

EN
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Answer given by Mr Kadis
on behalf of the European Commission
(6.7.2026)

The Commission presented on 10 June 2026 the first-ever EU strategies for islands and coastal communities¹ setting out a coordinated EU approach to unlock the long-term potential of these territories.

In the Commission proposal for the new multiannual financial framework (MFF) 2028-2034, Member States shall take into account in their National and Regional Partnership (NRP) plans the specific needs of fisheries, aquaculture and coastal communities and in particular of small-scale coastal fishing. Under the NRP plans, for small-scale coastal fisheries, the aid intensity rate granted can reach a maximum of 100% allowing Member States to encourage sustainable fishing practice by giving small-scale coastal fishers preferential treatment. The Common Fisheries Policy will benefit from synergies and additional support within the NRP Plans, with a specific amount ringfenced for certain interventions.

Small-scale coastal fishers may also be eligible for support under the Competitiveness Fund, e.g. for decarbonisation of fishing fleets and the energy transition.

In addition, there are various tools in place for Member States to support small-scale and coastal fishers in islands and other coastal regions. Member States can use the possibilities provided by Article 17 of the Common Fisheries Policy Regulation² to allocate fishing opportunities to those segments. In its guidelines seeking to help Member States in supporting small-scale fishers and enhancing transparency and good governance in the allocation of fishing opportunities published in November 2025³, the Commission encourages Member States in this regard. Member States can also identify and plan for fishing areas in their maritime spatial planning.

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/studies/2026/COM_2026_520_1_EN_ACT_part1_v6.pdf.

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2013/1380/oj/eng>.

³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/C/2025/6227/oj>.