

Information on contributions to fishers
for the replacement of fishing gear
with more selective ones and other
measures for more environmentally
sustainable fishing under the EMFAF
Fund 2021 – 2027

INFORMATION MANUAL



LIFE 18 NAT/IT/000846
ACTION: C.7: Supporting
professional fishers in low
impact fishing, including EU
fundraising

Coordinatore
beneficiario



Beneficiari
associati



Deliverable name	INFORMATION MANUAL ON CONTRIBUTIONS TO fishers FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF FISHING GEAR WITH MORE SELECTIVE OTHERS AND OTHER MEASURES FOR MORE ECO-SUSTAINABLE FISHING PROVIDED UNDER THE EMFAF FUND 2021 – 2027
Action	C7 Supporting professional fishers in low impact fishing, including EU fundraising
WP/Task responsible	Consorzio Mediterraneo

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The LifeElife

The LifeElife, born thanks to the contribution of the European Union's LIFE financial instrument, aims to reduce incidental catches of **sharks, rays and torpedoes** by professional fisheries, promoting the conservation of the most endangered species.

LifeElife carries out both technical and managerial actions for elasmobranch conservation in the Mediterranean, as well as activities to raise awareness and communicate in Italy, Greece, and Cyprus. This is done through the promotion of fishing gear with a low impact on endangered species, the application of good fishing practices, the development of specific measures for the protection and management of elasmobranchs (sharks, rays and torpedoes) in certain sensitive areas, and support for professional fishers to encourage the transition to eco-sustainable fishing.

To facilitate the access of fishers to the contributions offered by national and Community fisheries funds, particularly measures for the replacement of traditional gear with others that have less impact on protected or endangered species of elasmobranchs, the creation of 9 information desks for fishers has been planned.

These permanent information points are located in some of the ports where there is a greater presence of longline or trawl boats to concentrate the awareness-raising and information action in the areas where the action is most effective.

The aim is to promote a transition to gears with a lower impact on sensitive species or greater selectivity towards the same species, to increase environmentally sustainable fishery. The opportunity for fishers to be informed on the most of the opportunities offered by the sector's funds through permanent information points will facilitate the achievement of the objective.



SharkApp to Know & Protect Elasmobranchs



SharkApp

Stazione Zoologica Anton
Dohrn

SharkApp is a free app that can be downloaded from the App Store or Google Play. Fishers can help to achieve the project's goals by reporting any accidental captures, including whether the captured shark was released or died. These reports are collected and analyzed by scientists at the Anton Dohrn Zoological Station (SZN) to study the distribution and populations of elasmobranchs in Italy.

By reporting accidental catches, fishers can help to:

- Increase awareness of shark conservation issues
- Collect data on shark populations
- Help scientists to better understand elasmobranchs



The European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund will end its period of action on 31 December 2027

European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF)

REGULATION (EU) NO 2021/1139 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 7 July 2021 establishing the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund and amending Regulation (EU) 2017/1004

Actions, Interventions and Operations that can be financed

REGULATION (EU) NO 2021/1139 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 7 July 2021 establishing the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund and amending Regulation (EU) 2017/1004

Priority 1

Promoting sustainable fisheries and the restoration and conservation of aquatic biological resources

Action 5

Mitigation of the environmental impact of fishing activities

Intervention 1

Contribute to achieve good ecological status in fisheries and aquaculture operations through a reduction of negative impacts and/or the enrichment of biodiversity

Subjects eligible for co-financing

- Fishing vessel owner
- fishers's organizations recognized by the Member State.

General eligibility criteria

- Application of the relevant CCNL in case the applicant uses employed personnel
- The applicant is not included among the cases of exclusion referred to in the art. 106 of Reg. (EU) n. 966/2012 (bankruptcy, liquidation, final conviction, etc.)



Eligibility criteria relating to the requesting party

The applicant is not included among the cases of exclusion referred to in the points 1, 2 and 3 of art. 11 Reg. (UE) n. 1139/2021

- The owner of the fishing vessel is registered in the Fishing National Register.
- The fishing vessel is registered in the Community Register as well as in one of the Italian Maritime Compartments.
- The fishing vessel has been fishing at sea for at least 60 days during the two calendar years preceding the date of application.
- The applicant shipowner, if different from the owner(s), shall hold the authorization issued by the owner(s) of the fishing vessel to submit the application for support if the operation concerns investments on board.

Eligibility criteria relating to the operation

- The fishing gears or other equipment have better size selectivity or demonstrated lower impact on the ecosystem and non-target species than standard gears or other equipment authorized under Union law or relevant national law adopted in the context of regionalization under Reg. (EU) No. 1380/2013.
- The fishing vessel is registered in the Community Register as well as in one of the Italian Maritime Compartments.
- The fishing vessel has been fishing at sea for at least 60 days during the two calendar years preceding the date of application.
- The operation contributes to achieving the objectives of the EMFAF Operational Program

Operations to be financed under Action 5 - Intervention 1

Operation

33

Gear selectivity to reduce unwanted catches

Operation

35

Gear selectivity in relation to endangered, threatened and protected species

100%

**Maximum rate of
public
contribution**

For ***operations to improve the selectivity of fishing gear with respect to size or species***, the EMFAF provides that the intensity of public aid for these specific types of operations may be up to **100%** of the eligible expenditure.

(According to Art. 41 "Intensity of public aid" and Annex III of Regulation (EU) 1139/2021)

Submission of Applications

Applications must be submitted in the way and by the deadlines set out in the specific calls that the Regions issue on the specific operations.

These call will list the documentation required for each operation and specify the maximum amounts allowed for each intervention and the maximum contribution.

INFO POINTS

Italy

ROMA

Consorzio Mediterraneo
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