



European  
Commission

# WORKSHOP: FINANCING THE MARINE ACTION PLAN

12 April 2024 - 09:30 – 13:00

## REPORT

In February 2023, the European Commission adopted the Marine Action Plan: Protecting and restoring marine ecosystems for sustainable and resilient fisheries. The action plan contributes to delivering on the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 and its commitment to legally and effectively protect 30% of our seas, with one third being strictly protected. It aims to bring the environment and fisheries policies closer, bridge the gaps between the policy fields and improve cooperation between stakeholders. The action plan also aims to reduce the impact of fishing on the seabed and on sensitive species and proposes actions to increase the selectivity of fishing gear and practices and to reduce the incidental catches of threatened species, setting a timetable to help Member States prioritise those species that require most protection.

In the Marine Action Plan, the Commission committed to informing on funding opportunities that can support its implementation, by organising and hosting a workshop to guide and promote the use of available funding.

The online ‘Workshop: Financing the marine action plan’ took place on 12 April 2024. It was organised together by DG MARE and DG Environment. It was attended by more than 100 participants from Member States national authorities and relevant stakeholders.

During the workshop, overview presentations were given of the different financing instruments: EMFAF (shared and direct management), Horizon Europe, Mission Ocean, LIFE programme, the European Investment Bank and INTERREG, and information on how to access them.

Each presentation was followed by one example of project financed under the different financing instruments. Project coordinators presented the links with the Marine Action plan, shared their experiences regarding challenges faced, lessons learnt and gave useful tips for future applicants.

Finally, at the end of each session, a question-and-answer session was organised, enabling the many participants to take an active part in the workshop and to clarify and deepen their knowledge of the various funds and mechanisms presented.

The workshop was successful in achieving its aim of providing an overview of available funding opportunities which can support implementation of the various actions of the Marine Action Plan towards protection of marine ecosystems for sustainable and resilient fisheries.

All the presentations together with some additional material can be found in the following link in circabc:

<https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/8ba8dc69-4226-4d6d-92d7-9ba25b40fc50/library/3dce7cda-f9d1-44b9-a206-c438ad71583c>

