

ITALY

Introduction

This is the Italian contribution to OECD Committee for Fisheries project “Fisheries Subsidies and Sustainable Development”.

In the last years, two main programmes have been developed:

- the programme supported by the EU structural fund FIG (Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance) that covers the period 2000-2006 and
- the programme based on National Triennial Plans. These Plans call for the rationalisation and development of the whole fishing industry where not only short and medium term targets, but also long term considerations are included. Until now, seven National Triennial plans were enforced.

The first programme financing by FIG covers eleven main areas:

1. Decommissioning schemes
2. Fleet renewal and modernisation of fishing vessels
3. Protection of marine resources in coastal waters
4. Aquaculture
5. Fishing port facilities
6. Processing and marketing of fishery and aquaculture products
7. Small-scale coastal fishing
8. Socio-economic measures
9. Measures to find and promote new market outlets
10. Operations by members of the trade
11. Innovative actions and technical assistance

Other financial resources are allocated through the National Triennial Plans. Funds allocated by the Directorate General for fishing and aquaculture of the Ministry for Agricultural and Forestry Policies (Mipaf) are addressed to:

1. Compensation for closed seasons
2. Compensation for damage to the fishery sector
3. Support to promotion and marketing
4. Interest rebates and loan guarantees
5. Management expenditure
6. Research expenditure

Table 1. Summary Table (2004)

Category of transfer	Budget	
	€ '000	%
Management, research and enforcement expenditure	52 697	27.6
Fisheries infrastructure expenditure ⁽¹⁾	72 857	38.2
Payments for access to other countries' waters	-	-
Payments for vessel decommissioning and licence retirement	36 562	19.2
Investment and modernisation schemes	10 475	5.5
Other cost reducing transfers	1 125	0.6
Income support and unemployment insurance	16 350	8.6
Other transfers not elsewhere classified	547	0.3
Total	190 613	100

Note: Fisheries infrastructure expenditure include the harvesting, aquaculture and processing sectors and fishing port facilities

Decommissioning schemes

Objective(s) of the program

Decommissioning grants is given to reduce fleet capacity in order to adjust the fishing fleet to the available resources and, thereby, to a sustainable fisheries management and a profitable fishing fleet

Form of support

Grant

Category of transfer

Payments for vessel decommissioning and licence withdrawal

Cost recovery or offsetting charges

None

Recipient fishery, fisheries or sector(s)

Applies to all the fishery sector with priority for small scale trawlers

Rules and conditions

Measures to stop vessels' fishing activities may be applied only to vessels 10 years old or more

Budget and expenditure

€ '000	2001-2002	2003	2004
Budget	119 214	26 300	36 562
Payments	60 684	58 877	15 407

Duration

Period 2000-2006

Number of recipients

Decommissioned vessels: 1 764

Other relevant information

n.a.

Fleet renewal and modernisation of fishing vessels

Objective(s) of the program

Renewal and modernisation of the fishing fleet that should not contribute to increasing fishing capacity.

Form of support

Grant

Category of transfer

Investment and modernisation schemes

Cost recovery or offsetting charges

None

Recipient fishery, fisheries or sector(s)

Applies only to vessels under 400 GT

Rules and conditions

Aid for the renewal of fishing vessels is being phased out and it has been available until the end of 2004 and only for vessels under 400 GT. It will be restricted to Member States which have met their overall EU capacity targets

Budget and expenditure

€ '000	2001-2002	2003	2004
Budget	-	48 676	10 476
Payments	-	2 199	16 265

Duration

Period 2000-2006

Number of recipients

Maritime fisheries:

number of renewal: 466

modernisation of vessels: 447

Inland fisheries:

number of renewal and modernisation of vessels: 229

Other relevant information

n.a.

Protection of marine resources in coastal waters

Objective(s) of the program

Fixed or movable facilities aimed at the protection and development of aquatic resources, except restocking

Form of support

Grant

Category of transfer

Fisheries infrastructure expenditure

Cost recovery or offsetting charges

None

Recipient fishery, fisheries or sector(s)

Applies nation-wide

Rules and conditions

n.a.

Budget and expenditure

€ '000	2000-03	2004
Budget	8 932	24 014
Payments	988	10 432

Duration

Period 2000-2006

Number of recipients

42 projects

Other relevant information

n.a.

Aquaculture

Objective(s) of the program:

- modernising existing premises or building new ones;
- installing or improving water circulation systems on site;
- installing new equipment;
- bringing hygiene standards up to European Community requirements;
- reducing the impact on the environment.

Form of support

Grant

Category of transfer

Fisheries infrastructure expenditure

Cost recovery or offsetting charges

None

Recipient fishery, fisheries or sector(s)

Aquaculture sector

Rules and conditions

n.a.

Budget and expenditure

€ '000	2000-03	2004
Budget	28 809	18 89
Payments	7 046	17 908

Duration

Period 2000-2006

Number of recipients

220 projects

Other relevant information

n.a.

Fishing port facilities

Objective(s) of the program

Port facilities need to be adapted in order to ensure that fish landing, handling and marketing are carried out in the best possible conditions. In addition, vessels require a growing range of services when in port.

Form of support

Grant

Category of transfer

Fisheries infrastructure expenditure

Cost recovery or offsetting charges

None

Recipient fishery, fisheries or sector(s)

Fishing ports

Rules and conditions

n.a.

Budget and expenditure

€ '000	2000-2003	2004
Budget	27 283	14 824
Payments	2 561	19 576

Duration

Period 2000-2006

Number of recipients

78 projects

Other relevant information

n.a.

Processing and marketing of fishery and aquaculture products

Objective(s) of the program:

- improving the quality and hygiene of production, especially in the processing and packaging stages;
- restructuring and modernising processing businesses;
- promoting technological innovation and the development of new products;
- increasing the value-added to the products in processing

Form of support

Grant

Category of transfer

Fisheries infrastructure expenditure

Cost recovery or offsetting charges

None

Recipient fishery, fisheries or sector(s)

Processing sector

Rules and conditions

n.a.

Budget and expenditure

€ '000	2000-2003	2004
Budget	37 782	15 530
Payments	10 210	18 530

Duration

Period 2000-2006

Number of recipients

159 projects

Other relevant information

n.a.

Small-scale coastal fishing

Objective(s) of the program

Vessels of an overall length of less than 12m. represent 68% of the total number of national vessels. Considering the importance of fisheries carried out by these vessels in a number of regions and their contribution to employment they will benefit from specific measures to improve the conditions in which small-scale coastal fishing is carried on. In addition, when a number of vessel owners or members of a fishing family involved in small-scale fisheries put in place an integrated collective project to improve the structure of their fishing activities participants will be able to benefit from a lump-sum premium

Form of support

Grant

Category of transfer

Other transfers not elsewhere classified

Cost recovery or offsetting charges

None

Recipient fishery, fisheries or sector(s)

Applies only to 'small-scale coastal fishing' (vessels of an overall length of less than 12 metres)

Rules and conditions

Budget and expenditure

€ '000	2000-2003	2004
Budget	2 948	547
Payments	150	2 140

Duration

Period 2000-2006

Number of recipients

82 projects

Other relevant information

n.a.

Socioeconomic measures

Objective(s) of the program

The scheme was established to assure an income support for fishermen as for fishermen early-retirement, to help fishermen retrain or diversify their activities outside maritime fisheries, to help young fishermen who acquire for the first time part or total ownership in a fishing vessel

Form of support

Grant

Category of transfer

Income support and unemployment insurance

Cost recovery or offsetting charges

None

Recipient fishery, fisheries or sector(s)

Applies to:

- fishermen who can show that they have worked for at least twelve months as fishermen, provided the vessel on which the beneficiaries were employed has been the object of measures permanently stopping its activities,
- fishermen who can show that they have worked for at least five years as fishermen, to help them retrain or diversify their activities outside maritime fisheries under an individual or collective social plan,
- to fishermen younger than 35 years who can demonstrate that they have worked at least five years as fishermen or can demonstrate equivalent vocational training and who acquire for the first time part or total ownership in a fishing vessel, provided that the following conditions are fulfilled:
 - i. the fishing vessel must have an overall length between 7 and 24 metres; at the time of acquisition of ownership it must be aged between 10 and 20 years, it must be operational and it must be registered in the fishing vessel register of the European Community;
 - ii. the transfer of ownership does not occur within the same family up to the second degree. 'small-scale coastal fishing' (vessels of an overall length of less than 12 metres)

Rules and conditions

See: Recipient fishery, fisheries or sector(s)

Budget and expenditure

€ '000	2000-2003	2004
Budget	223	615
Payments	0	357

Duration

Period 2000-2006

Number of recipients

23 projects

Other relevant information

n.a.

Measures to find and promote new market outlets

Objective(s) of the program

The scheme was established to encourage the consumption of fish and shellfish resources which are not overexploited or which are not well known by the public. The organisation of, and participation at, trade fairs and exhibitions, quality certification programmes and market surveys are also eligible for support.

Form of support

Grant

Category of transfer

Management, research and enforcement expenditure

Cost recovery or offsetting charges

None

Recipient fishery, fisheries or sector(s)

Applies nation-wide

Rules and conditions

n.a.

Budget and expenditure

€ '000	2000-2003	2004
Budget	17 144	3 155
Payments	5 709	4 920

Duration

Period 2000-2006

Number of recipients

108 projects

Other relevant information

n.a.

Operations by members of the trade

Objective(s) of the program

Actions undertaken by fishermen's organisations to promote the quality of fish products.

Form of support

Grant

Category of transfer

Management, research and enforcement expenditure

Cost recovery or offsetting charges

None

Recipient fishery, fisheries or sector(s)

Applies nation-wide

Rules and conditions

n.a.

Budget and expenditure

€ '000	2000-2003	2004
Budget	12 991	17 821
Payments	2 818	17 165

Duration

Period 2000-2006

Number of recipients

211 projects

Other relevant information

n.a.

Innovative actions and technical assistance

Objective(s) of the program

Innovative measures and technical assistance, such as pilot projects including exploratory fishing, training programmes, exchange of know-how.

Form of support

Grant

Category of transfer

Management, research and enforcement expenditure

Cost recovery or offsetting charges

None

Recipient fishery, fisheries or sector(s)

Applies nation-wide

Rules and conditions

n.a.

Budget and expenditure

€ '000	2000-2003	2004
Budget	12 359	7 061
Payments	5 851	6 761

Duration

Period 2000-2006

Number of recipients

204 projects

Other relevant information

n.a.

Compensation for closed seasons

Objective(s) of the program

Temporary withdrawal is used to control fishing effort in conjunction with capacity reduction. This measure is taken under national recovery plans and establishes a temporary closure for bottom and pelagic trawlers. Limits on fishing effort have an important role to play in recovery strategies, particularly when they concern species caught in mixed fisheries.

Form of support

Grant

Category of transfer

Income support and unemployment insurance

Cost recovery or offsetting charges

None

Recipient fishery, fisheries or sector(s)

Bottom and pelagic trawlers

Rules and conditions

The closure calendar is chosen from year to year after the spawning season of the species more relevant. Usually the Adriatic sea stops fishing from mid-July to mid-August, lower Adriatic and Ionian stop from mid-August to mid-September. Tyrrhenian sea stops mid-September to mid-October. Moreover, the closure is compulsory for the eastern fishing grounds, while it is facultative in the western grounds

Budget and expenditure

€ '000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Budget	-	19 258	-	11 935
Payments	-	9 648	-	6 935

Duration

The duration of national recovery plan

Number of recipients

n.a.

Other relevant information

n.a.

Compensation for damage to the fishery sector

Objective(s) of the program

A National Solidarity Fund for fishing was established to support the industry in case of natural disasters or exceptionally adverse sea and weather conditions, in accordance with national Law no.72/99.

Form of support

Grant

Category of transfer

Income support and unemployment insurance

Cost recovery or offsetting charges

None

Recipient fishery, fisheries or sector(s)

All the fisheries sector

Rules and conditions

n.a.

Budget and expenditure

€ '000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Budget	2 582	1 085	2 900	3 800
Payments	-	671	200	758

Duration

The duration of national triennial plan

Number of recipients

n.a.

Other relevant information

n.a.

Support to promotion and marketing

Objective(s) of the program

The program aims to sustain promotion campaigns, including those highlighting quality or associated with quality certification, product labelling, rationalisation of product names and product standardisation.

Form of support

Grant

Category of transfer

Management, research and enforcement expenditure

Cost recovery or offsetting charges

None

Recipient fishery, fisheries or sector(s)

The whole fishing industry

Rules and conditions

n.a.

Budget and expenditure

€ '000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Budget	5 266	2 401	3 250	4 570
Payments	3 491	3 467	1 880	3 720

Duration

The duration of national triennial plan

Number of recipients

n.a.

Other relevant information

n.a.

Interest rebates and loan guarantees

Objective(s) of the program

A National Credit Fund was established to support sector investments through interest rebate and loan guarantees

Form of support

Concessional loans

Category of transfer

Other cost reducing transfers

Cost recovery or offsetting charges

None

Recipient fishery, fisheries or sector(s)

All the fisheries sector

Rules and conditions

n.a.

Budget and expenditure

€ '000 €	2001	2002	2003	2004
Budget	620	310	340	1 125
Payments	620	310	340	1 125

Duration

The duration of national triennial plan

Number of recipients

n.a.

Other relevant information

n.a.

Management expenditure

Objective(s) of the program

Funds allocated by the Directorate General for fisheries and aquaculture of the Ministry for Agricultural and Forestry Policies (Mipaf) supporting training and qualification of fishing industry associations, strengthening of co-operation, funding of Programme Agreements; this measure, in particular, aims to strengthen the role and function of fisheries associations within the co-operative network.

Form of support

Grant

Category of transfer

Management, research and enforcement expenditure

Cost recovery or offsetting charges

None

Recipient fishery, fisheries or sector(s)

All the fisheries sector

Rules and conditions

n.a.

Budget and expenditure

€ '000 €	2001	2002	2003	2004
Budget	28 177	22 523	19 020	13 342
Payments	10 241	17 341	11 580	9 365

Duration

The duration of national triennial plan

Number of recipients

n.a.

Other relevant information

n.a.

Research expenditure

Objective(s) of the program

Funds allocated by the Directorate General for fisheries and aquaculture of the Ministry for Agricultural and Forestry Policies (Mipaf) in order to support studies and applied research.

Form of support

Grant

Category of transfer

Management, research and enforcement expenditure

Cost recovery or offsetting charges

None

Recipient fishery, fisheries or sector(s)

All the fisheries sector

Rules and conditions

n.a.

Budget and expenditure

€ '000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Budget	14 794	2 276	27 290	6 748
Payments	1 280	5 733	6 830	11 278

Duration

The duration of national triennial plan

Number of recipients

n.a.

Other relevant information

n.a.