

Ms Lowri Evans

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Date: 10 November 2014
Our reference: 1415/PAC 56
Subject: EMFF
CC: Evangelia Georgitsi (by email)

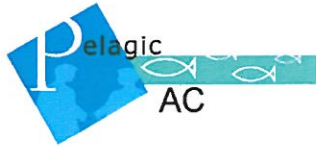
Dear Ms Evans,

At the recent Inter AC meeting and during several discussions with Member State representatives' confusion arose regarding the possibilities Advisory Councils have to draw funding from the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) beyond the provisions in Article 89 of the EMFF.

It has been the firm understanding of the Pelagic AC and of the Member States consulted that Advisory Councils can apply for direct EMFF funding under Article 86.2 (a) of the EMFF which states that the following types of operations shall be eligible: "*studies and pilot projects needed for the implementation and development of the CFP, including those on alternative types of sustainable fishing and aquaculture management techniques, including within Advisory Councils;*"

In contrast to Article 89 which purely covers the administrative financing of the Advisory Councils, Article 86 provides for financing of scientific deliverables, especially applied-research projects, which may be carried out within Advisory Councils. As you and your services are very well aware the Pelagic AC has a long history of developing multiannual management plans for the stocks in its remit. While most Pelagic AC stocks are now covered by multiannual plans the greatest obstruction to develop such plans for the remaining stocks has been lack of funding and the fact that in the past Advisory Councils had no possibility to apply for EMFF funding other than for covering their operational costs. With the adoption of the EMFF the role of the Advisory Councils has been strengthened, by allowing them to apply for direct EMFF funding to carry out relevant research projects. This development has been very much welcomed by the Pelagic AC and follows from years of convincing policy makers of the added value by enabling Advisory Councils to contribute in a more direct way to scientific research.

While some Commission officials seem to have a different opinion I would like to point out that both Article 86 and 89 are clearly covered under "*Title VI Measures Financed Under Direct Management*" as opposed to "shared management" which consequently means that Advisory Councils have the opportunity to directly apply for EMFF funding for



carrying out research projects without being dependent on the operational programs of the individual Member States. This is further confirmed by Article 7.2 which unambiguously states that "*Measures covered by Title VI shall be financed by the EMFF in accordance with the principle of direct management*".

We hope that you share our understanding of funding possibilities for research projects carried out within Advisory Councils and we are looking forward to receiving your confirmation on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Ian Gatt'.

Ian Gatt
Chairman of the Pelagic AC