Europa server (<http://europa.eu.int>). Printed on recycled paper.



The EU Structural Funds

To promote harmonious development throughout the European Union, the Single Act of 1987 and the Treaty of Maastricht of 1993 introduced the goal of economic and social cohesion, to be achieved by a concentration of financial aid on six priority objectives:

- Objective 1: structural adjustment of regions whose development is lagging behind;
- Objective 2: converting regions seriously affected by industrial decline;
- Objective 3: combating long-term unemployment, contributing to the occupational integration of young people and of those threatened with exclusion from the labour market;
- Objective 4: facilitating workers' adaptation to industrial changes;
- Objective 5a: speeding up the adjustment of agricultural and fisheries structures;
- Objective 5b: development of rural areas;
- Objective 6: development of areas with low population density.

To achieve these objectives, assistance is available from the EU Structural Funds:

the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)
the European Social Fund (ESF)
the Guidance Section of the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF)
the Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance (FIFG).

Other possible Community sources of financing include Cohesion Fund grants, and European Investment Bank loans.