



Impacts of EMFF funding, externalities and future needs.

Seafish Fisheries Management and Innovation Group
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1. Impact of EMFF funding

The European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) ran from 2014-2022

The UK was still facing austerity measures due to the 2008 financial crisis.

The sector was also dealing with:

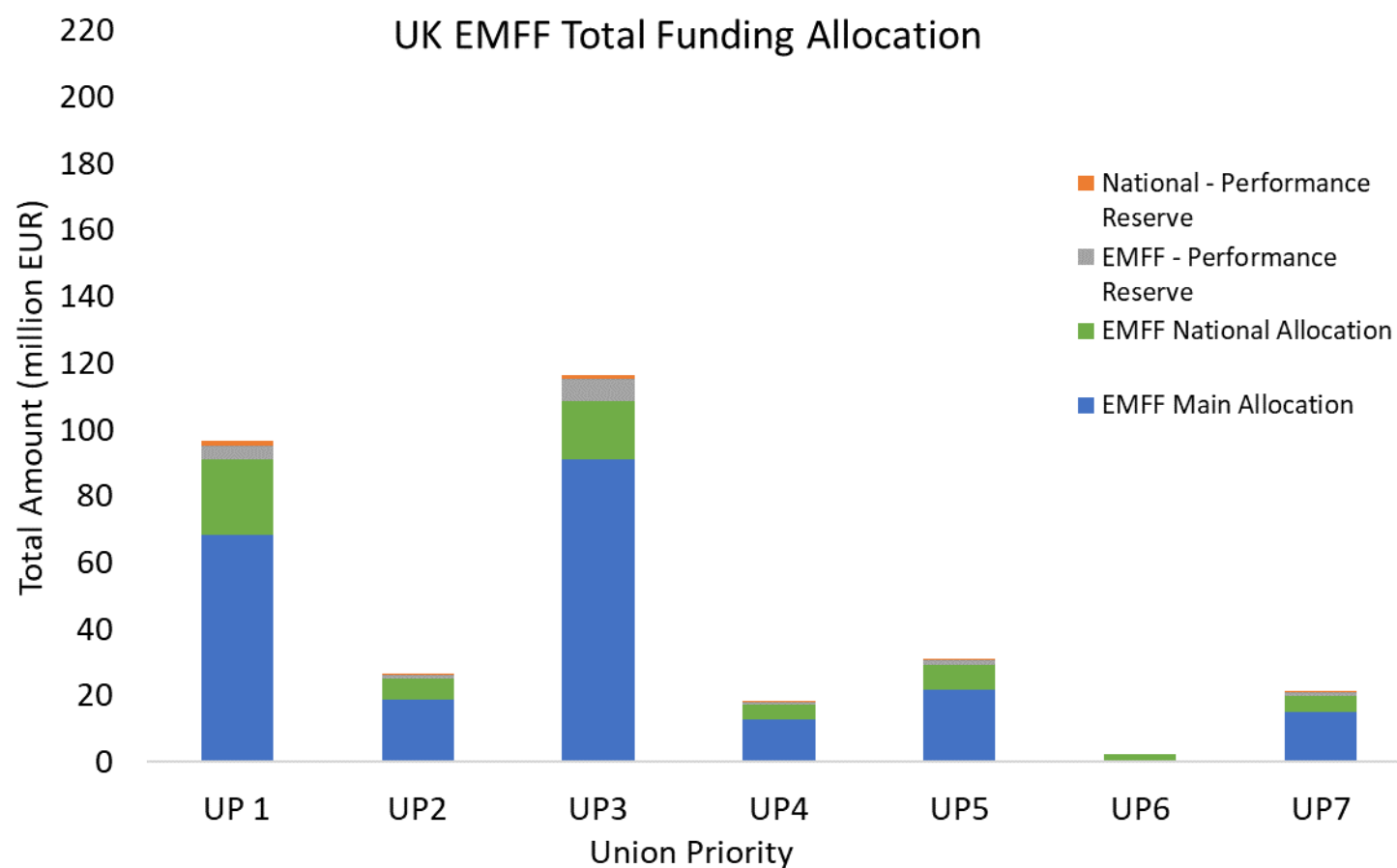
- key whitefish stocks in recovery,
- increased competition for marine space
- ageing fleets
- revised CFP with a more environmental focus

The EMFF aimed to contribute to a “**significant and sustainable fisheries sector**”, by:

- Adapting the fisheries sector to meet the requirements of CFP Reforms
- Fostering sustainable growth in the fisheries, aquaculture and processing
- Fulfilling control, enforcement and data collection obligations

1. Impact of EMFF funding

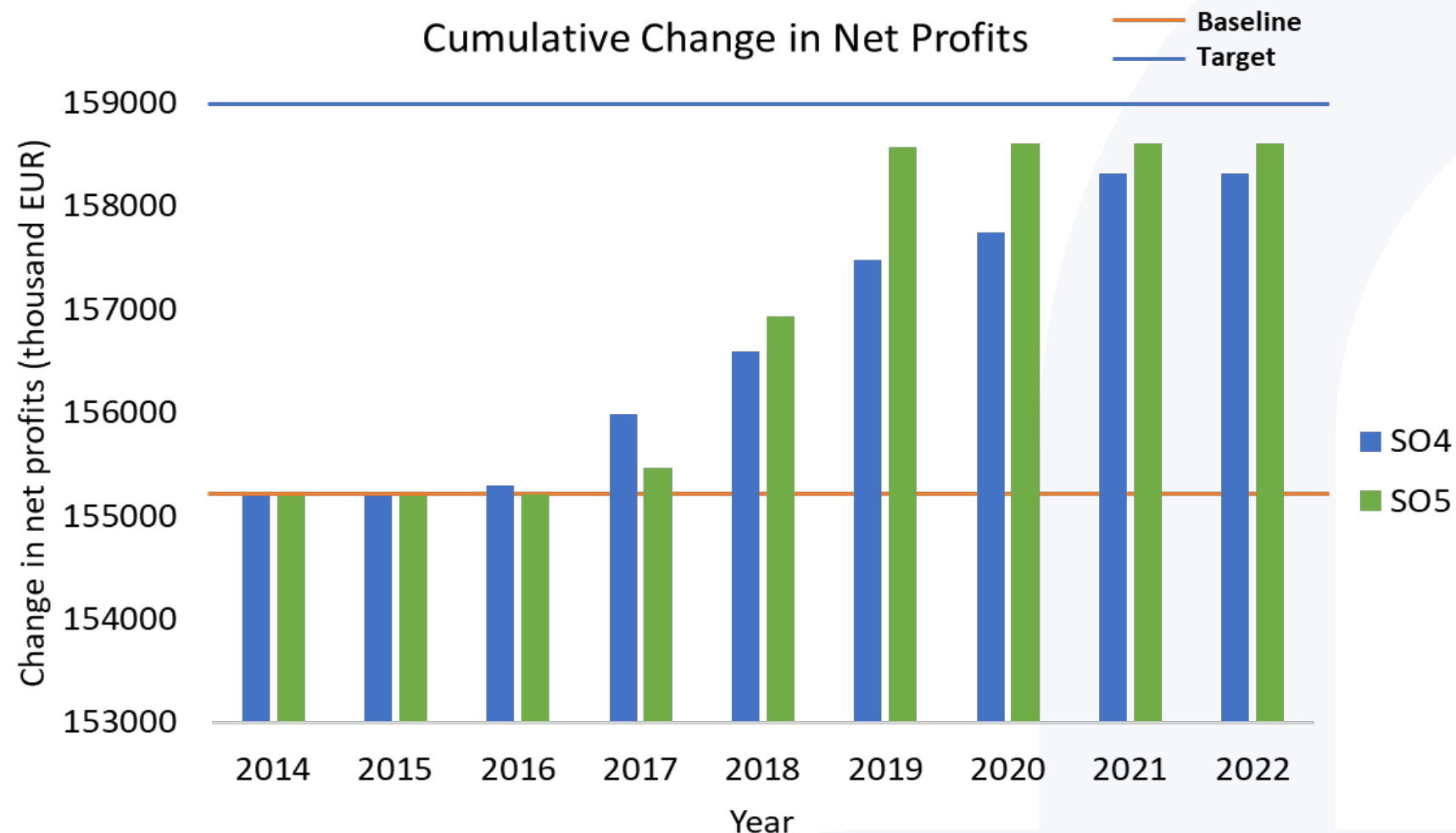
	England	Scotland	Wales	Northern Ireland	Total	% of total allocation
Sustainable Fisheries (UP 1)	31.7	25.9	4.1	10.8	72.5	30%
Sustainable Aquaculture (UP 2)	2.4	13.3	3.4	0.9	20	8%
Control Funding (UP 3)	19.7	21.8	2.4	1.7	45.6	19%
Data Collection Framework (UP 3)	23.9	19.4	1.7	7	52	21%
Fisheries Local Action Groups (UP 4)	4.6	5.9	1.5	1.7	13.7	6%
Processing and Marketing (UP 5)	6.2	15	1.2	1.1	23.5	10%
Integrated Maritime Policy (UP 6)	1.7	2.8	0.4	0.2	5.1	2%
Technical Assistance	5.7	3.9	0.9	0.2	10.7	4%
Total Core	95.9	108	15.8	23.5	243.2	100%



1. Impact of EMFF funding

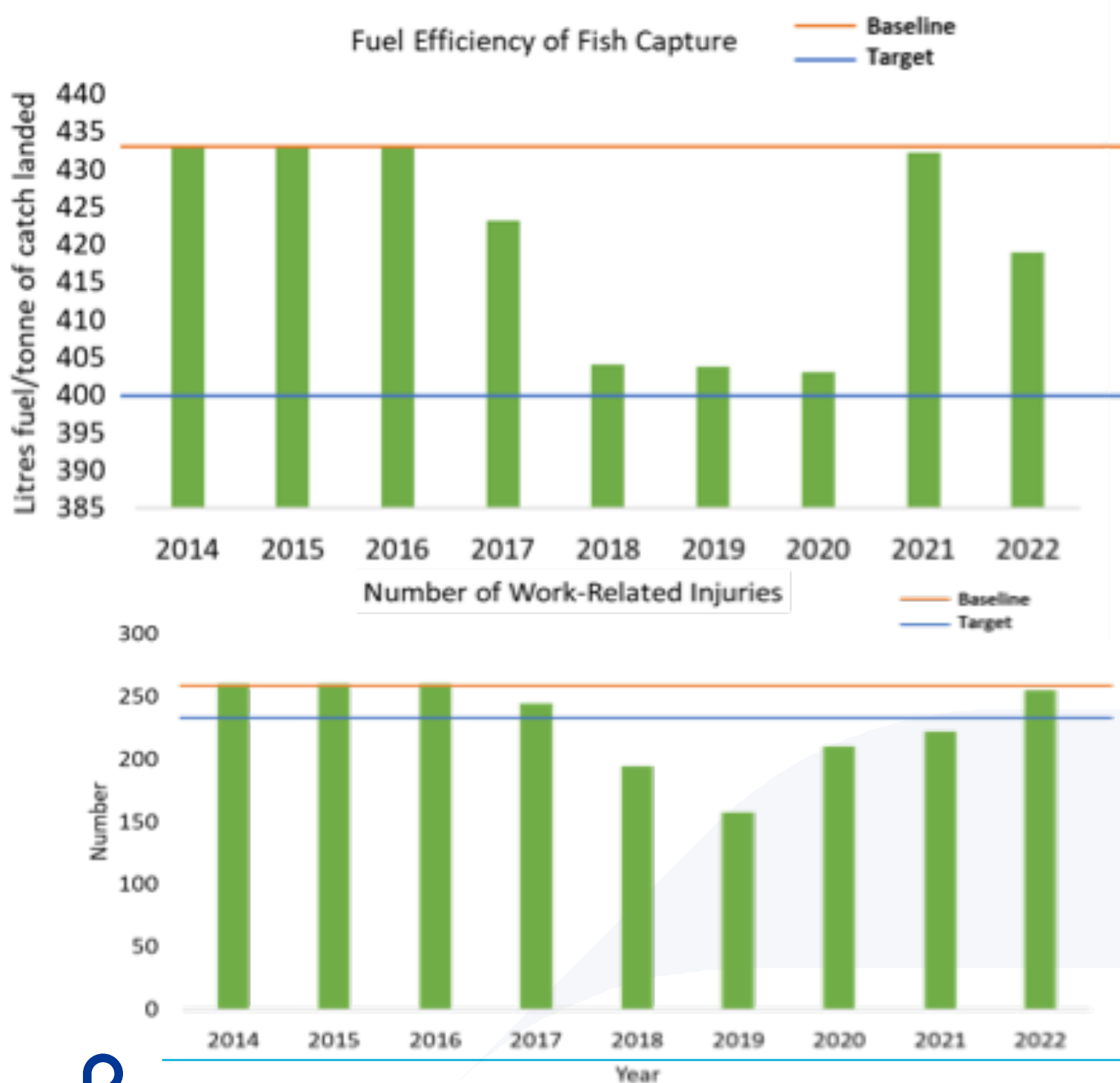
- Most results indicators (improving **fuel efficiency of fish capture**, increase in **net profits**, maintaining **employment in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors** and increasing the **volume and value of catch landed**) show progress towards target values 2016-2019/20 then declines 2020/2021.
- EMFF support had the largest impact on **maintaining jobs** in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors.
- Areas that appear to lack progression were in increasing **Natura 2000 and protected site networks** and increasing the **volume and value of aquaculture production**.
- From 2020, external factors (e.g., COVID-19 pandemic, EU Exit) impacted progress towards 2023 target values.
- The reallocation of funding to support jobs and maintain lost earnings has had an impact on maintaining the sector.

1. Impact of EMFF funding – results indicators



- Net profits in the fisheries sector increased by **+€6.5 million** and net profits in the aquaculture sector increased by **+€5.8 million**.
- Stalled in later years and represents achievement against the target of **82%** and **63%** for fisheries and aquaculture, respectively.
- Landings in 2022 valued at over **£1 billion**, Aquaculture in 2019 valued at **£1.15 billion**.

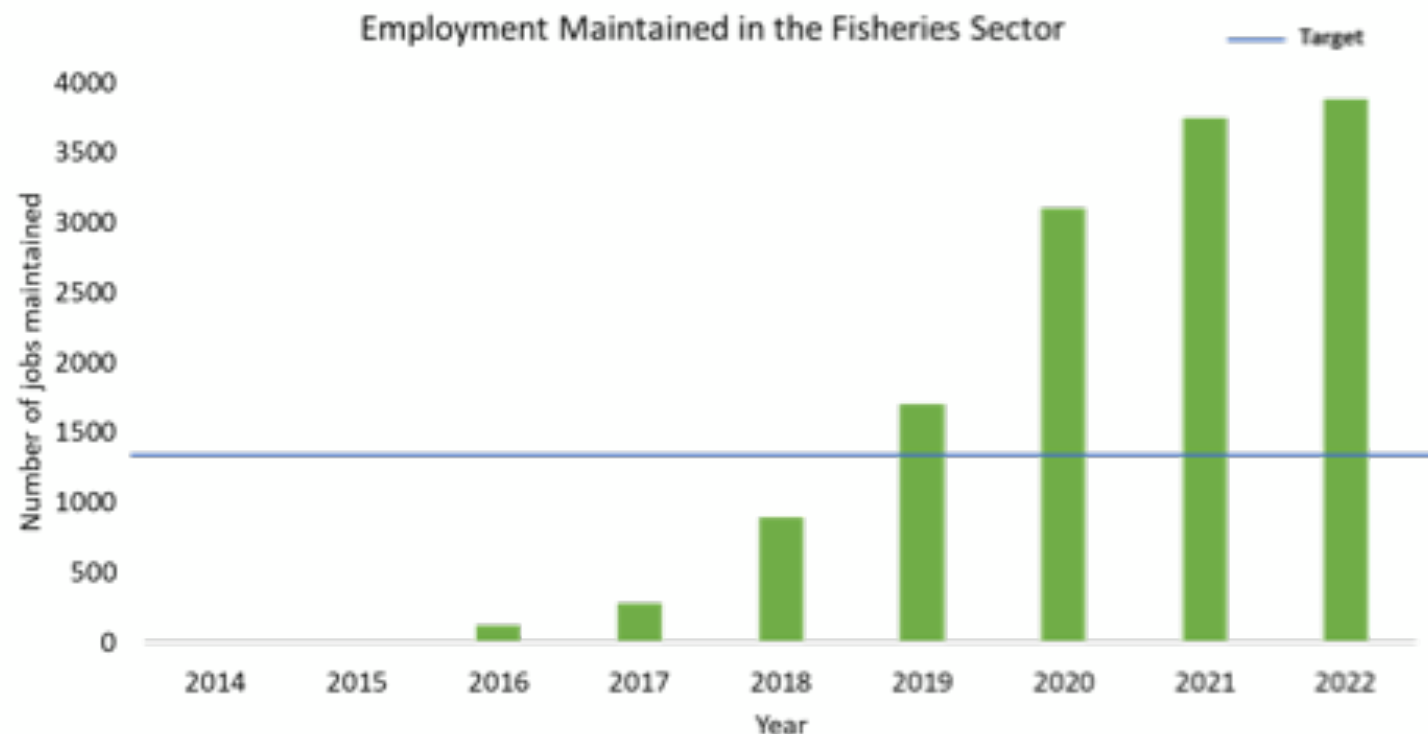
1. Impact of EMFF funding – results indicators



May be related to species mix variation due to quota changes and Covid impacts.

Unfortunately, the decrease in work-related injuries has not lasted.

1. Impact of EMFF funding – jobs maintained



Relatively low targets were set.

But the EMFF support ensured targets were exceeded.



2. Externalities affecting the sector during EMFF

- **Covid** → market closures in Europe & Asia, major disruptions to operations
- **Brexit** → trade disruption, fluctuating exchange rates, labour shortages.
- **Labour shortages** → retraining, visa issues, staff availability post Covid & Brexit
- **Cost of living crisis** → changing consumption, less eating out (key market for seafood)
- **Regulatory and policy changes** → changes to fisheries, environmental and safety legislation influenced the focus for sector support
- **Environmental quality and climate change** → changing fisheries distributions, bad weather and poor water quality.
- **War in Ukraine** → increased fuel prices, supply chain disruption, whitefish supplies

2. Externalities affecting the sector - Covid

Perhaps the most significant external factor.

Closure of hospitality and export markets.

Loss of £22 billion tourism spend (73% reduction in 2020).

Severe and rapid disruptions to the global supply chain.



UK Exports in 2020 vs 2019	Demersal	Pelagic	Shellfish	Salmon	Overall
Value (Jan-Dec)	-10%	5%	-20%	-26%	-20%
Volume (Jan-Dec)	-3%	13%	-16%	-22%	-7%

2. Externalities affecting the sector - Brexit

Great uncertainty until Trade and Cooperation Agreement signed at end of 2020 for 2021 to 2026.

New systems and additional documentation caused export delay and losses. Live shellfish in particular.



The pound weakened against the Euro

Higher risk in trading fresh product led to processors freezing more product.

Brexit further exacerbated labour shortages with fewer EU workers

UK Exports in 2021 vs pre covid (2017-2019)			
	Demersal	Pelagic	Shellfish
Value (Jan-Dec)	-17%	-20%	-24%
Volume (Jan-Dec)	-4%	-42%	-28%

2. Externalities affecting the sector – other factors

- **Labour shortages** → visa issues, retraining & staff availability post Covid & Brexit
- **Cost of living crisis** → changing consumption, less eating out (key market for seafood)
- **Regulatory and policy changes** → changes to fisheries, environmental and safety legislation influenced the focus for sector support
- **Environmental quality and climate change** → changing fisheries distributions, bad weather (severe storms affecting fishing and transport) and poor water quality.
- **War in Ukraine** → increased fuel prices, supply chain disruption, whitefish supplies (exacerbated by Barents Sea quota reductions in 2022)

Any others?

Which were most significant?



3. Current challenges and future funding needs

Question:

What are the most significant challenges you are facing now?

Question:

What are the priorities for future sector funding?

Thank you

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