



Lorient, July the 30th

Ministère de l'Agriculture
VLAAMSE OVERHEID - Departement Landbouw
en Visseri
Mr Marc Walvaet
Zeevisserij - Vrijhavenstraat 5
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BELGIQUE

Advice 88 of the SWW AC to South Western Member States on the EMFF Operational Programs

Dear Director Mr Walvaet

The new Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) released in December 2013 (EU) No 1380/2013 offers great opportunities to lead European fisheries to a sustainable and profitable future. At its core, among others, is the objective to improve selectivity, avoid unwanted catches and minimise negative impacts of fishing activities on the marine ecosystem.

Some selectivity measures are costly for fishermen and require investments into new gear technologies, improve practices as well potential training for crew members. Nevertheless, the result of implementing such technologies and practices will provide benefits both to the stocks and to the fleet due to increasing catches and ideally due to less handling time.

Fortunately, the new European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF, (EU) No 508/2014) provides the possibility to fund such measures. EMFF Article 38 and 39 outline the funding possibilities for the development and the implementation of gear technologies that increase selectivity and reduce the amount of unwanted catches, as much as possible.

To enable these funding possibilities for national fleets, it is essential that the request is included in the Operational Program (OP) of the respective Member State that is being submitted to the European Commission these months.

The SWW AC, and in particular member representing fishing sector, therefore asks to you, to enable its fleets and fishermen to develop and introduce new gear technologies and practices as outlined above and to fulfil the objectives of the CFP, to include such funding requests in the Operational Program to the European Commission.

For SWW AC- Jean-Marie ROBERT
Executive Secretary

