

# **EUROPEAN FISHERIES CONTROL AGENCY**

## **ANNUAL REPORT 2020**

### **(Consolidated Annual Activity Report 2020)**

Legal basis:

Articles 15 and 32(2)(b) of Regulation (EU) 2019/473 of the European Parliament (EP) and of the Council of 19 March 2019 on the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA)<sup>1</sup>, Article 48 of the Financial Regulation (FR) of the European Fisheries Control Agency<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Official Journal (OJ) L 83, 25.3.2019, p. 18.

<sup>2</sup> Administrative Board (AB) Decision No 19-W-05 of 29 August 2019.

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**FOREWORD BY THE CHAIR OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD**

The Consolidated Annual Activity Report 2020, subsequently referred as Annual Report 2020, provides a comprehensive presentation of the activities of the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) undertaken during 2020. These activities span from the operational coordination of fisheries control across the EU, to tasks relating to the international obligations of the Union, from the assistance to Member States to improve the culture of compliance with the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), to the European Cooperation on Coast Guard function. These activities are instrumental to ensure compliance with the rules of the CFP and hence for achieving its environmental, and socio-economic objectives. These activities are now also firmly embedded in the European Green Deal through their contribution to sustainable food systems and safeguarding biodiversity as well as by contributing to a Sustainable Blue Economy.

Throughout the year, the Agency continued to devote substantial efforts for improving the level playing field, be it through the training of Union inspectors, the standardisation of inspection processes or support to the Union in the implementation of the international dimension of the CFP.

The ongoing pandemic obliged the Agency to adapt its business model to the new circumstances. Nevertheless, in close collaboration with the national control authorities, EFCA successfully implemented the legal and operational instruments, through which the Agency carries out the operational coordination with the Member States, namely the six Joint Deployment Plans (JDP) covering all EU sea-basins and international waters under NAFO and NEAFC. In close cooperation with the Commission and the Member States, the Agency carried out important preparatory work to face the possible consequences for fisheries control deriving from Brexit in the North Sea and in the Western Waters of the Atlantic. By the same token, the Agency was able to continue assisting Member States Control Expert Groups, in relevant areas such as risk assessment, compliance evaluation, and specific provisions relating to the Landing Obligation and emerging monitoring technologies.

Although the constraints impeded travelling within the Union and to third countries, the Agency continued to offer its support to the Commission to discharge the commitments of the Union in Regional Fisheries Management Organisations, as well as to contribute to the fight against IUU fishing, including through the implementation of the EU funded development project PESCAO in West Africa.

For most of the year, EFCA also led the cooperation derived from the Tripartite Working Arrangement between Frontex/EBCGA, EMSA and EFCA, in the framework of the European Cooperation on Coast Guard (EUCG). This also involved the Member States and the Commission. The Agency was notably involved in the delivery of the first version of the Practical Handbook on EUCG, highlighting its key role in the area of Capacity Building and Risk Assessment. The EFCA chartered vessel Lundy Sentinel remained on task during all the year. It provided a significant part of the Union commitment of control and inspection platforms in the North Atlantic Regional Fisheries Management Organisations NAFO and NEAFC.

As newly elected Chair of the Administrative Board, in which Member States and the Commission are represented, I am confident we will carry on working together for a level playing field and a uniform and effective application of the CFP and I would like to express my gratitude to all institutions and partners that helped EFCA to achieve its objectives. Thanks to our common effort, EFCA delivered nearly entirely the work programme for this very exceptional year 2020.

## ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD'S ANALYSIS AND ASSESSMENT

The Administrative Board,

Having regard to the EU Regulation (EU) 2019/473 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 March 2019 on the European Fisheries Control Agency<sup>3</sup>,

Having regard to the Financial Regulation of the European Fisheries Control Agency of 29 August 2019 and in particular Article 48 thereof,

Having regard to the Multiannual work programme (MWP) 2020-2024 and Annual work programme 2020 adopted by the Administrative Board on 22 October 2019<sup>4</sup>, as amended on 22 April 2020<sup>5</sup>,

The Annual Report 2020 is the first one adopted following the template provided by the communication from the Commission on the strengthening of the governance of Union Bodies under Article 70 of the Financial Regulation 2018/1046 and on the guidelines for the Single Programming Document and the Consolidated Annual Activity Report. The activities have been grouped following the structure presented on the Single Programming document (SPD) containing the Multiannual work programme 2020-2024 and the Annual work programme 2020,

Has analysed and assessed the Authorising Officer's (Executive Director's) Annual Report for the financial year 2020. The Administrative Board acknowledges the results achieved by EFCA and notes in particular the following:

1. The Annual Report 2020 provides a faithful and comprehensive account of the work undertaken by EFCA in 2020. It reflects the achievements of EFCA as set out in the Multiannual work programme 2020-2024 and in the Annual work programme 2020 adopted by the Administrative Board on 22 October 2019, and its subsequent amendment.
2. The absence of any open observations from the European Court of Auditors (ECA), the suitable follow-up of the observations from the European Parliament and the absence of *critical or very important* recommendations from the Internal Audit Service (IAS).
3. Even though the financial year 2020 has been strongly marked by the pandemic situation as a result of the COVID-19, the final implementation of EFCA's budget is 97.3% for commitments and 81.2% for payments.

EFCA received a total budget of €16.9 million as a contribution from the General EU Budget for 2020, representing an increase of 0.9% in respect of 2019. In addition, EFCA received resources in the course of 2020 in relation to the grant for Improved Regional fisheries governance in Western Africa (PESCAO project), totalling €2.5 million over 5 years, from which €0.68 million was earmarked for 2020.

EFCA promotes a policy of equality, aiming to have an optimal gender balance among its staff. On 31 December 2020, the overall percentage of female staff members was 49%. This figure is reduced to 46%, if SNEs are included. Still improvable, the percentage of female staff grade AD8 (administrator's function group, grade 8) and higher was 30%.

4. With reference to the operational activities, the following facts and figures were specifically relevant:
  - six JDPs successfully implemented;
  - six strategic risk assessment carried out in preparation of the JDPs 2021;
  - 30 specific actions implemented in the framework of the North Sea, Baltic Sea and Western Waters JDPs;

<sup>3</sup> Regulation (EU) 2019/473 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 March 2019 on the European Fisheries Control Agency, OJ L 83, 25.3.2019

<sup>4</sup> Administrative Board Decision No 19-II-4 of the Administrative Board of the European Fisheries Control Agency of 22 October 2019 concerning the adoption of the Single Programming Document containing the Multiannual work programme 2020 - 2024 and Annual work programme for 2020 and of the Budget and the Establishment plan of the European Fisheries Control Agency for year 2020

<sup>5</sup> Administrative Board Decision No 20-W-2 of the Administrative Board of the European Fisheries Control Agency of 22 April 2020 amending AB Decision No 19-II-4 of 22 October 2019 concerning the adoption of the EFCA Single Programming Document containing the Multiannual work programme 2020 - 2024 and the Annual work programme for year 2020 and of the Budget and the Establishment Plan of the European Fisheries Control Agency for year 2020

- six specific campaigns implemented in the framework of the Mediterranean Sea and Black Sea JDPs;
  - number of inspections (at sea and ashore) reported within the JDPs framework<sup>6</sup>: 38 452;
  - number of suspected infringements detected<sup>7</sup>: 1 787;
  - the deployment of EFCA's chartered vessel, Lundy Sentinel, provided a robust platform for fisheries inspections leading to total 40 inspections and 5 suspected infringements detected fostering transparency, exchange of knowledge and expertise and a first-hand understanding of fisheries situations in terms of compliance;
  - number of flights contracted by EFCA in support of JDPs: 35, providing 54 sightings.
  - five dedicated workshops to support the EU for BREXIT preparedness (to address risk assessment, operation of virtual coordination centre, NS and WW JDPs amendment and a inspector training on the application of IUU and NEAFC regulations for landings and imports of fishery products from the UK);
  - the progress made and the work carried out within the framework of cooperation on coast guard functions with EMSA and Frontex and the implementation of the Annual Strategic Plan;
  - at the request of the European Commission, the EFCA assisted the Union to cooperate with third countries and international organisations dealing with fisheries, including RFMOs, in order to strengthen operational coordination and compliance;
  - in the framework of PESCAO, EFCA contributed to the achievement of the overall objective of the PESCAO project, to enhance the contribution of fisheries resources to sustainable development, food security and poverty alleviation in West Africa. EFCA provided technical support to the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission, the Fisheries Committee for the Western Central Gulf of Guinea and their member countries, in a coordinated manner, using its experience in the EU context;
  - EFCA organised and contributed to 25 training events; a total of 1,783 officials (EU Member States and third countries) were trained;
  - in order to promote and expand the use of its e-learning platform by Member States' inspectors, EFCA finalised the translation of the 3 Core Curricula e-learning courses on "inspection at sea", "port inspections", and "general principles and specific types of inspection" into Bulgarian, Dutch, Estonian, Finnish, Latvian, Lithuanian, Romanian, and Swedish;
  - the availability of collaborative and data exchange tools (e.g. FISHNET).
5. All horizontal support procedures have now achieved a 100% paperless objective. EFCA has been aiming for a paperless and electronic way of working for the past 5 years. Many of the objectives set out in this area have been achieved earlier than expected due to the implementation of teleworking arrangements resulting from of the COVID-19 pandemic situation.
6. EFCA implements an internal control framework applicable at all levels of management and it is designed to provide reasonable assurance that operations are effective and efficient and financial reporting complies with applicable laws and regulations.
7. The information provided in the Annual Report 2020 gives the Administrative Board reasonable assurance that the resources available to EFCA in 2020 were used for their intended purpose and in accordance with the principles of sound financial management.

Done on 21 April 2021

[Signed]

Veronika Veits

Chair of the Administrative Board

<sup>6</sup> Provisional data based on the information provided by Member States up to 31 January 2021

<sup>7</sup> Provisional data based on the information provided by Member States up to 31 January 2021

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2020, the European Fisheries Control Agency implemented 90% of the Annual Work Programme (AWP) adopted by the Administrative Board in the framework of the Single Programming Document (SPD). Implementation was aligned with a coherent budget execution of 97.2%, above what was expected considering the circumstances of this special year.

The agency supported the Member States and the Commission in the implementation of the control regime of the Common Fisheries Policy through the coordination of the Joint Deployments Plans and the implementation of capacity building operations in the framework of the international dimension. The European Cooperation on Coast Guard functions, formalised by a tripartite working arrangement with EMSA and Frontex, enhanced EFCA's capacity to contribute to an effective and uniform implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy.

This has been a difficult year. Some of the planned activities as established by the measures in the framework of the JDPs, were impacted by the Covid 19 situation EFCA promoted a set of initiatives to have an up-to-date overview of the level of fishing and control activities at Member State level, analyse the risks affected by the lowered monitoring and control levels caused by COVID-19 and develop mitigation measures. Furthermore, the Agency explored other available tools that could be used during the pandemic, and adapted the planning and deployment of the *Lundy Sentinel*, to ensure that the fundamental aspects of the JDP were fully addressed, including, in particular, the prioritisation of international obligations to which the EU was concerned and those originating from RFMO rules.

These achievements were possible due to the strong commitment and flexibility of EFCA staff who moved to telework on 10 March 2020 and ensured the business continuity of EFCA's activities at all times. Nonetheless, EFCA Business Continuity Plan was updated but never activated.

Highlights of EFCA's performance within its mandate include:

- In 2020 all six JDPs (NAFO/NEAFC, North Sea, Baltic Sea, Black Sea, Western Waters, Mediterranean & Eastern Atlantic) were implemented as planned but with some adjustments due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Through the use of JDPs, EFCA provided assistance to Member States and the European Commission in the area of control, inspection and surveillance. Specifically, the activity focused on joint coordination and enhancement of the potential of national enforcement services to apply the rules of the Common Fisheries Policy in a uniform and effective manner. In 2020, the cooperative efforts led to 38452 coordinated inspections, and 1787 suspected infringements detected.
- Following the JDPs 2019 – Cost Assessment Report, the overall cost evaluation for implementing JDPs in 2019 were approximately of €77 million.
- In accordance with the results of the regional risk analysis, priority was given to the control of fisheries with the highest risks, and joint control activities were regularly coordinated in the context of specific actions. In total there were 30 specific actions proposed in the framework of three JDPs.
- EFCA took actions together with the European Commission and concerned Member State for preparing for BREXIT scenarios, with a series of meetings. Also, an important component of the mitigation measures, both for an agreement and non-agreement scenario, was the objective of enhancing a common situational awareness picture at regional level, through the continuous exchange of data, information and intelligence. Developing this common situational awareness picture would be facilitated by the EFCA Coordination Centre, joint with a virtual network of Member States FMCs and contact points. Finally, the JDP Decisions were adopted with agreement. EFCA performed a risk assessment only for the non-agreement scenario and committed to performing a risk assessment for the agreement scenario, after the new agreement would be in place and the stipulations in the agreement would be analysed.

- In 2020 EFCA used the framework of the JDPs to enhance the standardisation of inspections, in particular through last haul observation procedures during inspections at sea in all EU JDP areas and the sampling procedure for unsorted pelagic landings in the Baltic Sea area.
- EFCA provided assistance to the Member States regional Control Expert Groups (CEGs). EFCA cooperated with the CEGs of the main regional bodies created in the framework of regionalisation, such as BALTFISH, Scheveningen, NWW and SWW CEGs. The work of these groups has been reinforced and enhanced in accordance with the updated Terms of Reference and CEG's workplans for 2021 and 2022. The main areas of activities with the support of EFCA are the common understanding on the application of the Technical Measures<sup>8</sup> from the perspective of control and inspection, and the implementation of the LO.

In reply to a request from the Baltic Sea Control Expert Group, EFCA finalised the exercise initiated in 2019, to evaluate compliance with the landing obligation for cod, plaice, herring, sprat and salmon in the Baltic Sea, for the period 2017 – 2018. The executive summaries on the previous evaluation of compliance with the landing obligation conducted for specific fisheries of the North Sea and Western Waters were published on the EFCA website.

- In the international dimension of the Common Fisheries Policy, EFCA continued to assist the Commission to cooperate with third countries and international organisations dealing with fisheries such as Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (namely, NAFO, NEAFC, ICCAT and GFCM), to strengthen operational coordination and compliance.
- In the fight against IUU activities, EFCA assisted the European Commission with the analysis of 514 catch certificates and 191 processing statements for four third countries.

In the framework of the five-year EU funded PESCAO project, including a component aiming to improve the fight against Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) fishing activities in Western Africa, EFCA continued to provide technical assistance to the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission (SRFC), the Fisheries Committee for the Western Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC) and their member countries, in a coordinated manner, using the experience gained in the EU context.

- The Tripartite Working Agreement (TWA) between, EFCA, EMSA and Frontex sets the foundations for the framework of cooperation, which aims to support national authorities carrying out Coast Guard Functions and to provide assistance and expertise on coordination and fisheries control using the means available in the agencies. EFCA successfully cooperated with Frontex and EMSA and assumed the chairmanship of this cooperation in May 2020 to support national authorities carrying out coast guard functions.
- Training activities in support of the effective and uniform application of the CFP are crucial to guarantee a fair and equitable treatment to the Union operators. Currently more than 1000 staff from EU and non-EU countries are now users of the EFCA e-learning platform.
- EFCA's chartered OPV was operational for 335 days and provided a robust platform for fisheries inspections leading to a total of 40 inspections and 5 suspected infringements detected. The EFCA chartered OPV contributed to the implementation of JDPs in the EU sea basins by adding capacity to fisheries control operations outside the territorial waters of MS and providing a platform to deploy multinational Member State inspection teams. This promoted transparency and a level playing field and fostered a good exchange of knowledge and expertise. It also provided a first-hand understanding of fisheries situations in terms of compliance, to enable the fine tuning of risk assessments. In addition to fisheries control tasks, EFCA's OPV was made available for multipurpose tasks in the framework of European cooperation on coastguard functions, such as search and rescue, maritime border control and pollution response operations, in cooperation with Member State authorities, Frontex and EMSA.

<sup>8</sup> Regulation (EU) 2019/1241 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 on the conservation of fisheries resources and the protection of marine ecosystems through technical measures, TM regulation reference.



- EFCA's information systems enabled the collection of data from each Member State providing details of their fishing vessels, catches and other such information. Overall, EFCA was sent Electronic Reporting System-logbook data from 4185 vessels in 13 Member States and Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) data from different vessels, throughout all Member States. The volume of VMS messages received by the EFCA VMS was 36.2 million messages.
- The intensive and long-lasting cooperation between EMSA and EFCA in integrated maritime awareness, resulted in the development of the Integrated Maritime Service (IMS) application dedicated to fisheries control. By the end of 2020, there were 1053 credentials issued by EFCA (an increase of 8.3 % compared to 2019) to IMS fisheries control users in Member States and the European Commission. In 2020 EFCA also acquired from EMSA information obtained from the Copernicus Maritime Surveillance (CMS) Service, to support fisheries control operations. In 2020, the EFCA IMS was used for the first time to visualise and monitor RTC's. Following the decision by a Member State to declare an RTC, EFCA integrated 3 RTC's into the EFCA IMS. In this way, the RTC's could be visualised by all Member States. Furthermore, combined with area access ABM's these combined functionalities have proven most powerful for the automated monitoring of specific areas.
- EFCA was also involved in the Common Information Sharing Environment (CISE), which aims to integrate existing surveillance systems and make networks interoperable so that data and other information can be exchanged easily through the use of modern technologies.
- Regarding the horizontal procedures, they have now achieved a 100% paperless objective. Particularly in 2020, many of the objectives set out as in this area have been achieved earlier than expected due to the teleworking arrangements as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic situation. EFCA has been strongly focused on a paperless and electronic ways of working for the past 5 years. It has automated its administrative procedures through Sysper (HR), MIPS (mission management), AGM (meeting reimbursements management), e-Submission (Procurement) and many other measures making all these procedures more efficient and less paper dependent.
- Through its Communication strategy, EFCA promotes a culture of compliance with the Common Fisheries Policy and fosters the European Union values. The Annual Communication Strategy had to be adapted to the new COVID-19 by further developing the digital presence of EFCA to reach its stakeholders, basically through social media.
- EFCA concluded the implementation of the recommendations issued by the Administrative Board following the Five-Year Independent External Evaluation of EFCA (period 2012-2016).

EFCA Administrative Board elected a new Chair during its October 2020 meeting, Mrs Veronika Veits', with whom I will continue working hand in hand until the end of my remit for a strengthened cooperation and assistance to the Member States and the European Commission

This has been the last Annual Report to be adopted under my leadership and I take this opportunity to thank sincerely the EFCA staff for their resilience, hard work, responsibility, responsivity, flexibility and commitment, which were instrumental for accomplishing such achievements in this very difficult year. Also, I want to thank the Member States and the Commission for their trust and confidence in EFCA during this decade.

The present report is addressed to the Administrative Board of EFCA, the different EU Institutions, the EFCA stakeholders and the general public. As in previous years, a fourth issue of 'A year in review' providing a summarised version of the EFCA Annual Report 2020 will be published.

## PART I. ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE YEAR

### 1.1 MULTIANNUAL PROGRAMME 2020-2024

In accordance with its Founding Regulation<sup>9</sup>, EFCA's overarching objective is *“to organise operational coordination of fisheries control and inspection activities by the Member States and to assist them to cooperate so as to comply with the rules of the Common Fisheries Policy in order to ensure its effective and uniform application”*.

EFCA's multiannual framework is guided, *inter alia*, by:

- the implementation of the features of the Common Fisheries Policy;
- the EU priorities, namely “A new boost for jobs, growth and investment” within the Common Fisheries Policy, and “Towards a new policy on Migration” through the improvement of co-operation and co-ordination between national bodies and agencies carrying out coastguard functions;
- the European Green Deal<sup>10</sup>.
- the recommendations issued by the Administrative Board following the Five Year Independent External Evaluation of the European Fisheries Control Agency on 21 June 2017;
- the Framework Financial Regulation (FFR);
- the Roadmap on the follow-up to the Common Approach on EU decentralised agencies;
- The support to the implementation of the European Union Maritime Security Strategy (EUMSS)<sup>11</sup>, where the three Agencies are contributing through the implementation of the European Coastguard initiative.

Moreover, in line with the Council conclusions “Towards an ever more sustainable Union by 2030”<sup>12</sup>, the Commission Communication “Next steps for a sustainable European future”<sup>13</sup> and its reflection paper ‘Towards a Sustainable Europe by 2030’<sup>14</sup> on the follow-up to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, including on the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, and in accord with the European Union Agencies’ Network (EUAN)<sup>15</sup>, EFCA closely adheres to the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)<sup>16</sup>:

#### Goal 5: Gender Equality

- Ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision making in political, economic and public life.

#### Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

- Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment.
- Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all.

<sup>9</sup> Regulation (EU) 2019/473 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 March 2019 on the European Fisheries Control Agency, OJ L 83, 25.3.2019, p. 18.

<sup>10</sup> Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee Of The Regions, EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, COM(2020) 380 final

<sup>11</sup> Council conclusions on the revision of the European Union Maritime Security Strategy (EUMSS) Action Plan (26 June 2018), doc.10494/18

<sup>12</sup> Council conclusions “Towards an ever more sustainable Union by 2030”, as adopted by the Council at its 3685th meeting held on 9 April 2019, <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-8286-2019-INIT/en/pdf>

<sup>13</sup> Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions Next steps for a sustainable European future, European action for sustainability, COM (2016)0739 final, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM%3A2016%3A739%3AFIN>

<sup>14</sup> European Commission, Reflection Paper Towards a sustainable Europe By 2030 [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/publications/reflection-paper-towards-sustainable-europe-2030\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/publications/reflection-paper-towards-sustainable-europe-2030_en)

<sup>15</sup> 2019-2020 Work Programme of the Network of EU Agencies, [https://euagencies.eu/sites/default/files/euan\\_wp\\_2019\\_2020\\_0.pdf](https://euagencies.eu/sites/default/files/euan_wp_2019_2020_0.pdf)

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

**Goal 13: Climate Action**

- Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning.
- Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning.

**Goal 14: Life below Water**

- By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics.

In line with the comments from the Administrative Board in its meeting on 14 March 2018<sup>17</sup>, for ease of reading, the activities have been grouped following the structure presented on the Single Programming Document containing the Multiannual work programme 2020-2024 and the Annual work programme 2020 (hereinafter SPD 2020).

### ❖ Coordination and cooperation with Member States

EFCA is the European body responsible for organising operational coordination of fisheries control activities and providing assistance in that area to the Member States and the Commission.

The main methods for EFCA to assist Member States in the implementation of the control measures linked with the Common Fisheries Policy, through coordination of their efforts and promotion of cooperation, are:

- The Joint Deployment Plans<sup>18</sup>, established for fisheries/areas that are considered a priority by the European Commission and the Member States concerned. They can be referred to as:
  - EU waters to which a Specific Control and Inspection Programme<sup>19</sup> adopted by the Commission in concert with the Member States applies, or
  - International waters under the competence of a Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (RFMO), where EFCA is requested to coordinate the implementation of the European obligations under international control and inspection programmes.
- The PACT approach (Partnership, Accountability (compliance), Cooperation and Transparency) promotes EFCA assistance to the Member States in accordance with articles 7 and 16 of EFCA's Founding Regulation, after a request from one or more Member States, including through cooperation with the Member States Control Expert Groups.

### ❖ Evolution of Joint Deployment Plans

In accordance with the Multiannual Work Programme, the Five-Year Independent External Evaluation of EFCA (2012-2016)<sup>20</sup> and the related recommendations issued by the Administrative Board, JDPs are implemented as year-round joint operations covering a wide range of fisheries directed to the most relevant species as defined in the relevant SCIP decisions. These operations include a permanent exchange of information and intelligence between the Member States concerned.

Currently, as a SCIP is not limited in time, all JDPs have a multiannual scope. Control activities are planned for each year on the basis of the results of regional risk assessments. Member States assess the existing risks with regard to fish stocks, areas, periods and fleet segments exploiting these stocks,

<sup>17</sup> Minutes of the Administrative Board meeting held on 14 March 2018, <https://www.efca.europa.eu/en/content/minutes>

<sup>18</sup> See Part 1.2.1 Operational activities.

<sup>19</sup> See Part 1.2.1 Operational activities.

<sup>20</sup> [https://www.efca.europa.eu/en/library?f%5B0%5D=field\\_library\\_type%3A69](https://www.efca.europa.eu/en/library?f%5B0%5D=field_library_type%3A69)

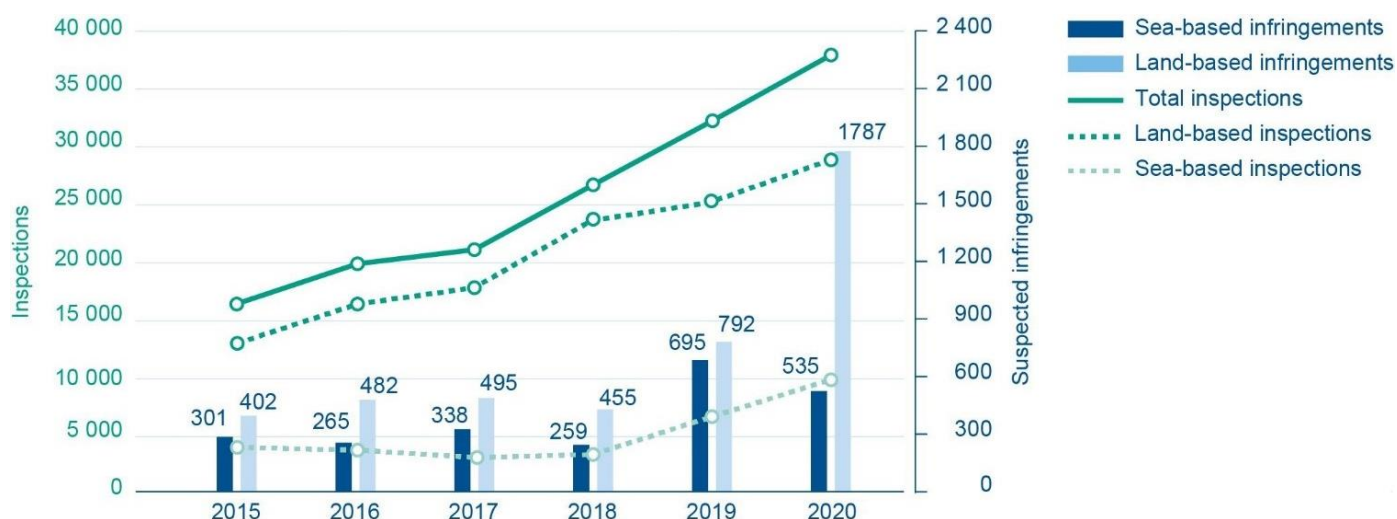


following the harmonised methodology established in cooperation with EFCA and MS in accordance with the SCIP requirements. The JDP strategic planning for 2020 addressed all the prominent risks identified through a set of risk treatment measures in the form of specific actions and campaigns.

The JDP framework ensured that the Member states concerned kept collaborating closely with each other in 2020. This collaboration was accomplished thanks to the work of the Technical Joint Deployment Group (TJDG) of each JDP and the joint coordination of specific campaigns/specific actions through a virtual coordination centre and exchanges of inspectors. Other important elements are the exchange of Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) and Electronic Reporting System (ERS) data, sharing of information on daily deployment of control assets (Situation Report - SITREP), results of inspection activities (Activity Report - ACTREP), lists of priority targets for inspections, and intelligence concerning current risk issues in the joint campaign areas. The exchange of data and sharing of information as well as using EFCA IMS at operational level, contributed positively to the transparency of the control operations in the JDPs areas.

As regards the graph and table “JDPs inspections and suspected infringements evolution” reported in 2020 for all JDPs, there was a decrease on the number of inspections conducted in the Baltic Sea (20%), North Sea (49%), Black Sea (11%) and NAFO-NEAFC (36%) JDPs. The number of inspections in Western Waters and in the Mediterranean Sea JDPs increased in 2020. In the case of the Western Waters JDP the increase (of 28% in relation to previous year) is due to an increase of land-based inspections reported to EFCA, as a result of a better reporting of Member States activities implementation of the demersal component, required by the SCIP since 2019. The MED JDP<sup>21</sup> contributed the most to this increase, again due to the wider scope of this SCIP from 2019, where new fisheries were covered, also reflecting a better and timely reporting of Member States activities<sup>22</sup>. The observed increases are not necessarily linked to increases in Member States control efforts in the relevant sea-basins.

**JDPs inspections and suspected infringements evolution\***



<sup>21</sup> Mediterranean JDP (it also covers BFT in the Eastern Atlantic).

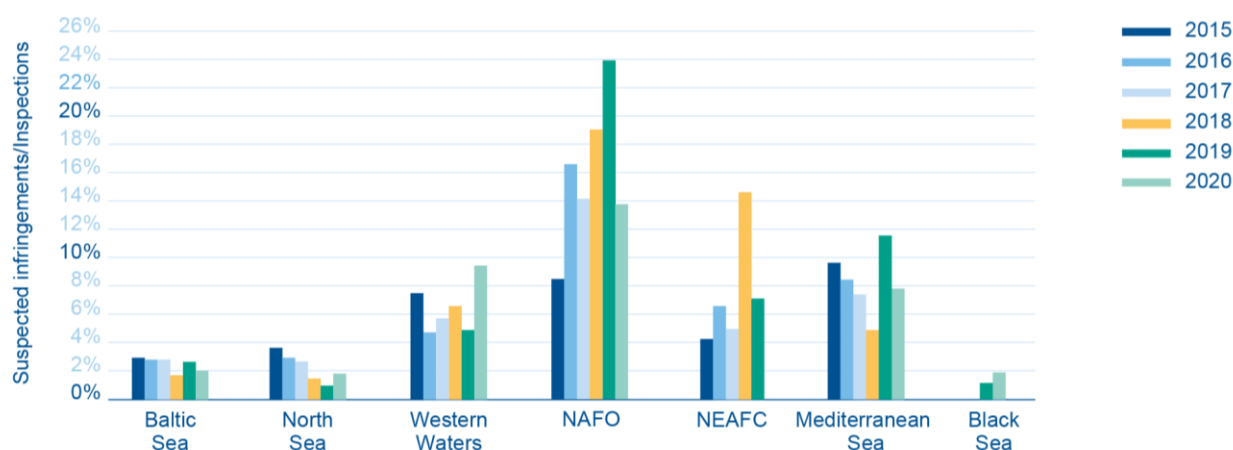
<sup>22</sup> Last year in the MED JDP 7285 inspections were notified late and not included in the Annual report, but were part of the JDP Assessment Report.

JDP	Inspections		Inspections with at least one suspected infringement	
	2019	2020	2019	2020
Baltic Sea	4 286	3 421	111	62
North Sea	13 656	6 912	112	111
Western Waters	2 901	3 700	129	290
NAFO & NEAFC	67	43	6	5
Mediterranean Sea	9 327	22 472	787	1 188
Black Sea	2 144	1 904	21	26
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>32 381</b>	<b>38 452</b>	<b>1 166</b>	<b>1 682</b>

\*2020 data available on 31 January 2021. Additional data may be received later from Member States. 2019 data as reported in the 2019 Annual Report.

As regards the “**Ratio of suspected infringements by inspection in the different JDP areas**”, an increase of suspected infringement ratio in the North Sea, Western Waters and Black Sea JDPs, compared with the previous year can be noted. The suspected infringement ratio for the Baltic Sea JDP, Mediterranean Sea JDP and NAFO is lower compared to the suspected infringement ratio identified in 2019. All the suspected infringements (5) detected in the NAFO-NEAFC JDP, were in the NAFO RA.

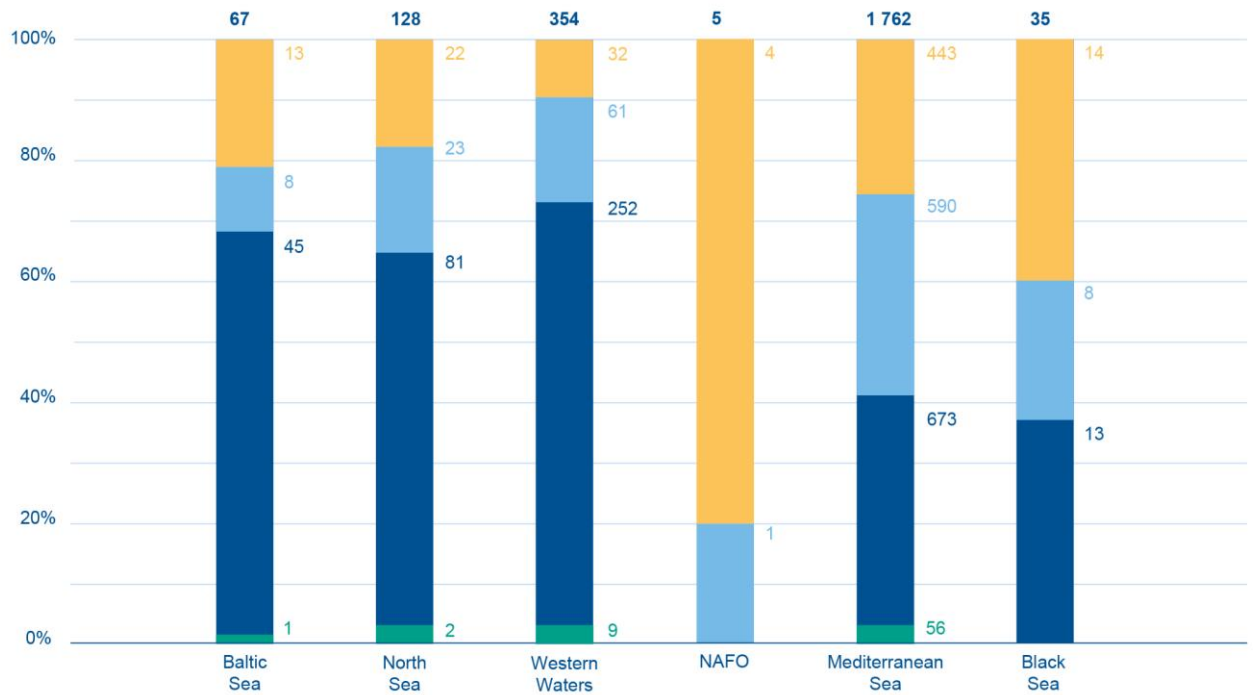
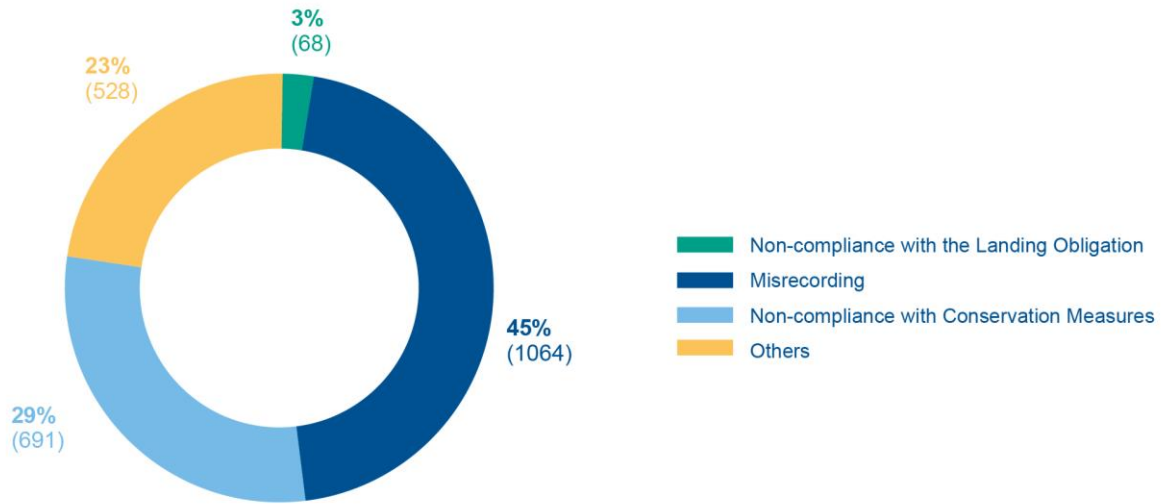
#### Ratio of suspected infringements by inspection in the different JDP areas\*



\*Data available on 31 January 2021. Additional data may be received later from Member States.

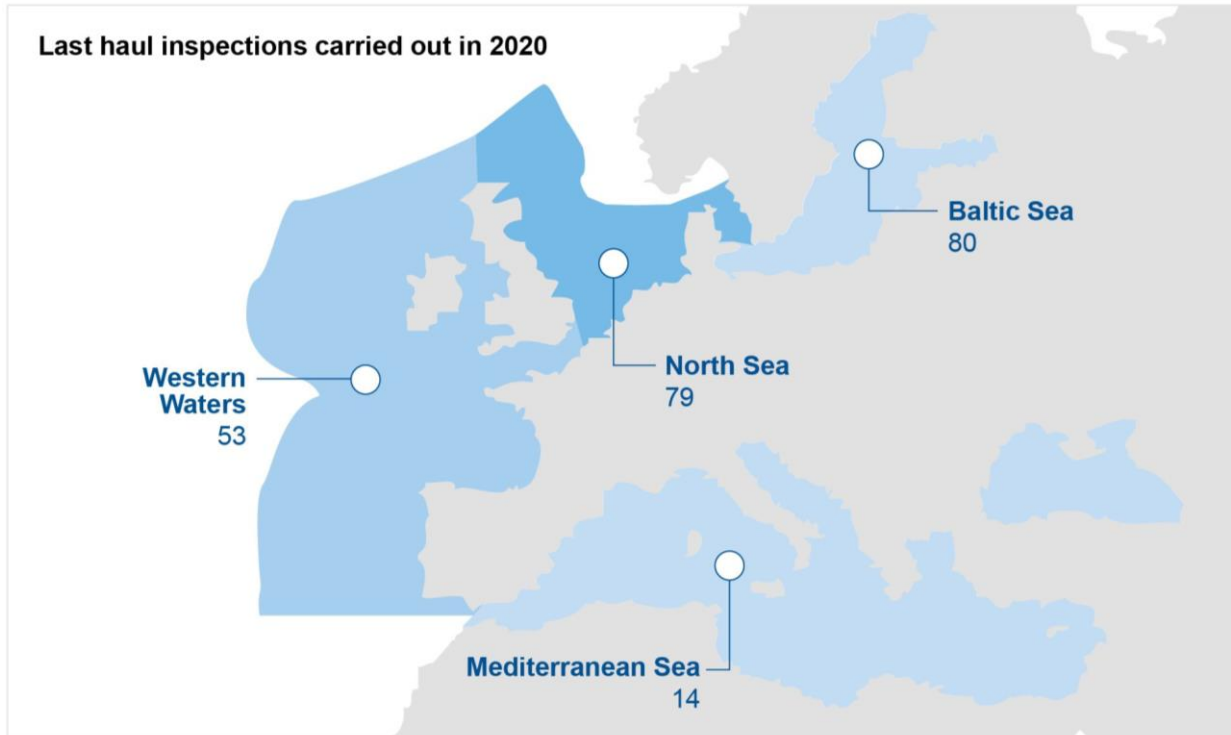
A detailed analysis by type of the most significant suspected infringements found in 2020, provided below, confirms that misreporting and technical conservation measures related infringements remain the most common non-compliance issues. These are generally considered to be the main threats together with possible non-compliance with the requirements of the landing obligation for which the number of infringements remains extremely low because of the lack of appropriate control means and tools to detect instances of illegal discards. The category “Others” encompasses a very diverse suspected infringements type that are not related with the previous categories and are presented in detail in Tables D of the various JDPs of Annex I. In 2020, the suspected infringements related with misrecording were more than 60% of the total number of detected suspected infringements in the Baltic Sea, North Sea and Western Waters JDPs. This infringement typology corresponds to around 40% of the suspected infringements reported in the Mediterranean Sea and Black Sea JDPs. Details of the suspected infringement are presented in Annex I for each JDP.

Suspected infringements by type and by Joint Deployment Plan\*



\*Data available on 31 January 2021. Additional data may be received later from Member States.

The last haul inspections (LH) continued to be promoted and enhanced in JDPs to obtain a compliance indicator for deriving levels of illegal discards. Last observed haul during a sea inspection where catch composition is recorded (sampled) by the inspector on board in the framework of the Landing Obligation. The number of LH inspections conducted per JDP area in 2020 is presented in the map below.



### ❖ Strategic multiannual objectives

The table below presents EFCA's **strategic multiannual objectives** and the progress made towards their fulfilment.

STRATEGIC MULTIANNUAL OBJECTIVES	Key Performance Indicator (KPI)	STATE OF PLAY END 2020		TARGET BY 2024
1. To evaluate and to contribute to enhancing the level of compliance by JDP, and propose measures for improvement in cooperation with Member States and COM <sup>23</sup>	Evolution of compliance levels	NS	9%↑	Compliance levels evaluated by JDP
		BS	1%↓	
		NAFO & NEAFC	NAFO 11%↓ NEAFC 0%↓	
		WW	9%↑	
		MED	5%↓	
		Black Sea	6%↓	
2. Standardised methodology used for inspection activities	Standard inspection methodologies adopted	6		One methodology per JDP
3. Cooperation provided to fight against IUU fishing at international level	Support provided by EFCA on request of the European Commission at international level	100%		100%
4. Contribute to achieve a Level Playing Field through Capacity Building tools	Number of officials trained by EFCA, including by e-learning	1783		1000 (per year)
5. Support to National authorities in coast guard functions	Number of JDPs with multipurpose operations organised	6		5
6. Improve EFCA working practices	Number of Administrative Board recommendations following the Five-year independent external evaluation of EFCA (2012-2016) implemented or ongoing <sup>24</sup>	11		10 out of 11 (2021)

<sup>23</sup> Values presented correspond to the infringement ratio of sea inspections in 2020. The symbols “↓”, and “↑” denote, a decrease or an increase respectively, of the infringement ratio of sea inspection in 2020 in relation to the average infringement ratio of sea inspections in 2015-2019, for Black Sea 2020 values are compared with 2019. Data available on 29 January 2021.

<sup>24</sup> Five-Year Independent External Evaluation Report of EFCA and the Administrative Board recommendations: <https://www.efca.europa.eu/en/content/external-evaluation-2017>

## 1.2 ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME 2020

In line with the Framework Financial Regulation and EFCA's Financial Regulation provisions on annual and multiannual programming, the Annual Report 2020 is the first one adopted following the Communication from the Commission on the strengthening of the governance of Union Bodies under Article 70 of the Financial Regulation 2018/1046 and on the guidelines for the Single Programming Document and the Consolidated Annual Activity Report.<sup>25</sup>

The Annual Report 2020 mirrors the structure of the Annual Work Programme 2020, especially in the achievements of the year and embeds the new requirements laid down in the Commission guidelines and template for the Consolidated Annual Activity Report.

The reporting of the operational activities has been grouped into four areas in accordance with the SPD 2020 structure.

Annual Report 2019 (SPD 2020)		
1. JDPs, Operational Plans and Pilot projects	Operational Activities	ABMS
1. Risk assessment and data analysis		
2. International dimension: compliance with international provisions		
3. Coast Guard and Capacity building		

The main year results are presented in the main body of the report, while comprehensive operational and administrative information is provided in the annexes.

### ANTI COVID MEASURES

Despite challenges caused by COVID-19, the Agency was able to implement 90% of the annual work program in cooperation with the Member States and the Commission including the JDPs. The Member States operated under their nationally established health protocols. Moreover, EFCA maintained the sharing of its operational capacity (e.g. Offshore Patrol Vessel Lundy Sentinel) deployed in line with an established health safeguarding protocol. Also, a good cooperation continued with other EU Agencies, such as EMSA and Frontex, without major interruption.

#### Supporting the Union and the Member States

EFCA carried on assisting the Member States and the European Union including to fulfil its international control and inspection obligations.

Following a request for assistance from the European Commission regarding the impact of COVID-19 on fisheries control, inspection and MS enforcement EFCA adapted the control plans in concert with MS and the EC where needed. Together with MS, EFCA analysed the risks impacted by the lowered monitoring and control levels caused by COVID-19 and develop specific actions and mitigation measures for each fleet segments and/or campaign under the joint deployment plans.

<sup>25</sup> C(2020) 2297 final

The issues discussed included:

- the evaluation of the changes in the likelihood/threat of each risk;
- updating of the control plans priorities,
- the development of mitigation measures and specific actions for each fleet segments and/or campaign under the JDP.

It was concluded that whilst the type of risks would largely remain the same, their likelihood of occurrence could significantly increase due to the reduction of monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) effort.

MS were also asked to update the level of fishing and control activities in the different JDPs. EFCA compiled and exchanged this information with MS and the Commission to ensure a complete situation was available and updated when needed.

The operational plan of the OPV Lundy Sentinel had to be changed and adapted prioritising the implementation of the rules from RFMOs, such a NEAFC and NAFO.

### **Ensuring safer conditions for inspectors**

As a sanitary precautionary approach in relation to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, without prejudice of Member States national health protocols for inspectors, EFCA developed a specific procedure for the operations on board of its inspection platform, the Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) Lundy Sentinel.

The procedure covered two main levels of measures relevant for the operations: measures for joining the EFCA chartered ship, OPV Lundy Sentinel, and measures for inspecting fishing vessels.

The planning for the operations of the EFCA chartered vessel was updated, in order to respect safety related requirements by:

- Introduction of 14 days quarantine period for the crew
- PCR test requirement for EFCA deployed staff on board
- Inspecting only fishing vessels that were more than 3 weeks in the fishing grounds.

### **Moving to other inspection instruments**

In order to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on fisheries control, inspection and MS enforcement, EFCA focused more on other available instruments such as data monitoring and analysis, based on the EFCA methodology for compliance indicators (e.g., cross-checks of logbook and landing declaration and sales notes, to detect misreporting).

While it was not possible to rely on remote electronic monitoring such as CCTVs, which would have proved an excellent alternative to the halting of physical inspections during COVID-19 pandemic., EFCA nevertheless used other available tools, including but not limited to, additional surveillance flights in cooperation with Frontex, deployment of drones within the cooperation with EMSA, and analysis of satellite images from Copernicus.

EFCA Coordination Centre (CC) activities were implemented online via "Virtual CC", which allowed EFCA staff, MS' experts and personnel from other Agencies, to participate in the daily coordination activities during the specific campaigns and surveillance operations (e.g North Sea and Western Waters, Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea, Levantine Sea with aerial surveillance, Strait of Sicily and Adriatic).

### **Meetings, trainings and workshops**

Most of the meetings and training actions with EFCA stakeholders have been maintained without any disruptions. All JDPs, training actions and meetings with MS experts and other stakeholders were delivered in accordance to plan.



With more numerous attendance to the webinar trainings, the face to face interactive elements of training were absent but EFCA embraced new aspects of webinar technology to promote engagement and interactivity on line to good effect. Interactivity remains a key element as exchanging actively views and sharing experience is of great value.

### **Corporate level**

The sanitary crisis and subsequent migration to teleworking by EFCA staff ensured business continuity and proved the resilience of the Agency in the face of critical and long-lasting situations, even though EFCA Business Continuity Plan was never activated. EFCA staff moved to structured teleworking (phase 0) on 10 March 2020 which continued until 10 June 2020 when a small percentage of staff resumed work from the headquarters under phase 1. On 03 September 2020 EFCA moved back to structured teleworking (phase 0) until the end of 2020. The phased plan for a gradual return to the office and its annexed protocols established by EFCA to face COVID-19, were submitted to the Spanish Certification Agency AENOR who approved and certified these protocols in December 2020. The certification foresees a trimestral revision of the plan and protocols.

At the corporate level, where necessary processes and procedures were adapted in consideration of the teleworking measures. Electronic workflows and the digitalisation of the communication tools was also reinforced. These measures had already started and were accelerated in this context, taking into account the wider EU objectives and the EU Agencies priorities, such as the Green Deal and Digital Transition, which respond to EU citizens' expectations for change and reflect the ambitions of the Sustainable Development Goals.

## **1.2.1. OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES**

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Operational activities revolve around the following areas:

1. Operational coordination
2. Risk assessment and data analysis
3. International dimension: compliance with international provisions
4. Coast Guard and Capacity Building

### **1. Operational coordination**

EFCA operational coordination activities are the corner stone of the Agency. They are constructed based on the Specific Control and Inspection Programmes Decisions by the European Commission and are implemented on an annual basis in the form of EFCA's Joint Deployment Plans, in all the EU waters and International waters of the Mediterranean and North Atlantic, for the fisheries that are considered a priority by the European Commission and Member States. Nonetheless, NAFO and NEAFC JDP are based on Regulations of the European Parliament and the Council.



### WHAT ARE SCIPs?

The Specific Control and Inspection Programmes (SCIPs) are programmes that define minimum and common standards for control and risk assessment in a given sea-basin and for specific fisheries in that sea-basin. The scope, procedures and benchmarks of the SCIPs are laid down in an Implementing Decision adopted by the European Commission in the form of an Implementing Decision. For the fisheries that are covered by the SCIPs, according to the EFCA Founding Regulation, EFCA shall coordinate the joint inspection and surveillance activities by Member States concerned through a Joint Deployment Plan.

The SCIPs and JDPs for 2020 applied to the areas identified in the Annexes of the Commission Implementing Decision 2018/1986 of 13 December 2018<sup>26</sup>:

- Mediterranean and Eastern Atlantic<sup>2728</sup>
- Black Sea
- Baltic Sea
- North Sea
- Western Waters of the Eastern Atlantic

## The Joint Deployment Plans

### WHAT IS A JOINT DEPLOYMENT PLAN?

As already mentioned in Part I.1.1, the Joint Deployment Plans are established for fisheries/areas that are considered a priority by the European Commission and the concerned Member States. They can refer to:

- EU and adjacent waters to which a SCIP adopted by the Commission in concert with the Member States applies, or
- International waters under the competence of a RFMO, where EFCA is requested to coordinate the implementation of the European obligations under international control and inspection programmes.

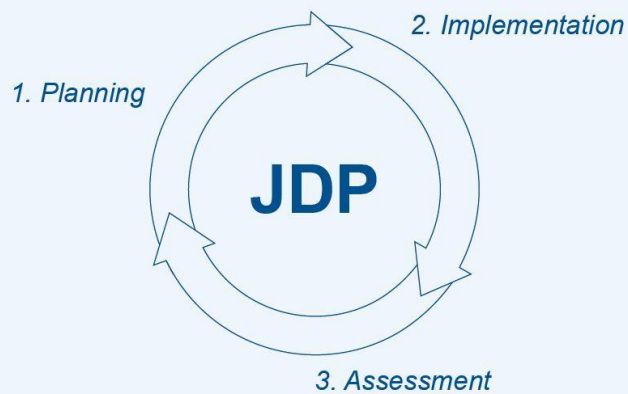
The JDPs life cycle consist of three phases: planning, implementation and assessment:

<sup>26</sup> Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2018/1986 of 13 December 2018 establishing specific control and inspection programmes for certain fisheries and repealing Implementing Decisions 2012/807/EU, 2013/328/EU, 2013/305/EU and 2014/156/EU (OJ L317, 14.12.2018, p.29).

<sup>27</sup> Only Bluefin tuna fisheries (BFT) in the Eastern Atlantic.

<sup>28</sup> In September 2020, the SCIPs decision was amended to add some fisheries in the Mediterranean Sea following the adoption of the MAP for Western Mediterranean and some Recommendations of the GFCM (Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2020/1320 of 22 September 2020 amending Implementing Decision (EU) 2018/1986 establishing specific control and inspection programmes for certain fisheries (OJ 23.09.2020)).

## The JDP lifecycle



### 1. Planning

The planning of the deployment of fisheries control means at sea, in the air and ashore is based on results of a regional risk assessment conducted in accordance with the methodology developed by the Member States and EFCA. The organisational framework of the cooperation and coordination of joint control operations and the procedures for operational information to be shared are discussed and agreed by a Steering Group, composed of Member States, the European Commission and EFCA.

### 2. Implementation

The JDP is implemented through a year-round continuous campaign. EFCA coordinates the deployment of control means in operational areas and the implementation of joint control operations through a Technical Joint Deployment Group. The coordination covers the implementation of specific actions and specific campaigns, targeted inspections, sharing of fishing activity related data and collection of inspection and surveillance data for further analysis. The coordination may be conducted directly by Member States experts appointed to a Joint Coordination Team deployed to the EFCA Coordination Centre.

### 3. Assessment

The JDP is assessed and evaluated yearly by EFCA with the collaboration of the Member States, with the aim to improve future JDP planning and implementation, for an efficient monitoring, control and surveillance of fishing related activities in the sea basins covered by the JDP.

During 2020, specific attention was given to enhance JDP operational performance in the EU and international waters, in close cooperation with Member States, and in some cases with other EU Agencies, third countries and Regional Fisheries Management Organisations.

For this purpose, in order to achieve effectiveness and efficiency of operational activities, the Agency, based on the budget and cooperation structures available, has provided its operational capacity in the form of a Coordination Centre (also in a virtual mode), chartered means (airborne and seaborne), access to relevant systems (e.g. IMS, FISHNET, etc.), as well as coordinated planning of the deployment of Member States control means within the scope of JDP.

## JDP Assessment Reports

In line with its founding regulation, EFCA assesses annually the effectiveness of each JDP. The assessment reports prepared in 2020 encompassed all facts and figures of the JDPs. They include an analysis of the execution of Member States commitments of means, inspector exchanges at sea, ashore and in the coordination centre, and the number of inspections carried out and suspected infringements detected concerning the activities of the previous year. The assessment performs additional analyses, including on the following topics:

- The results of the Regional Risk Assessment exercises.
- The outcome of the Specific Actions implemented under the JDPs as part of the mitigation measures.
- Detailed information on specific fisheries control campaigns.
- Trainings and their impact.
- Inspections on vessels that are on the regional target vessels lists, provided by the flag Member States.
- Trends in suspected infringements.

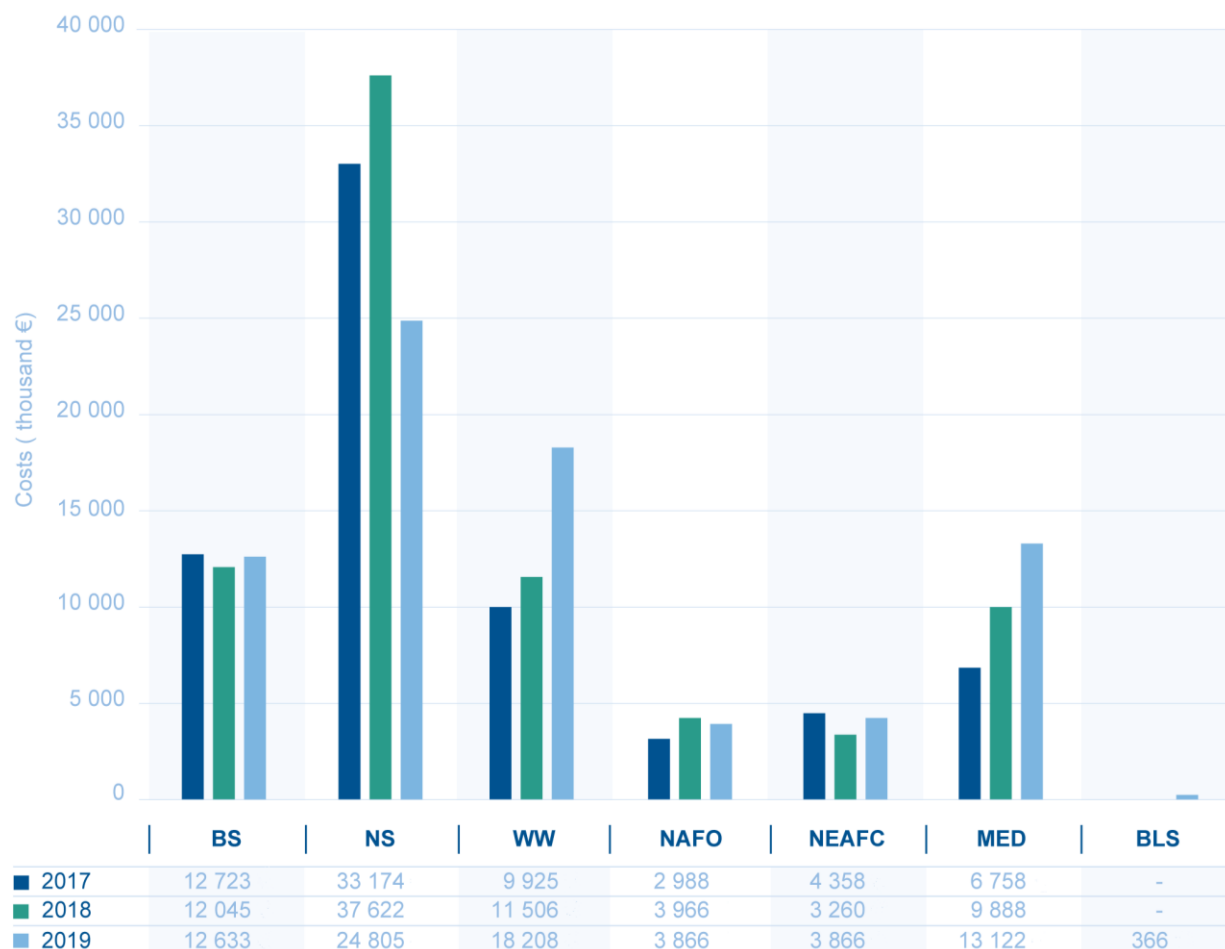
The assessment reports provide conclusions and important recommendations for developing the JDP framework further or for ensuring continuity, where activities already have a desired output and outcome.

The JDP assessment reports of 2019 JDPs were provided to the Commission, Member States and the European Parliament.

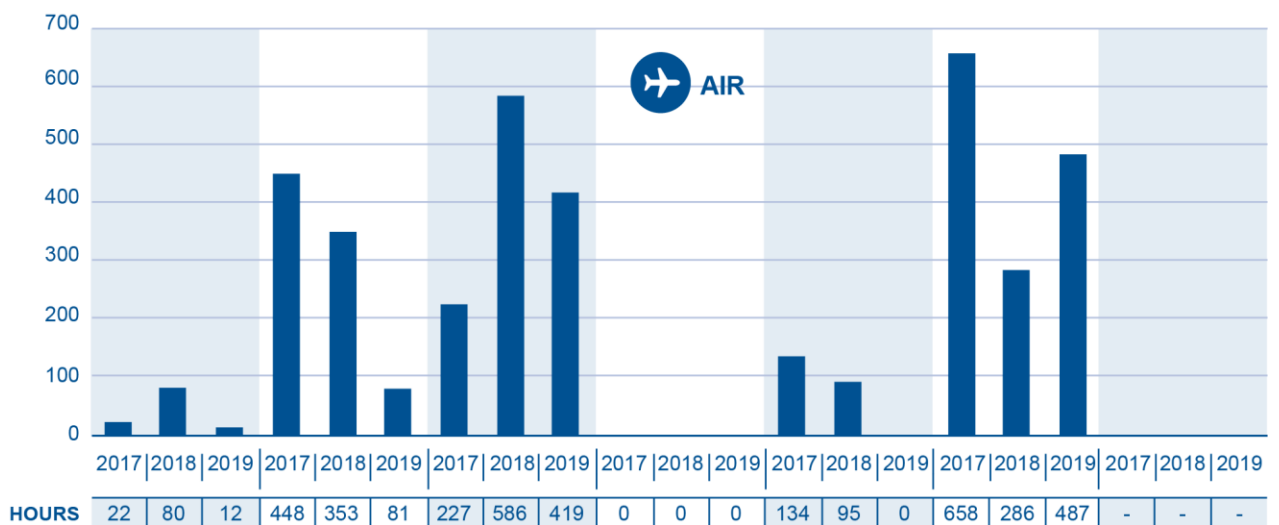
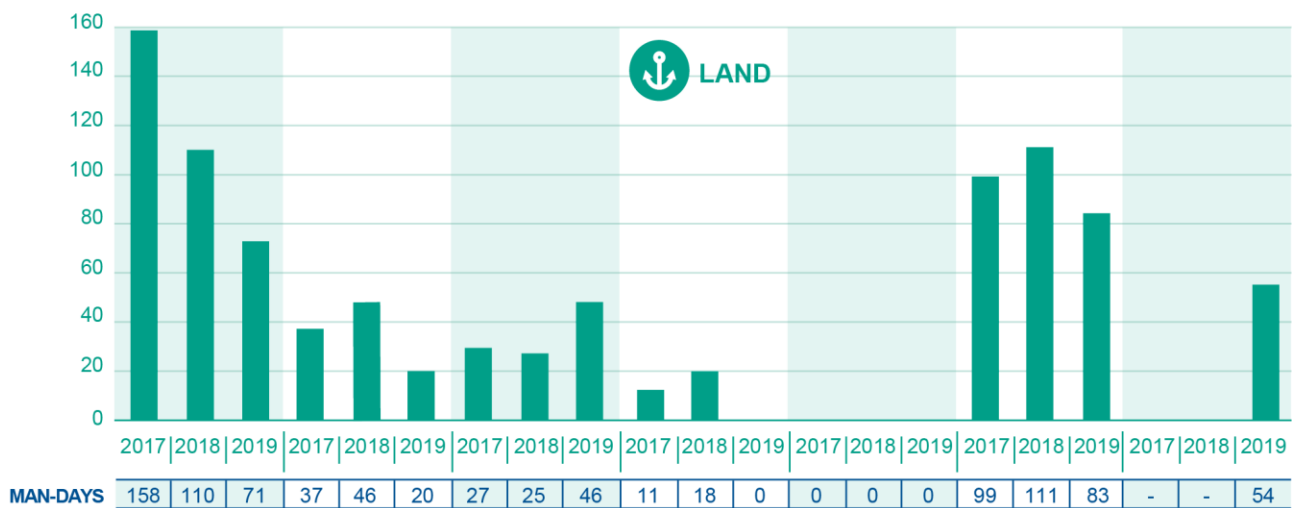
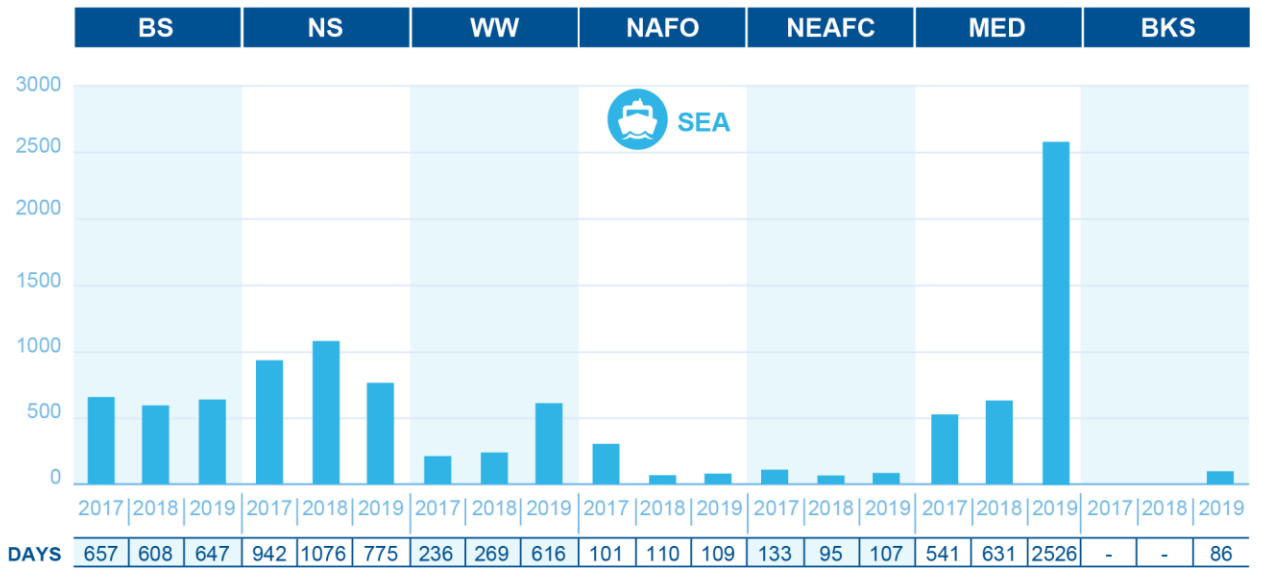
## Cost Evaluation

In 2020, EFCA conducted the 7th assessment of JDP costs incurred in 2019. The same model developed in 2013 through the Administrative Board Focus Group was used, with some modifications introduced in 2014. The cost of control activity is estimated by unit of time for each type of asset (patrol vessel, aircraft or car) considering labour of inspectors and crew, fuel consumption, maintenance, depreciation and insurance. The model uses different sources for the estimation of standard costs like salaries (Eurostat) or fuel price. When not available for the year of the estimation, an average annual increment is used. Unit costs are then multiplied by the control effort reported by Member States. For the first time, the Black Sea JDP cost assessment has been included, since 2019 was the first year of the Black Sea JDP.

**JDPs total costs during the period 2017-2019 (thousand €)**



Control effort deployed in the different JDPs for 2017, 2018, 2019

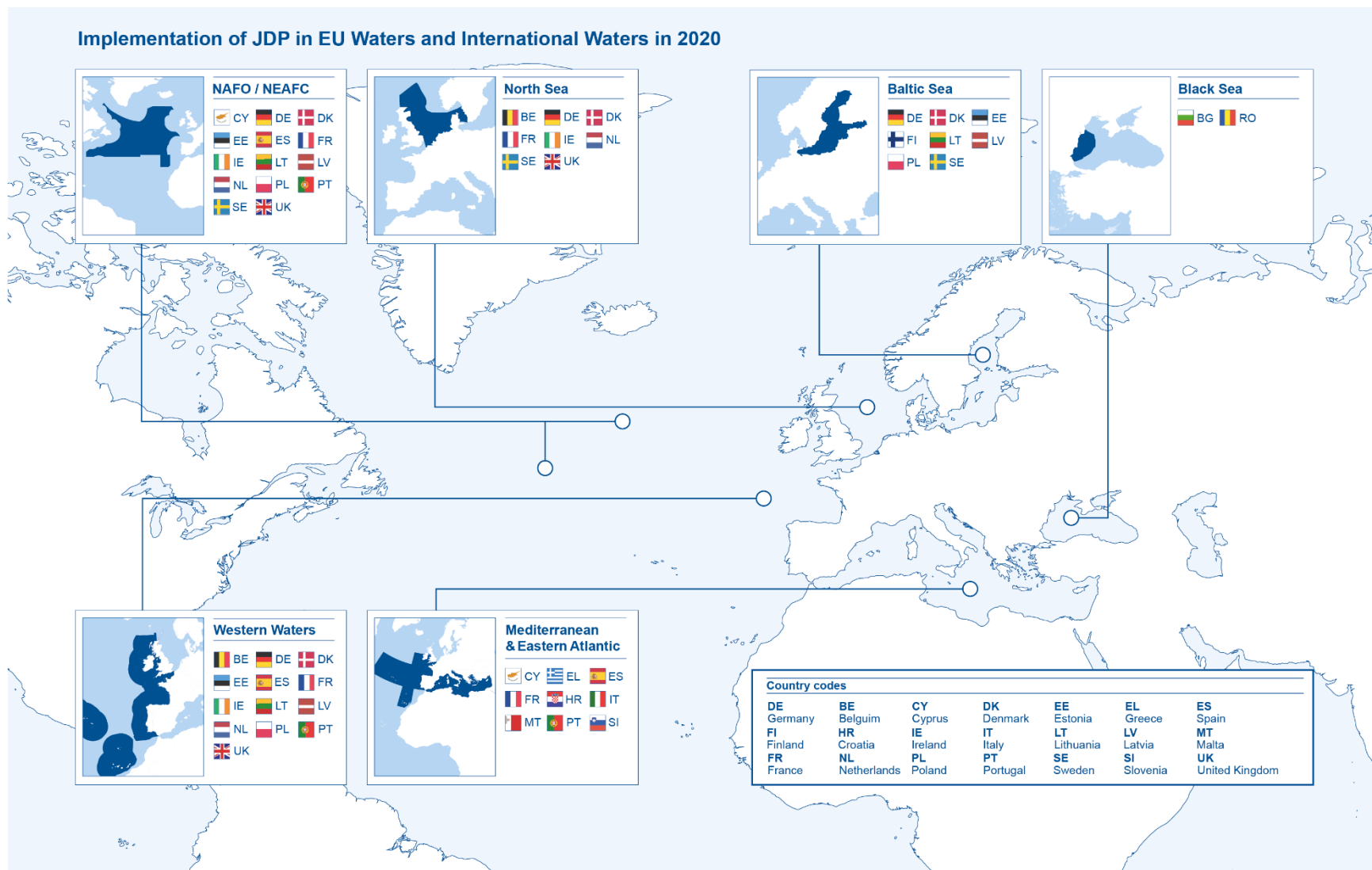


The global cost of €77 million in 2019, compared to the cost of the previous two years, has been stable for the Baltic Sea, NAFO and NEAFC JDPs. The cost increased for the Mediterranean Sea (33% in relation to the 2018 cost) and Western Waters (58% in relation to the 2018 cost), due to an overall increase of control effort under the increased scope of both JDPs. In the North Sea the overall cost decreased in 2019, corresponding to a decrease of 34% and 25% in relation to the 2018 and 2017 costs, respectively. This decrease is due to a reduction of effort in all control means, particularly at sea.

The control effort deployed in the 3 last years (2017 – 2019) was stable for Baltic Sea, NAFO/ NEAFC JDPs and decreased in the North Sea, after the peak in 2018, concerning all types of control means. The control effort at sea increased in the Mediterranean and Western Waters JDPs, in line with the increased scope of JDP.

### **Assistance to Member States through Operational Plans**

EFCA may consider the implementation of operational plans, in accordance with Article 16 of its Founding Regulation on the request of at least two Member States to coordinate their control means in a specific operation and/or area. In 2020 no such requests were made as all activities were managed under the JDP scheme.



Note: Following the EU-UK Withdrawal Agreement, as of 1 February, the United Kingdom is a non-EU country and was within the territorial scope of the EU aquis until the end of the transition period i.e. 31 December 2020.



## 2. Risk assessment and data analysis

EFCA has developed and applied methodologies in coordination with the Member States to improve the cost-effectiveness on JDP implementation considering it is based on an assessment of the risks of non-compliance. Additionally, EFCA developed methodologies to derive indicators of compliance for specific fisheries.

In cooperation with the Member States concerned, EFCA conducted an evaluation of compliance in the framework of the landing obligation. Equally, EFCA has also supported the European Commission and the Member States in the proceedings of the expert group on compliance<sup>29</sup>.

Ensuring the availability and quality of fisheries related data is essential for EFCA activities. Maintenance and enhancement of the services facilitating access to data on fishing activities and control continues to be a key component of EFCA's business. This includes several operational systems: VMS, EFCA Integrated Maritime Service (EFCA IMS), ERS, Jade and FISHNET. Data available in these systems are considered major EFCA's assets, and accordingly EFCA implements a Data Governance Framework.

## 3. International dimension: compliance with international provisions

In line with the CFP basic regulation<sup>30</sup>, the remit of EFCA, the Working Arrangements on EFCA's international activities between the European Commission and EFCA (AB Decision 20-II-6) and on request from the European Commission, the Agency may assist the Union to cooperate with third countries and international organisations dealing with fisheries, including RFMOs, in order to strengthen operational coordination and compliance.

The Working Arrangements between DG MARE and EFCA aim to organise cooperation whilst ensuring that the Agency operates within the mandate given by the legislator. In this respect, an "International relations strategy" is prepared by the Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE), presented yearly to the Administrative Board of EFCA and embedded in the Agency SPD.

During this period, EFCA's activities have covered the following tasks:

- a) Provided support to the Commission as regards the activities of the Regional Fisheries Management Organisations, such as NAFO, NEAFC, ICCAT<sup>31</sup> and GFCM<sup>32</sup>.
- b) Organised seminars on operational coordination and/or capacity building involving RFMOs, and third countries.
- c) Provided assistance, inter alia, to:
  - Coastal States in the North Atlantic,
  - European Union in their collaboration with ICCAT and GFCM Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties,
- d) Provided assistance to the Commission and the Member States in the implementation of the Regulation (EC) 1005/2008 to fight against the IUU fishing<sup>33</sup>, e.g. providing support in the assessment of third countries performance in the implementation measures to fight IUU fishing, including catch certificates analysis, and assisting the Member States to facilitate the

<sup>29</sup> Article 37(2) of the CFP basic regulation: "The expert group on compliance shall be composed of representatives of the Commission and the Member States. At the request of the European Parliament, the Commission may invite the European Parliament to send experts to attend meetings of the expert group. The Agency may assist the expert group on compliance meetings as an observer."

<sup>30</sup> Article 30 of the CFP basic regulation: "The Union shall, including through the European Fisheries Control Agency ("the Agency"), cooperate with third countries and international organisations dealing with fisheries, including RFMOs, to strengthen compliance with measures, especially those to combat IUU fishing, in order to ensure that measures adopted by such international organisations are strictly adhered to".

<sup>31</sup>International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna, <https://www.iccat.int/en/>

<sup>32</sup>General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean, <http://www.fao.org/gfcm/en/>

<sup>33</sup> Council Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008 of 29 September 2008 establishing a Community system to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, amending Regulations (EEC) No 2847/93, (EC) No 1936/2001 and (EC) No 601/2004 and repealing Regulations (EC) No 1093/94 and (EC) No 1447/1999. Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EU) No 202/2011 (OJ L 57, 2.3.2011, p. 10)



enhancement of the implementation of the fight against IUU in the scope of article 30 of the CFP regulation.

- e) Contributed to the implementation of EU international projects in the fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance domain, including providing support to prevent and respond to IUU fishing, such as the PESCAO Project (Improved Regional fisheries governance in Western Africa)<sup>34</sup>.

#### 4. Coast Guard Functions and Capacity Building

This strategic area provides for cooperation on coast guard functions with other European Agencies to support Member States national authorities carrying out coast guard functions. Within the framework of the Tripartite Working Arrangement<sup>35</sup>, EFCA cooperates<sup>36</sup> with the European Border and Coast Guard Agency and European Maritime Safety Agency to support national authorities carrying out coast guard functions, through:

- The coordinated support provided by the Agencies to Member States authorities at national and EU level and, where appropriate, at international level by sharing information.
- Provision of surveillance and communication services.
- Supporting capacity building actions, including the drafting and management of a Coast Guard Handbook.
- Enhancing the exchange of information and cooperation on coast guard functions including by analysing operational challenges and emerging risks in the maritime domain.
- Sharing capacity including inspections and chartered assets by planning and implementation of multipurpose operations including drills with Member States and/or EU agencies.
- Supporting the Union and/or Member States, where possible in cooperation with other EU agencies, implementing specific projects falling under the coast guard functions in third countries.

The implementation of these actions is based on the Annual Strategic Plan agreed between the three Agencies, (EMSA, FRONTEX and EFCA) under the TWA. It included cooperation actions between agencies in support to Member States authorities, comprising the organisation of seminars and drills. Due to the pandemic pressure, a drill to be organised by the European Coast Guard Functions Forum (ECGFF) was postponed. EFCA involves Member State authorities and promotes the implementation of multipurpose operations in the areas where a JDP or an Operational Plan is established.

The cooperation supports the implementation of the European Union Maritime Security Strategy<sup>37</sup>, where the three Agencies are contributing through the implementation of the European Coastguard initiative.

EFCA promotes cooperation with other Agencies, such as EU SATCEN and EUROPOL, in areas and projects related with fisheries control.

To this end EFCA has been assessing the added value of innovative vessel detection and earth observation (EO) technologies in support of maritime surveillance and fisheries control activities in contact with other EU Agencies, such as EU SATCEN, GSA, ESA and EDA.

In line with its Founding Regulation, EFCA works on new technologies for control and inspection and may also acquire, rent or charter the equipment that is necessary for the implementation of the joint deployment plans. New technologies offer an operational solution for improving MCS measures and their efficiency. The technologies encompass satellite and aerial monitoring including through RPAS. Other solutions are ship born and based on REM with CCTV. The charter of capacities by EFCA, through a framework contract for a fisheries patrol vessel and the joint chartering of means with Frontex and EMSA, including Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS), has proven to be an effective way to

<sup>34</sup> Grant agreement signed on 16 March 2018.

<sup>35</sup> Tripartite Working Arrangement (TWA) between the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex), the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) and the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA).

<sup>36</sup> Administrative Board Recommendations on EFCA Five-Year Evaluation (Recommendation 8), 21 June 2017, <https://www.efca.europa.eu/en/content/external-evaluation-2017>

<sup>37</sup> Council conclusions on the revision of the European Union Maritime Security Strategy (EUMSS) Action Plan (26 June 2018), doc.10494/18.

ensure cooperation in benefit of the Member States national authorities. Therefore, EFCA regularly assesses emerging needs with the aim of providing an adequate response.

The interagency cooperation improved synergies between maritime policy, space, maritime security and fisheries control as well as contributed to the EU Green Deal initiative and the European Union Blue Growth Strategy.

Moreover, EFCA has continued the development and update of the different training material to be used by Member States, with the objective to contribute to the creation and implementation of a Sectoral Qualification Framework (SQF) for the European Union cooperation on Coast Guard Functions including fisheries control and inspection<sup>38</sup>. In that regard, the EFCA e-learning platform<sup>39</sup> has helped contribute to a level playing field and a harmonised methodology of inspections.

Training courses delivered by EFCA cover, in line with its mandate, control aspects of the CFP and the relevant international instruments. Subject to budget availability, the training is mainly addressed to the following audience:

- training the trainers (EU Member States and third countries officials),
- JDPs inspectors: exchange of experiences,
- training related to IUU fishing: basic and advance (EU and third countries officials).

In the context of the EUCG Functions joint training courses are organised with other EU Agencies. In addition, on request of the EU Member States, EFCA also provides training to inspectors before their first deployment and participates in national trainings.

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<sup>38</sup>Administrative Board Recommendations on EFCA Five-Year Evaluation (Recommendation 2), 21 June 2017, <https://www.efca.europa.eu/en/content/external-evaluation-2017>

<sup>39</sup> Administrative Board Recommendations on EFCA Five-Year Evaluation (Recommendation 2), 21 June 2017, <https://www.efca.europa.eu/en/content/external-evaluation-2017>

### 1.2.1.1 JOINT DEPLOYMENT PLANS, OPERATIONAL PLANS AND PILOT PROJECTS (OBJECTIVES 1-2)

<b>OBJECTIVE 1</b>					
<b>Implementation of JDPs and assistance to the Member States and the Commission in EU Waters and North Atlantic</b>					
<b>EXPECTED RESULTS</b>					
1. Improved compliance, level playing field and cost-effectiveness in the North Sea, Baltic Sea, Western Waters and NAFO / NEAFC areas 2. Increased synergies and transparency between the participating Member States 3. Support to the EU in relation to RFMOs and third countries in the North Atlantic 4. Assistance to Member States, Regional Bodies, and the European Commission in the implementation of the CFP, including the landing obligation					
<b>PERFORMANCE INDICATORS</b>	<b>Target 2020</b>	<b>Achieved 2020</b>			
		<b>NS</b>	<b>BS</b>	<b>WW</b>	<b>NAFO-NEAFC</b>
By JDP:					
1. Percentage of control and inspection means deployed in accordance with the JDP schedule (% of total planned)	90%	70%	89%	85%	78%
2. Percentage of inspections at sea on vessels belonging to the two highest risk fleet segments per JDP regional area <sup>40</sup>	60%	70%	76%	72%	Not applicable
3. Workshops attendees satisfaction rate	Attendees satisfaction (good or very good) >80%	100%	89%	71%	100%
<b>MAIN OUTPUTS</b>					
<b>Planned</b>				<b>Achieved</b>	
1. Implementation of JDP decisions for North Sea, Baltic Sea, Western Waters and NAFO / NEAFC				Yes	
2. Guidelines and best practices on standardisation of inspection procedures				Yes	
3. Standard procedures and guidance documents on the application of the rules of the CFP, including modern and more effective and efficient control techniques.				Yes	

<sup>40</sup> Performance indicator not applicable to NAFO/NEAFC JPD.

4. Assessment reports of the regional control operations (JDP and operational plans), including the definition of major risks for the control activities	Yes
5. Implementation of strategic risk assessment for the different regional areas at fisheries level (gear, area and species)	Yes
6. Exchange of target vessels between Member States at the tactical level of coordination	Yes
7. Estimation of compliance level by region	Yes
8. Support to the regionalisation process	Yes
9. At least one workshop for Member States Union inspectors (by region) delivered.	Yes
10. Operation of chartered and other control platform(s) of EFCA	Yes

The target value of the indicator “Percentage of control and inspection means deployed in accordance with the JDP schedule (% of total planned)” was not achieved for any of the JDPs due to the low number of executed exchanges. This is likely related with the travel restrictions in place from March onwards due to the COVID-19 measures. The deployment of fishing sea and air means were according with the JDP commitment.

The satisfaction rate of the attendees of the Western Waters JDP training was below the 80% target. This event was conducted as a webinar, with an increased number of participants but with less active participation than the presential meetings as conducted in the past (the basis for the target value). The evaluation was based on only half of the workshop attendees (21 out of 42 attendees), which per se denote a lower engagement.

### **1. Improved compliance, level playing field and cost-effectiveness in the North Sea, Baltic Sea, Western Waters and NAFO / NEAFC areas**

#### **North Sea, Baltic Sea and Western Waters areas**

In 2020, EFCA continued coordinating three JDPs in EU waters, namely in the Baltic Sea, North Sea and Western Waters areas. These three JDPs were implemented through joint campaigns in accordance with the plan adopted by the respective Steering Groups (SG). EFCA organised several meetings for each SG and a joint SG meeting. At the latter meeting, common aspects to the three regions were discussed. The SG had a more detailed discussion on the JDP assessment at the meeting in May, and discussion on JDP planning for the following year at the meeting in September.

EFCA included COVID-19 on the agenda of all Steering Groups (SGs) conducted since March 2020. The conclusions of the meetings and follow up actions are described in the text box on EFCA anti-COVID measures in section 1.2. Annual Work Programme 2020.

EFCA also organised an extraordinary North Sea Steering Group meeting to discuss the state of play on recovery measures for cod in the North Sea, including in the context of the cooperation between EU and Norway, and its impact on the NS JDP. Additionally, at this meeting the scope of future cooperation with third countries around the North Sea was also discussed. As a follow up of this meeting the North Sea JDP was amended to incorporate elements of the sampling procedure related with real time closures, as specified in Commission Regulation (EU) No 724/2010. EFCA also developed guidance for inspectors on best practices for conducting Real Time Closure (RTC) sampling, compiled in its website the links to Member States webpages where RTCs are announced and developed a video tutorial on RTCs in the North Sea, which was finalised in 2021. When an RTC related with Commission Regulation (EU) No 724/2010 is established, EFCA integrates the active area in the EFCA IMS.

EFCA Steering Group meetings		
Meeting	Dates	JDP
Extraordinary meeting to address North Sea cod recovery measures	30 January	North Sea
Discussion of horizontal issues related with the risk affected by lowered monitoring and control levels caused by COVID-19	17 June	Joint EU waters
Extraordinary meetings to analyse the risks affected by the lowered monitoring and control levels caused by COVID-19 and discuss mitigation measures	26 March	Joint EU waters
	8 April	Baltic Sea
	3 April	North Sea
	14 April	Western waters
Joint EU SG meeting to address horizontal aspects, such as data and system governance, and JDP assessment reports recommendations	17 June	Joint EU waters
2020 JDP state of play and 2019 assessment JDP reports	19 May	Baltic Sea
	14 May	North Sea
	26 May	Western waters
2020 JDP State of play and 2021 JDP planning	15 September	Baltic Sea
	17 September	North Sea
	11 September	Western waters
2021 JDP planning related with elements to address BREXIT	26 October	Joint North Sea and Western waters

Additional meetings involving the North Sea and the Western Waters SGs were organised by EFCA on BREXIT preparedness (see further details under *4. Assistance to Member States, Regional Bodies, and the European Commission in the implementation of the CFP, including the landing obligation*).

EFCA organised two workshops with Baltic Sea control experts to addressing control measures for i) recreational fisheries of cod and ii) marine fisheries on eel. The workshops provided a better understanding of the fisheries, the main non-compliance risks and current control tools. The outcomes of these workshops were incorporated as activities of the Baltic Sea 2021 JDP, in particular to address the use of illegal gear in the fisheries of eel and the compliance with the temporal closure by mean of sea inspections and aerial surveillance. Concerning recreational fisheries of cod it was recommended the monitoring of bag limit reduction and improve the share of Member States information.

As in the previous years, the organisational arrangements of the joint campaign coordination were based on the permanent exchange of operational information, coordinated deployment of control assets, planned exchanges of inspectors at sea and in landing ports.

The coordination of the implementation of the control activities was carried out by the respective Technical Joint Deployment Groups with the involvement of national coordination centers on a day-to-day basis. The TJDGs maintained regular contact through FISHNET conferences for short-term planning of the deployment of control assets to address current risks in fisheries covered by the scope of relevant JDPs.

In 2020, the Member States concerned agreed to temporarily carry out the coordination of control activities from the EFCA premises in Vigo, with the aim of facilitating more effective collaboration of control services during the period of some specific actions. However, this was only possible until mid-March, time when travel restrictions due to COVID-19 started.

To ensure that the priority is given to the control of fisheries with the highest risks, as identified in the results of the regional risk analysis, the joint control activities were periodically coordinated in the context of specific actions. To ensure an adequate coordination for each specific action the TJDGs adopted an operational plan where a set of objectives and tasks were explained from an operational point of view. Additionally, in the second half of 2020, before the start of each specific action EFCA organised a briefing, where the purpose and main expected outcomes were highlighted, as well as a deeper analysis of the operational plan.

The SGs proposed in total 30 specific actions to be implemented in the framework of three JDPs. The implementation of specific actions aimed to enhance the focus of control activities on fleet segments in periods and areas that were identified in the results of respective regional risk analysis as requiring some risk treatment measures.

Specific actions	Baltic Sea JDP	North Sea JDP	Western Waters JDP
Number	6	10	14
Duration (weeks) <sup>41</sup>	55	77	89

As regards the deployment of control assets for the JDPs in the Baltic Sea, North Sea and Western Waters areas, it should be highlighted that in general the Member States complied with the commitment as agreed in the respective JDPs decisions until mid-March, period after which Member States adapted the deployment of control assets in line with the national restrictive measures. Some Member States ceased inspections at sea activities for a given period or until the end of 2020, while others continued their activity ensuring social distance, making use of personal protective equipment and avoiding presence in closed spaces. Member States continued reporting executed sea days by their patrol vessels and air surveillance flights beyond the agreed minimum commitments for sea and air borne operations.

Due to the COVID restrictive measures the execution of exchanges of inspectors faced some difficulties and the execution rate is low for all JDPs. The deployment of EFCA OPV Lundy Sentinel contributed to the improvement in 2020 of the execution related with exchanges of inspectors. Most of the Member States ensured the availability of their inspectors in the joint inspection teams during the Lundy Sentinel missions in the JDPs in the Baltic Sea, North Sea and Western Waters areas.

The implementation of JDPs follows a risk-based approach. For the Baltic Sea, Western Waters and in the North Sea JDPs, the percentage of sea inspections conducted in 2020 on the fleet segments of higher risk levels was higher than 60% in accordance with established KPIs.

### Preparing for BREXIT scenarios

The JDP decisions adopted in December 2019 for the regular planning of 2020 joint inspection and surveillance activities included the UK as a participating Member State, and the UK waters in the geographical scope, in accordance with provisions on the transition period stipulated in the Withdrawal Agreement. However, as also stipulated in the Withdrawal Agreement, the UK was no longer represented in meetings of the different groups governing the JDP, like the Steering Groups and Technical Joint Deployment Groups. The UK continued to participate in the joint activities at operational level, which included the operational exchange of data and information.

During 2020, EFCA took further actions in cooperation with the European Commission and concerned Member States, to continue preparations for the potential impact of a non-agreement BREXIT scenario at the beginning of 2021, on evolving risks to fisheries being in contravention of rules in place, the mitigation measures required and on the joint inspection and surveillance activities. For that purpose, EFCA organised a series of meetings in cooperation with the concerned Member States and the Commission to improve preparedness for scenarios related to BREXIT.

EFCA conducted a risk assessment exercise together with MS experts, in particular re-assessing the main threats and areas already identified in 2019, complemented with new information particularly focusing on the estimation of a possible shift of fishing effort, resulting from a non-agreement BREXIT. The adequate mitigation measures needed in terms of inspection effort to address the risk of non-compliance resulting from BREXIT were also re-assessed. The scenario analysed also accounted for the UK becoming a third country, and consequently the landings of UK vessels into EU ports falling within the scope of the IUU Regulation.

<sup>41</sup> The number of weeks corresponds to the total of all specific actions per JDP. Several specific actions may take place simultaneously.



The mitigation measures for a non-agreement BREXIT scenario were laid down in the JDP Decisions planning for 2021 in the North Sea and the Western Waters. Since the outcome of the negotiations between the EU and UK was not established before December, EFCA worked with the Steering Groups to prepare two versions of both the draft North Sea JDP Decision and draft Western Waters JDP Decision, for both the agreement and non-agreement scenarios.

EFCA made an effort with MS to enhance their minimum commitment of means in the context of BREXIT, with some MS doing so. EFCA expressed its concerns to the Member States and Commission that the capacity might not be sufficient and concluded that 2 additional OPVs and increased aerial surveillance capacity would be necessary to cover the emerging risks.

An important component of the mitigation measures, both for an agreement and non-agreement scenario, was the objective of enhancing a common situational awareness picture at regional level, through the continuous exchange of data, information and intelligence. Developing this common situational awareness picture would be facilitated by the EFCA Coordination Centre, joint with a virtual network of Member States FMCs and contact points. The operation of this virtual coordination network would also allow to closely monitor the potential reallocation of fishing effort even under an agreement scenario and possible associated emerging risks.

Finally, the JDP Decisions were adopted with agreement. EFCA performed a risk assessment only for the non-agreement scenario and committed to performing a risk assessment for the agreement scenario, after the new agreement would be in place and the stipulations in the agreement would be analysed.

EFCA organised five meetings to address possible BREXIT scenarios and respective EFCA preparedness, as outlined below.

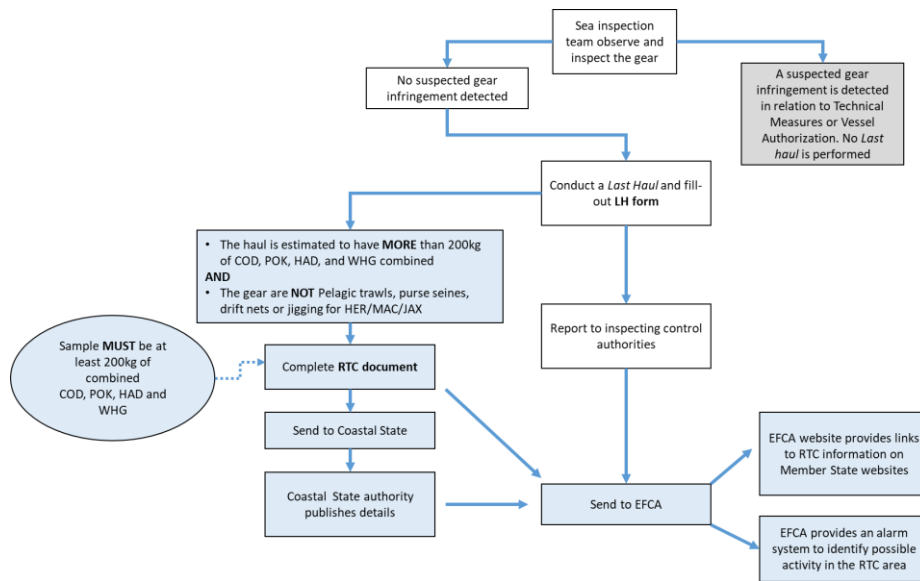
Meetings related with BREXIT preparedness		
Meeting	Dates	Recipients
Risk assessment considering non-agreement	3 July 27 August	Risk assessment experts from NS and WW JDPs concerned MS
2021 NS and WW JDP planning addressing BREXIT related MCS	26 October	Joint NS and WW Steering Groups
Inspector training on the application of IUU and NEAFC regulations for landings and imports of fishery products from the UK	27-28 October	Inspectors of NS and WW JDPs concerned MS
Preparation of operational working procedures and structure of BREXIT coordination Centre	24 November	MCS experts from NS and JDP concerned MS

Additionally, to the above listed meetings, in 2020, in order to update each other on the risks connected to the BREXIT areas, a dedicated video-conference meeting between EFCA and Frontex took place on 2<sup>nd</sup> December, further paving the way on exploring tools/assets or other capacities available to potentially support MS under the EU cooperation on coast guard functions.

### *Standardisation*

In 2020 EFCA used the framework of the JDPs to enhance the standardisation of inspections, in particular through last haul observation procedures during inspections at sea in all EU JDP areas and the sampling procedure for unsorted pelagic landings in the Baltic Sea area. The sampling procedure of unsorted landing of pelagic landings are based to the guidelines previously developed by EFCA in collaboration with Baltic Sea Member States.

The standardisation of the last haul observation and the details of the sampling procedure were reinforced in the North Sea JDP to include the elements of the sampling of demersal species linked with the establishment of Real Time Closures according to EU Regulation No. 724/2010.



These two standardisation aspects were addressed through the regional training organised for EU inspectors and during relevant specific actions. Additionally, in the case of the Real Time Closure sampling in the North Sea JDP an animated video explaining the sampling and the criteria and the process to establish a closed area in the framework of EU regulation No. 724/2010 are addressed.

*Compliance Evaluation*

In reply to a request from the Baltic Sea Control Expert Group, EFCA finalised the exercise initiated in 2019, to evaluate compliance with the landing obligation for cod, plaice, herring, sprat and salmon in the Baltic Sea, for the period 2017 – 2018.

The executive summaries on the previous evaluation of compliance with the landing obligation conducted for specific fisheries of the North Sea and Western Waters were published on the EFCA website and a series of workshops were organised with the outcomes of the activity. More details of the evaluation of compliance are found under *Objective 1, Result 4. Assistance to Member States, Regional Bodies and the European Commission in the implementation of the CFP, including the landing obligation.*

**NAFO-NEAFC**

The European Union continued to be committed to an inspection presence in the NAFO and NEAFC Regulatory Areas, based upon the number of EU fishing vessels operating in these areas. EFCA coordinated together with relevant Member States and the European Commission the implementation of control operations in the NAFO and NEAFC areas, which included the deployment of control assets, including sea patrols, air surveillance, NAFO and NEAFC inspectors aboard of patrol vessels and in mixed teams ashore. The participating Member States coordinated efficiently the deployment of their control assets as agreed in the respective JDP decision, to the extent possible considering the COVID sanitary measures. Some Member States missions were cancelled due to the COVID-19 situation and technical problems. EFCA chartered OPV Lundy Sentinel was deployed in NAFO and NEAFC Regulatory Areas (5 sea going missions) in order to fulfil the EU commitments.

In 2020, one mixed team was deployed for inspection of fishing vessel landing fish from NAFO Regulatory Areas (NAFO RA) in a EU port. Due to the COVID-19 situation, this mixed team was coordinated by EFCA remotely.

In the context of the JDP, EFCA continued to contribute to the standardised assessment of risk for NAFO vessels landing in the ports of Member States, performed by the flag Member State or by EFCA for the vessels of other Contracting Parties. In 2020, EFCA continued the work regarding the improvement of the Post-Activity Risk Assessment (also known as PARA) criteria and provided assistance in its implementation when requested by the Member States. EFCA, also updated fact



sheets for each NAFO Division and target species with information on legislation in force, average catch composition and status of the exploited stocks.

In collaboration with the Member States, EFCA prepared a template (vessels profile sheet) with key information of vessels operating in the NAFO RA. The aim of the vessel profile sheet, the fact sheets and the post activity risk assessment is to provide consistent support to assist the inspection of landings.

Additionally, a strategic risk assessment was developed for the NAFO fisheries. Further details on this activity are presented under *Objective 3.1. Improved Risk Management Strategy and identification of possible minimum common standards for national risk assessment systems.*

EFCA continued the work on the development of NAFO port inspection guidelines to be followed during landings from vessels fishing in NAFO RA.

## **2. Increased synergies and transparency between the participating Member States**

The collaboration between MS continued to be enhanced by the work of MS experts in joint coordination teams established in the premises of EFCA in Vigo. For 2020, the MS agreed provisionally to establish the joint coordination teams for a period of 27 weeks in 3 EU waters JDPs. The outbreak of the COVID pandemic had an impact on this plan and MS experts could be deployed in EFCA only during the period between January and March. In total, the joint coordination teams worked for 8 weeks, period after which the remaining planned joint coordination teams were cancelled. It should be highlighted that NL deployed one expert in EFCA for the period of entire 2020 year, as a Second National Expert (SNE). In total, 6 Member States deployed 13 experts for 59 man-days (NL SNE deployment is not included in this number). Some experts were deployed in two joint coordination teams working simultaneously. As in the previous years, the feedback received from the Member States experts confirmed that their work in the EFCA Coordination Centre offered better insight to the fishery situation than when maintaining only teleconference contact through the TJDG's conferences in FISHNET.

With regards to sharing information on priority targets for inspections, 13 Member States exchanged information on 1 519 fishing vessels as possible targets in 2020. This information was provided to inspection teams working in the framework of the JDPs in the Baltic Sea, North Sea and Western Waters areas. Based on this information 961 fishing vessels were inspected as targets, and 58 suspected infringements were reported to be found. Both, the number of targeted inspections and reported infringements confirmed that the regional target list improved the effectiveness of the inspections. The infringement ratio for targeted inspections is higher than the infringement ratio for inspections not driven by risk analysis results (6.0% on targets against 3.7% on non-targets).

### **Assistance and expertise to the Technical Joint Deployment Group for sharing and analysing available information for the coordination and implementation of JDPs**

Following the JDP Assessment recommendation concerning the planning of joint control operations, EFCA improved the descriptions of proposed mitigation measures in a JDP decision to facilitate better long-term operational planning by the TJDG. In case of specific action, EFCA ensured that these are defined in detail for 2020 as per objectives, proposed control measures, fleet segments, time and operational area, and with a clear indication of MS concerned. Furthermore, as requested by the TJDG, EFCA adapted the TJDG planning meeting to discuss the implementation of each specific action at the operational level, in particular with Member States expected to be involved in joint operations during these specific actions. This approach was well received by the TJDG. All TJDGs were interested to continue this discussion internally, on the basis of planning documents prepared by EFCA, with respective control services, aiming at a better alignment of MS plans with the regional objectives.

Regarding the short-term planning, EFCA, in close collaboration with TJDGs, strengthened the importance of operational plan quality. This has been achieved by defining accurately operational tasks at the level of MS FMC, inspection teams based ashore and at sea. Furthermore, EFCA regularly provided the TJDG with the provisional results of the executed specific actions to discuss their effectiveness and the efficiency of implementation.

### **The provision of assistance and expertise to Member States through regional workshops and best practice meetings for the Union inspectors, inspectors and Member States staff**

EFCA organised regional workshops trainings and best practice meetings for Union inspectors, inspectors and Member States staff involved in the implementation of joint campaigns. However, the outbreak of COVID-19 required that most of these trainings were delivered as webinars through IT communication platforms.

In 2020, 110 EU inspectors from 13 MS attended three regional trainings organised in the framework of BS, NS and WW JDPs. It should be underlined that, in comparison to the previous years, the webinar format has more than doubled the participation to these trainings by MS inspectors.

All trainings for Union inspectors were focused mainly on the practical implementation of specific actions and their corresponding operational tasks to ensure an effective and efficient execution of the joint control operations at inspector's level. Special attention was drawn to the importance of targeted inspections, quality and importance of information collected by MS inspectors during the joint operations for the evaluation of compliance levels. The use of the harmonised last haul procedures was promoted together with the follow up inspections ashore as effective control tool in the context of the landing obligation.

EFCA organised one training related with NAFO JDP activities. The workshop took place in Vigo with the participation of 23 inspectors from 6 Member States. This training focused mainly on the review of the relevant legislation and practical aspects of inspectors working at sea and ashore.

Furthermore, on a request from ES and PT, EFCA organised also special briefings for inspectors appointed to sea going missions in the NEAFC and NAFO RA, respectively. In 2020, 20 inspectors from the two Member States attended the briefings.

In answer to a request from IE, EFCA supported remotely a national training for Irish inspectors involved in the NEAFC control operations. In total, 42 participants attended this national training.

### **3. Support to the EU in relation to RFMOs and third countries in the North Atlantic**

#### **NAFO – NEAFC technical support to the European Commission**

During 2020, within the EFCA sphere of competence and drawing upon professional experience, EFCA provided technical support to the European Commission on NAFO matters and participated in four virtual meetings, as presented below. The role of EFCA was to participate and support the Commission and Member States with regards to formulating and analysing proposals for NAFO CEM amendments and matters related to fisheries control in the NAFO Regulatory Area. This involved assisting the Commission in its preparation for the Standing Committee on International Control (STACTIC) intersessional and Editorial Drafting Group (EDG) meetings and providing technical support during the meetings. EFCA also contributed to the preparation of the EU NAFO Annual Report on control activities.

EFCA provided technical support to the European Commission also on NEAFC matters and participated to several virtual meetings. The role of EFCA was to participate and support the Commission and Member States with regards to formulating recommendations and analysing proposed NEAFC Scheme of Control and Enforcement amendments and NEAFC recommendations on management of fisheries resources. This involved assisting the Commission in its preparation for the PECMAC meetings and providing technical support during the meetings. In 2020 one of the main objectives through PECMAC was to continue to adopt the basis for an ERS system where contracting parties shall report their ERS directly to the NEAFC Secretariat through Fisheries Language for Universal exchange (FLUX). This is a very important element as the EU shall lead this process and be the first contracting party to exchange ERS data with the NEAFC Secretariat. EFCA also coordinated the preparation of the NEAFC Annual Report on control activities, by collating Member States data and presenting the report at the PECMAC spring meeting. As regards NEAFC Annual Report, EFCA participated in technical meeting organised by NEAFC Secretariat on 4 September to review its current template with aim to propose possible improvements.

EFCA participated in several meetings organised by NAFO and NEAFC and provided technical support to the COM. Further information on the meetings attendance and outcomes are provided in section 1.

*Support to the EU delegation in RFMOs meetings, in section 1.2.1.3 International Dimension: compliance with international provisions (objectives 4-5).*

An overview of EFCA participation on meetings to support the EU in relation to NAFO and NEAFC in 2020 is presented below. The outputs from the STACTIC and PECMAC meetings also fed into the NAFO/NEAFC JDP, where Member States were informed on changes to the NAFO CEM and NEAFC Scheme. This is very important in order to maintain a level playing field within the European Union and deliver a high level of control in Union ports and in the Member States Fisheries Monitoring Centres.

Meeting	Dates	Location
Standing Committee on International Control (STACTIC) intersessional meeting	12-14 May	Videoconference
Editorial Drafting Group (EDG) of the NAFO Control and Enforcement Measures (NAFO CEM)	25-26 August 5 November	Videoconference
42 <sup>nd</sup> NAFO Annual Meeting	21-25 September	Videoconference
NEAFC Permanent Committee on Monitoring and Compliance (PECMAC)	21-22 April 5-17 September 3 November	Videoconference
NEAFC Annual Meeting	10-13 November	Videoconference

On a monthly basis, EFCA was also in charge of sending data sets to the NAFO secretariat and COM regarding the fishing activity of EU vessels in the regulatory area of that RFMO (Fishing Operation, Catch on Entry, Catch on Exit and Discards reports).

### **Monitoring Control and Surveillance Working Group (MCSWG)**

#### ***a) EU-NO Bilateral MCS WG for the North Sea***

EFCA participated in a joint workshop focused on North Sea cod stocks, fishing gears and controls. One of the outcomes was a renewed focus on the existing measures available in NO and the EU to help preserve cod stocks. Through different approaches, both NO and EU have real time closure provisions in their legislative framework. EFCA has contributed significantly to reinforcing this outcome through a North Sea JDP amendment, with a focus on RTCs. Other elements of the North Sea demersal working group's work such as the exchange of inspectors between NO and the EU in the North Sea (coordinated by EFCA) did not go ahead due to the COVID-19 situation.

#### ***b) Coastal States MCS WG for pelagic stocks***

In January 2020, EFCA assisted the COM during the negotiations on the stand-alone fisheries control for the coastal states on joint stock between EU and NO, IS, FO and GL. In April an agreement was signed without the participation of IS and GR resulting in the 2019 terms continuing with EU, NO and FO as signatories. A workplan was agreed in April to address issues arising from the terms of reference although there was a recognition that the ambition of the group would be limited due to COVID-19 preventing planned fact-finding missions. The group reconvened twice under the NO chairmanship to contribute to the report. The output was presented by the chair to the Coastal State negotiating teams in October 2020.

#### 4. Assistance to Member States, Regional Bodies, and the European Commission in the implementation of the CFP, including the landing obligation

##### Support to the regional Control Expert Groups

EFCA provided assistance to the Member States regional Control Expert Groups. EFCA cooperated with the CEGs of the main regional bodies created in the framework of regionalisation, such as BALTFISH, Scheveningen, NWW and SWW CEGs. The work of these groups has been reinforced and enhanced in accordance with the updated Terms of Reference and CEG's workplans for 2021 and 2022. The main areas of activities with the support of EFCA are the common understanding on the application of the Technical Measures<sup>42</sup> from the perspective of control and inspection, and the implementation of the LO, in particular in the areas of risk assessment, evaluation of compliance and remote electronic monitoring, as outlined below.

The CEG meetings coordinated by EFCA during 2020 are summarised. Additional CEG meetings dedicated to address specific aspects such as the regional control issue of the Technical Measures or remote electronic monitoring are presented further below in connection with the description of EFCA activities with the CEG on those specific aspects. EFCA's activities in all these areas contribute, directly or indirectly, to the CFP implementation and are, consequently, also relevant to the Green Deal, more concretely to halting biodiversity loss.

Control Expert Group Meetings		
Meeting	Dates	Location
BALTFISH CEG	22 January 28 September 6 November	Copenhagen Videoconference Videoconference
Joint Scheveningen / NWW / SWW CEGs	4 March	The Hague
Joint Scheveningen / NWW / SWW CEGs and PELAC Workshop	5 March	The Hague
Joint NWWAC, EFCA and NWW CEG Workshop	6 July	Videoconference
NWW Control Expert Group	7-8 Oct	Videoconference
Scheveningen CEG	27 October	Videoconference
South-Western Waters CEG	25 November	Videoconference

##### *Risk Assessment*

The risk assessment of non-compliance with the landing obligation was conducted as in previous years both in the JDP and CEGs scope combined (detailed information on the outcome of these exercises is provided under objective 3). The methodology developed by EFCA in collaboration with the Member States was used for these analyses.

##### *LO compliance evaluations*

After completion of the compliance evaluation reports with a focus on the Landing Obligation for certain key species in the North Sea and North Western Waters for 2015 – 2017 and the publication of respective executive summaries, EFCA in cooperation with the respective CEGs, organised joint workshops with the Advisory Councils (ACs) and other interest groups to present and discuss the outcomes of the compliance evaluations conducted and the EFCA regional risk assessment in relation to compliance with the Landing Obligation. During 2020 there were joint workshops CEGs-EFCA with the PELAC (The Hague, 5th March) and with the NWWAC (Videoconference, 6th July). DG-MARE also participated in these meetings. A similar joint meeting with the NSAC was envisaged to take place in

<sup>42</sup> Regulation (EU) 2019/1241 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 on the conservation of fisheries resources and the protection of marine ecosystems through technical measures, TM regulation reference.

2020 but it has been postponed to 2021. The updating of the compliance evaluations for North Sea and North Western Waters using data from 2018-2019 is underway and will be completed in 2021.

The SWW CEG requested EFCA to initiate a dialogue to perform a similar exercise for the SWW demersal and pelagic fleet segments for the period 2019-2020, which will also be completed in 2021.

EFCA prepared an evaluation of compliance for all the Baltic Sea species subject to the Landing Obligation for the period 2017-2018. This evaluation of compliance follows the one conducted previously by EFCA and the BALTFISH CEG for the years 2015 and 2016 for the same area but (i) increases the numbers of species being evaluated to include all those covered by the Landing Obligation during the period analysed and (ii) concentrates on those methods used in the first evaluation that, overall, provided a more informative result. The first draft report of this latest evaluation was presented to the BALTFISH CEG end of 2019, while a second draft was circulated during the summer 2020 for further comments and feedback from Member States. A final draft was presented at the BALTFISH CEG meeting which took place on 6 November 2020. A final version was then circulated for concluding comments and endorsement by the BALTFISH CEG, before its submission to the BALTFISH High Level Group.

Below is an overview of the compliance evaluations conducted or being prepared by EFCA in collaboration with the CEGs.

Area	In cooperation with	Period covered	Species covered	Completed
<b>Baltic Sea</b>	BALTFISH CEG	2015-2016	herring, sprat, salmon, and cod	2017
		2017-2018	herring, sprat, salmon, cod, and plaice	2021
<b>North Sea</b>	Scheveningen CEG	2015-2017	cod, sole, plaice, and mackerel	2019
		2018-2019	cod, sole, plaice, prawns, and mackerel	2021
<b>North Western Waters</b>	NWW CEG	2015-2017	whiting, hake, haddock, and mackerel	2019
		2018-2019	whiting, hake, haddock, and mackerel, cod, anglerfish, <i>Nephrops</i> , sole, and plaice	2021
<b>South Western Waters</b>	SWW CEG	2019-2020	All pelagic and demersal fleet segments	2021

The resulting low levels of compliance with the LO in some fleet segments led to the recommendation by control experts to prioritise the use of Support on Remote Electronic Monitoring (REM) as an efficient control and monitoring tool to improve compliance with the LO.

#### *Support on Remote Electronic Monitoring projects*

The High-Level Group (HLG) of Scheveningen in their meeting of 18 June 2020 endorsed that the Scheveningen CEG, supported by EFCA, should continue preparing a proposal for a joint regional pilot project on Remote Electronic Monitoring. EFCA created a REM Drafting Committee to advance on the draft of the pilot project operational plan based on the template, including proposed fisheries to be covered by the project, criteria for the selection of fisheries segments and criteria for the selection of vessels within those segments. The draft pilot project operational plan was submitted to the Scheveningen HLG on 15 September 2020. The HLG reviewed the operational plan in its meeting of 15 October, and the CEG is waiting for a HLG final decision on the implementation of the pilot project. It is expected that the HLG would take a final decision on this REM pilot project in its meeting of March 2021.

Below is presented an overview of the meetings organised by the REM Technical Working Group.

REM Technical Working Group (TWG) meeting		
Meeting	Dates	Location
REM TWG, Hamburg	26-27 February	Hamburg
REM TWG Drafting Committee	11 June	Videoconference
REM TWG Drafting Committee	29 June	Videoconference
REM TWG	2 September	Videoconference
Participation Scheveningen High Level Group	15 October	Videoconference

Similarly, the NWW CEG and BALTFISH have also made formal requests to EFCA to initiate the drafting of operational plans for the possible implementation of REM regional pilot projects in these areas. The work will commence in 2021.

Other requests for assistance on REM have also been received by EFCA in 2020 outside the framework of the CEGs, namely under the agreed records on MCS aspects for pelagic stocks in the North East Atlantic (EU-NO-FO), a possible pilot project to apply the system to reefers in relation to the BFT fisheries in ICCAT, and national projects from DK and CY.

#### *Technical measures*

In 2020, EFCA has hosted regional workshops on behalf of the Regional Control Expert Groups for the North Sea, North Western Waters, South Western Waters and Baltic Sea addressing the application of the Technical Measures regulation at inspector level. These workshops were well attended by Member States and DG MARE.

Common understandings on how Member States would apply the element of the Technical Measures evolved and were presented as outcomes for discussion, to all participants in the form of guidance reference tables for inspectors.

EFCA assisted the MS in establishing a list of questions to be submitted to the Commission for interpretation of some rules of the TCM regulation.

CEG Meeting on Technical Measures		
Meeting	Dates	Location
Joint CEG on Technical Measures control issues	7 and 18 May	Videoconference
Scheveningen CEG, addressing Technical Measures control issues in the North Sea	26 June	Videoconference
Joint NWW and SWW CEG, addressing Technical Measures control issues in the Western Waters	23 September	Videoconference
BALTFISH CEG, addressing Technical Measures control issues in the Baltic Sea	6 November	Videoconference



## OBJECTIVE 2

### Implementation of JDPs and assistance to the Member States and the Commission in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea

#### EXPECTED RESULTS

1. Improved compliance, level playing field and cost-effectiveness in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea areas
2. Increased synergies and transparency between the participating Member States
3. Support to the EU in relation to RFMOs and third countries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea
4. Assistance to Member States, including to Regional Bodies, and the European Commission in the implementation of the CFP, including the landing obligation

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	Target 2020		Achieved 2020	
	MED	BlackS	MED	BlackS
1. By JDP: Percentage of Control and inspection means deployed in accordance with the JDP schedule (% of total planned)	90%		71%	55%
2. Ratio of inspected target vessels out of inspected vessels	25%		3.5%	51.8%
3. Workshops attendees satisfaction rate	Attendees satisfaction (good or very good) >80%		92%	100%

#### MAIN OUTPUTS

Planned	Achieved
1. Implementation of JDP decisions for the Mediterranean and Black Sea	Yes
2. Guidelines and best practices on standardisation of inspection procedures	Yes
3. Standard procedures and guidance documents on the application of the rules of the CFP, including modern and more effective and efficient control techniques.	Yes
4. Assessment reports of the regional control operations (JDP and operational plans), including the definition of major risks for the control activities	Yes
5. Implementation of strategic risk assessment for the different regional areas at fisheries level (gear, area and species)	Yes
6. Exchange of target vessels between Member States at the tactical level of coordination	Yes
7. Estimation of compliance level by region	Yes
8. Support to the regionalisation process	Yes
9. At least one workshop for Member States Union inspectors (by region) delivered.	Yes
10. Operation of chartered and other control platform(s) of EFCA	Yes



The target value of the indicator “Percentage of control and inspection means deployed in accordance with the JDP schedule (% of total planned)” is composed of three parameters weighted equally: sea deployment, air deployment and exchanges of inspectors. The target was not achieved for any of the JDPs due to the low number of executed exchanges of inspectors, impacted by the travel restrictions in place from March onwards due to COVID-19 measures. Notwithstanding this, the deployment of sea and air means complied with the JDP commitments.

The target value of the indicator, “Ratio of inspected target vessels out of inspected vessels”, was not achieved in the Mediterranean Sea JDP, due to the very high number of inspections in comparison with the number of the target vessels provided by Member States. It is to be highlighted that from 2021 this indicator is aligned with the JDPs in the North Atlantic, focusing on the percentage of inspections at sea on vessels from the two highest risk fleet segments per JDP regional area.

### 1. Improved compliance, level playing field and cost-effectiveness in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea areas.

In 2020 both JDPs were implemented in accordance with the plan adopted by the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Steering Group and Black Sea Steering Group. Some activities had to be adjusted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In order to improve compliance, promote the level playing field and cost-effectiveness, EFCA ensured interaction with Member States on operational matters through permanent exchange of information within the TJDGs mainly via videoconference.

Within the Steering Groups (see table below) EFCA was able to ensure that the most relevant topics were discussed and that feedback was received for JDP implementation. Most of the meetings had to be organised via videoconference.

#### 2020 Steering Group meetings – Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean SG

Meeting main topics	Dates	Location
<b>JDP state of play and SCIP amendment</b>	22-23 January	Faro
Extraordinary meetings to analyse the risks affected by the lowered monitoring and control <b>levels caused by COVID-19 and discuss mitigation measures</b>	23 April 5 May	Videoconference
<b>JDP amendment – Revision of Annex V procedures</b>	12 May 19 May	Videoconference
2020 JDP state of play and 2019 assessment JDP reports	11 June	Videoconference
<b>2020 JDP BFT campaigns state of play</b>	1 July	Videoconference
2020 JDP State of play and 2021 JDP planning	14 September 2 October	Videoconference
<b>Terms of reference for BFT farming investigations</b>	12 August 8 October	Videoconference

Considering the COVID-19 restrictions in place, Steering Group meetings defined:

- priorities of the JDP specific campaigns
- the overall implementation of the JDP
- updates on the campaign’ state of play, and
- follow up on recommendations derived from the 2019 Med JDP assessment report.

Since the Med JDP contributes to the implementation of the international obligations for the EU, particularly as regards ICCAT, the SG meetings held discussions on a common understanding of

existing control rules for BFT farming activities in light of Rec.19-04, as laid in Annex V of the Med JDP.

Discussions resulting in the amendment to the JDP in 2020 (EFCA ED Decision 2020/04) focused on the following issues: BFT transfers notification/authorisations, namely splitting of cages and multiple transfers; control transfers and at-sea investigations; general control operations in farms, i.e. control procedures and investigations in farms; control activities in farms following caging, namely traceability in farms, random controls and carry-over assessments. The SG also agreed that all investigations carried out in EU farms shall follow the Terms of Reference for Investigations in process to be agreed by the Med SG.

The last meetings of 2020 followed up the implementation of the JDP, and focused on the preparation of the 2021, JDP based on the outcomes and recommendations of the regional risk assessment exercise organised by EFCA on 15 and 16 September.

## 2020 Steering Group meetings – Black Sea SG

Meeting main topics	Dates	Location
JDP state of play and SCIP amendment	4 February	Burgas
Extraordinary meetings to analyse the risks affected by the lowered monitoring and control levels caused by COVID-19 and discuss mitigation measures	28 April	Videoconference
2020 JDP State of play and 2021 JDP planning	8 October	Videoconference

Steering Group meetings provided an overview of 2020 Black Sea JDP activities and MMO results. The meetings also focused on the preparation of the 2021 JDP based on the outcomes and recommendations of the regional risk assessment exercise organised by EFCA on 23 September. A SCIP amendment was adopted on 22 September, differentiating sprat fisheries from the remaining fisheries exploiting species under the landing obligation. The risk assessment exercise treated sprat fisheries in accordance with the SCIP amendment.

## JDPs implementation

A continuous effort has been maintained to ensure smooth operational implementation of the respective JDP activities. The coordination of the implementation of the control activities was carried out by the respective TJDG with the close and direct involvement of the respective MS fisheries control authorities. TJDG meetings were arranged by EFCA, and regular contact was ensured via videoconferences to discuss matters within the scope of the relevant JDPs.

EFCA also worked to ensure smooth coordination and data exchange within the framework of the JDPs adopted. The results achieved within the scope of both JDPs are presented in Annex I.

In 2020, for the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, control means were deployed in accordance with the agreed JDP schedule. Moreover, within the framework of EU cooperation on coast guard functions in the Strait of Sicily, Adriatic Sea, Black Sea and Cyprus, Member States capacity for fisheries surveillance was increased in cooperation with Frontex.

The Mediterranean Member States operational effort for fisheries control inside the JDPs increased in 2020, as their seaborne and airborne means were deployed in excess of the commitments agreed in the JDP Decisions, contributing to ensure a level playing field, a higher inspection rate as well as the coordination and assistance for better compliance. However, it has to be mentioned that due to COVID-19 implications there was a decrease in the exchanges of inspectors at sea and ashore.

## 2. Increased synergies and transparency between the participating Member States

In 2020 the Black Sea and Mediterranean JDPs were year-round campaigns. The latter also covered the EU obligations under the ICCAT *Joint Scheme of International Inspection* and the GFCM *International Joint Inspection and Surveillance Scheme* in the Strait of Sicily.

The inspection/surveillance activities were successfully coordinated from the EFCA premises with the assistance of EFCA IT tools and with the remote participation of Member States experts during the specific campaign for Bluefin tuna and in the Black Sea.

The deployment of a fixed-wing aircraft in the Strait of Sicily, Adriatic, Cyprus and the Maritime Multipurpose Operations (MMO) in the Black Sea were also coordinated in close cooperation with the Member States concerned.

In addition to the available seaborne means of the Member States, EFCA added additional capacity with the deployment of its chartered OPV “Lundy Sentinel” with RPAS on board. The deployment of the Lundy Sentinel started from Vigo on 27 June and lasted until 22 July, thus being able to provide support to specific Bluefin tuna campaign, as well as monitor FRAs in the Mediterranean (see Annex I on performance of Lundy Sentinel).

### Bluefin tuna specific campaign

EFCA organised the coordination of the Bluefin tuna campaign using the ICT capacities of EFCA, successfully hosting the TJDG members from 26 May to 15 July 2020 using EFCA Coordination Centre on a virtual mode. This has been the first BFT specific campaign hosted online by EFCA. To ensure a virtual smooth coordination, before the kick-off of the campaign there was a four-day training with the participating MS experts, to make them familiar with the new tools and working procedures.

During the campaign period, two briefing sessions were held daily with the MS experts following fishery activity.

The EU purse seiner fleet for BFT for the 2020 BFT catching season consisted of 66 purse seiners, flying the following EU MS flags: IT, ES, FR, HR, MT and CY.

This particular campaign focused mainly on the purse seiner fleet but also took into account other kind of BFT catching and support vessels (e.g. longliners, traps, farms and towing/supporting/auxiliary/processing vessels).

The experts participating, produced an operational analysis using all the available information. This had as an output, daily recommendations, agreed by the TJDG and which were then submitted to the relevant control means in the operational area.

During the campaign there were 39 Suspected Infringements recorded. More detailed information is summarised in the following table:

Main control results of BFT PS/Traps Campaign								
25 May – 31 Aug*								
Coordinator	ES	FR	IT	HR	MT	PT	EFCA	Total
<b>Total sea Inspections</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>351</b>
BFT PS	10	10	12	9	3	-	-	44
BFT Tow/Aux	69	1	18	17	23	1	5	134
BFT Farms	82	-	-	10	32	3	-	127
BFT Processing	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	16
BFT Traps	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	30
<b>Suspected Infringements reported</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>39</b>

\* Events related within the scope of the BFT PS campaign

In order to support the BFT campaign, EFCA allocated two EFCA Union inspectors in the Lundy Sentinel.

The TJDG was also supported with additional sources of information received from Frontex seaborne and airborne assets (sighting forms and mission reports).

### Black Sea specific campaign

From 23 to 27 November, EFCA coordinated the Black Sea specific campaign through the EFCA Virtual Coordination Centre (VCC). This was implemented in accordance with the Black Sea JDP decision, by means of a coordinated programme of control at sea and in ports and covered fishing activities related to turbot and sprat.

It is worth noting the effort put in place by Bulgarian and Romanian fisheries administrations to implement this specific campaign despite COVID challenges. The interaction between all the participants was positive and constructive, highlighting the commitment and responsibility showed by the MS representatives.

The table below shows the main outcomes of the campaign in terms of inspection and surveillance activities carried out.

Main results of Black Sea specific campaign EFCA VCC			
MS	BG	RO	Total
Sea patrols	2	6	8
Inspectors deployed at sea	4	11	15
Sea inspections	2	3	5
Sea sightings	1	16	17
Ashore inspections	4	15	19
Suspected infringements reported	0	0	0

In terms of interagency cooperation, 8 Copernicus satellite pictures were delivered and analysed during the campaign, 5 covering RO waters, and 3 corresponding to BG waters.

### Operational workshops<sup>43</sup>

During 2020 the following regional workshops were performed in the context of the MED and Black Sea JDPs:

- Black Sea Regional workshop, Constanta (RO), 19-20 February
- MED Regional workshop on the landing obligation: bluefin tuna and swordfish, by VC, 27 March;
- MED Regional workshop on the landing obligation and the Adriatic Sea Management Measures for Demersal Species and Small Pelagic, by VC, 24 April.

All the above-mentioned workshops were well received by participants. In addition to the above, EFCA's coordinators also assisted Member States in 11 national workshops (e.g. support on application of IMS) with a total of 322 participants, upon request in the context of the MED and Black Sea JDP's.

### 3. Support to the EU in relation to RFMOs and third countries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea

From 2020, following the Commission Decision of 9 June 2020, in the framework of the International Joint Inspection and Surveillance Scheme in the Strait of Sicily, EFCA has been designated to:

- a) receive, from the authorities of the flag Member State of the inspection vessel, the information related to any detected infringement;

<sup>43</sup> See Annex I on training activities in 2020 for more details.

- b) notify the detected infringements to the flag State of the inspected fishing vessel and to the GFCM Secretariat, with copy to the Commission.

Equally, EFCA continued with its task to notify in a timely manner, the updated list of EU ICCAT and GFCM inspectors to ICCAT and to the Commission for GFCM.

Moreover, within the framework of the International Joint Inspection and Surveillance Scheme in the Strait of Sicily, EFCA is in charge of printing and distributing among the EU MSs, at their request, the GFCM template reports, blank cards of GFCM inspectors and supplying pennants for patrol vessels.

### Strait of Sicily Campaign

From 23 November to 2 December 2020, in the Strait of Sicily, EFCA in cooperation with Frontex co-chartered a Fixed Wing Aircraft (FWA). The fisheries surveillance operations were led by EFCA with the support of Frontex and IT. The kick-off of the campaign was preceded by a briefing organised by EFCA to which IT and Frontex attended.

During the campaign the EFCA coordinators in charge prepared in advance the relevant daily recommendations, in consultation with IT and considering the intelligence available and shared this with Frontex. In order to facilitate communications on the surveillance activity in real time, the EFCA virtual coordination centre was activated and was the main communication platform between EFCA, IT and Frontex. Daily briefings and evaluation meetings were organised and took place through EFCA's virtual coordination centre.

EFCA also provided support through Earth Observations Acquisitions (EOA) delivered by COPERNICUS Maritime Services and made available by EMSA through IMS.

There was a total of 7 flights, resulting in 24 sightings, and 6 satellite images delivered and analysed.

Airborne Chartered means	
AREA	STRAIT OF SICILY
<b>Total hours flown</b>	<b>28h10'</b>
<b>Flights</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Sea Sighting</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Satellite images delivered</b>	<b>6</b>

During one of the fisheries surveillance operations, a Search and Rescue (SAR) event was detected. The IT MRCC was informed accordingly, and the FWA route and command shifted to respond to the emergency.

There were several objectives set for the mission of the referred FWA in the framework of the Joint Deployment Plan Mediterranean and Eastern Atlantic, *inter alia*:

- to verify the compliance with the requirements of EU legislation, including Regulation 1343/2011, as amended, and the relevant GFCM Recommendations, especially those provisions concerning the Strait of Sicily scheme, as well as all other relevant applicable rules as appropriate;
- objectives related to the ICCAT to verify the compliance of fisheries exploiting Bluefin tuna with the requirements of ICCAT Recommendation 19-04, EU Regulation 2016/1627, as well as all other relevant applicable rules as appropriate e.g. 16-05 and EU Regulation 2015/98, Recommendation 17-05;
- to provide support to SAR operations and other Coast Guard Functions as appropriate.

During the campaign, no fishing vessels activities were detected in the declared GFCM fisheries restricted areas in the Strait of Sicily. Some sightings of Third Countries fishing vessels were obtained,

operating in international waters in the corridor among Pantelleria- Linosa and Malta islands. were used to support DG MARE, Malta and Italy in the context of the control of the dolphinfish fishery in the area.

### Adriatic Campaign

From 19 to 26 November 2020, EFCA in cooperation with Frontex co-chartered a FWA in the Adriatic. The fisheries surveillance operations were led by EFCA with the support of Frontex, HR and IT.

The kick-off of the campaign was preceded by a dedicated briefing organised by EFCA to which HR, IT and Frontex attended.

During the campaign the EFCA coordinators in charge prepared in advance the relevant daily recommendations in consultation with HR, IT and considering the intelligence available, then they shared this with Frontex. To follow up and communicate on the surveillance activity in real time, EFCA virtual coordination centre was activated, acting as the main communication platform between EFCA, IT and Frontex. The relevant daily briefings and evaluation meetings were organised and took place through EFCA's virtual coordination centre.

EFCA also provided support through Earth Observations Acquisitions delivered by COPERNICUS Maritime Services and made available by EMSA in the IMS.

There was a total of 6 flights, resulting in 22 sightings, and 3 satellite images delivered and analysed.

Airborne Chartered means	
AREA	ADRIATIC SEA
Total hours flown	24h45'
Flights	6
Sighting forms	22
Satellite images delivered	3

There were several objectives set for the mission of the referred FWA in the framework of the Joint Deployment Plan Mediterranean and Eastern Atlantic, *inter alia*:

- a) to verify the compliance with the requirements of EU legislation, including Regulation 1343/2011, as amended, the relevant GFCM Recommendations, especially those related to the fisheries restricted area of Jabuka/Pomo Pit area, to purse seiners and pelagic trawlers targeting small pelagics, demersal fishing activities exploiting demersal stocks, by means of otter-trawling, beam-trawling, bottom pair trawling and otter twin trawling, in the Adriatic Sea GSAs 17 and 18, as well as other relevant applicable rules as appropriate,
- b) objectives related to the ICCAT e.g. to verify the compliance of fisheries exploiting Bluefin tuna with the requirements of Regulation (EU) 2016/1627, ICCAT Recommendation 19-04, Recommendation 16-05, Recommendation 17-05 and all other relevant applicable rules as appropriate;
- c) to provide support to Search and Rescue operations and other Coast Guard Functions as appropriate.

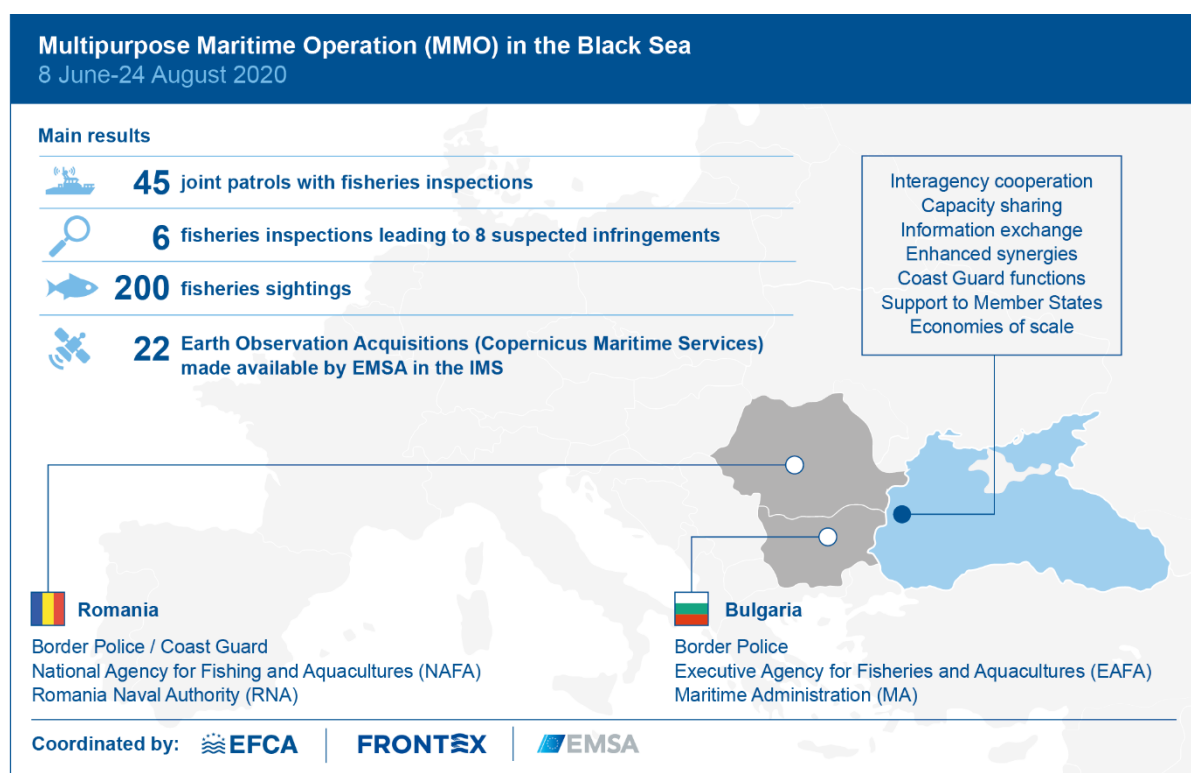
### Black Sea Multipurpose Maritime Operation

In the light of the interagency cooperation in the area of capacity sharing, EFCA took an initiative in order to support BG and RO fisheries control authorities in the Black Sea in the context of the Black Sea Joint Deployment Plan during the months of June, July and August.



In this regard, Frontex and EMSA's assets and services were shared in a joint operation in order to increase surveillance and fisheries control capacity in the area. Therefore, these EU Agencies and RO and BG authorities (fisheries and border control communities) agreed on the implementation of coordinated multipurpose maritime operational activities in the Black Sea focused on combating illegal immigration, illegal fishing activities and marine pollution as well as addressing other CG functions. The main results of the MMO are summarised as follows for the period from 8 June to 24 August 2020:

- 45 joint patrols with fisheries inspections
- 6 fisheries inspections leading to 8 suspected infringements
- 200 fisheries sightings
- 22 Earth Observation Acquisitions (Copernicus Maritime Services) made available by EMSA in the IMS.



#### 4. Assistance to Member States, including to Regional Bodies, and the European Commission in the implementation of the CFP, including the landing obligation

##### Support to Cyprus in the scope of the JDP

EFCA provided additional operational support as requested by CY in the context of the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Joint Deployment Plan, through an Action Plan (April-December 2020), whose aim was to ensure compliance with the fisheries' legal framework at EU and RFMO level.

Within the Action plan prepared in cooperation with Cyprus the activities were mainly the following:

- deployment of a FWA in cooperation with Frontex (19 August-24 September)
- preparation of deployment of RPAS in cooperation with EMSA,
- support the use of monitoring and surveillance technologies with IMS and Copernicus imagery: from 15 April to 15 November 2020, EFCA submitted requests for a total of 159 satellite images with 121 being delivered and made available to CY in the IMS,
- organisation of 2 tailored workshops for CY FMC operators on EFCA IMS and Copernicus imagery.

With reference to the deployment of a co-chartered FWA in cooperation with Frontex (19 August-24 September), a surveillance campaign dedicated to fisheries control activities took place during August and September in the southern part of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of Cyprus, in cooperation with Cypriot fisheries control authorities. The kick-off of the campaign was preceded by a briefing



organised by EFCA to which Frontex and CY attended. During the campaign the EFCA coordinators in charge prepared in advance the relevant daily recommendations for the flights, hand in hand with CY and considering the intelligence available..EFCA activated the virtual coordination centre to follow up on surveillance activity in real time, acting as the main communication platform between EFCA, CY and Frontex. Daily briefings and evaluation meetings were organised and also took place through EFCA's virtual coordination centre.

The support to Cyprus derived from a common risk analysis indicated this area as having a high likelihood of potential illegal fisheries activities. EFCA, in promoting the use of innovative technologies, closely cooperating with EMSA, made available COPERNICUS satellite products to support this specific operational action in Cyprus. 30 satellite acquisitions were requested by EFCA through EMSA, of which 13 were made available in the IMS for this specific operation.

In this regard, the airplane also validated non-cooperative vessels (the ones not transmitting position) in the area of interest. In total there were 22 flights, around 70 flying hours performed, some of them in remote areas of Cyprus EEZ which have contributed to enhanced situational awareness and 8 sightings.

<b>Activity Summary</b>	
<b>AREA</b>	<b>LEVANT SEA</b>
<b>Total hours flown</b>	<b>70h37'</b>
<b>Number of flights</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Sighting forms received</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Satellite images delivered</b>	<b>13</b>

### **Support to Greece in the scope of JDP**

Based on the request from Greece, EFCA provided additional operational support to Greece in the context of the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Joint Deployment Plan. Dedicated workshops sessions were organised for GR officials on the landing obligation, IMS and technical measures<sup>44</sup>.

<sup>44</sup> See Annex I on training activities in 2020 for more details.

### 1.2.1.2 RISK ASSESSMENT AND DATA ANALYSIS (OBJECTIVE 3)

#### ❖ Introduction

EFCA control and monitoring activities are based on tactical and strategic risk assessments to ensure a maximum efficiency of the planning and implementation of the control and monitoring operations and an adequate use of available resources. Appropriate data, information systems and analysis are key elements to support the risk assessment.

OBJECTIVE 3		
Promotion of a risk management-based approach and compliance evaluation		
EXPECTED RESULTS		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved Risk Management Strategy and identification of possible minimum common standards for national risk assessment systems</li> <li>Support the implementation of alternative, compliance-based methodologies for evaluating the effectiveness of control and inspection activities</li> <li>Improvement of EFCA information systems in support of fisheries monitoring and control</li> <li>Improvement of data management in support of fisheries monitoring and control</li> </ol>		
PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	Target 2020	Achieved 2020
1. User evaluation of the ERS, Fishnet and IMS applications	> 90% satisfaction rate from participating MS	89%
2. Regions to which the EFCA risk management methodology applies	5 regions	6 regions
3. Regions to which the EFCA compliance methodology applies	2 regions	4 regions
MAIN OUTPUTS		
Planned	Achieved	
1. Methodology for regional risk management strategy	Yes	
2. Methodology for minimum standards for national risk assessment systems	Yes	
3. Methodology for alternative, compliance-based, benchmarks	Yes	
4. Data Governance Strategy implemented	Yes	
5. Business requirements for the development of EFCA systems in support of JDPs, EUCG Functions and the fight against IUU fishing	Yes	

#### 1. Improved Risk Management Strategy and identification of possible minimum common standards for national risk assessment systems

EFCA risk-based management approach of control and monitoring activities is used regionally at three levels during the life cycle of JDPs:

- Strategic planning of JDPs: to identify specific objectives for the yearly JDPs campaigns and to guide the deployment of control means.

- Risk assessment: to identify priority fisheries / fleet segments where high risk of non-compliance with the current fisheries legislation is estimated. Main threats considered are: non-compliance with the landing obligation, non-compliance with recording and reporting obligations, use of illegal gear, non-compliance with technical measures and fishing operations in closed areas/seasons.
- Operational level: to facilitate the exchange of best-practice and targets between different Member States at a short-term tactical level.

Following the same methodology as in previous years and as agreed in the guidelines developed with EFCA in collaboration with Member States<sup>45</sup>, in 2020 Regional Risk Assessments were conducted at fleet segment level for several JDP areas (Baltic Sea, North Sea, Western Waters, Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea and, for the first time, the NAFO Regulatory Area). Dedicated regional video-conference workshops with participation of risk assessment Member States experts, as listed below were organised. The two main outcomes of the regional meetings were: a) identification of those fleet segments with the estimated highest risk of non-compliance with the current regulations; and b) a recommended set of possible risk treatment measures to address each of the main threats identified in these high and very-high risk fleet segments.

On this basis, a series of specific actions addressing priority threats in the most relevant fleet segments and implementing some of the risk treatment measures, was agreed for the 2021 JDPs. In the following tables, the two highest levels of risk of non-compliance identified for each priority threat for the different regions and fisheries are presented (a more detailed overview on the risk results by priority threat is available in Annex I). For the pelagic fisheries in the Western Waters and North Sea the highest risk results are presented disaggregated by species.

Additionally to the meetings regional risk assessment workshops mentioned above, in 2020 EFCA organised two dedicated risk assessment workshops addressing non-compliance threats resulting from a non-agreement between EU and UK, already presented in section 1.2.1.1, item 1. Improved compliance, level playing field and cost-effectiveness in the North Sea, Baltic Sea, Western Waters and NAFO / NEAFC areas.

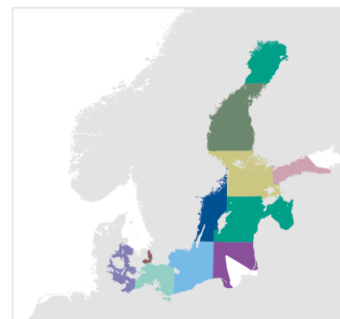
Risk Assessment meetings	
	Dates
NAFO	15 April
Baltic Sea	2-3 June
North Sea - demersal	9-11 June
Western Waters and North Sea - pelagics	23-25 June
North Western Waters - demersal	30 June – 1 July
South Western Waters - demersal	1-2 July
Mediterranean Sea	15-16 September 12 November
Black Sea	23 September
Annual regional and national risk management meeting	16-17 November
NAFO Post Activity Risk Assessment (PARA)	25-26 November

<sup>45</sup> Guidelines on Risk Assessment Methodology on Fisheries Compliance.  
<https://www.efca.europa.eu/sites/default/files/Risk%20Assessment%20Methodology.pdf>

### Risk Assessment summary

#### Baltic Sea - Fisheries with the highest risk of non-compliance

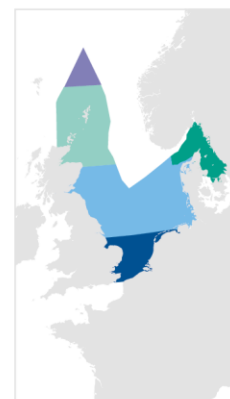
Gear – Mesh size – Fishery	Area	Main target species	Landing obligation	Mis-recording	Illegal gear	Other
Otter trawls ≥ 105 mm	22-24	Demersal species	High	High		
	25-27	Demersal species	Very High	Very High		High
Otter and pair trawls ≥ 32 and < 90 mm	22-27	Herring		Very High		
Otter and pair trawls ≥ 16 and < 105 mm	28-32	Herring		Very High		
Longlines	22-29	Salmon		High		
Fixed gears	22-32	Salmon		High		High
Gillnets ≥ 110 mm and longlines	22-24	Demersal species				High
	25-27	Demersal species				High
Recreational fisheries	22-24	Demersal species				High
Eel Fishery	22-24	Eel			Very High	High



Level of risk: High Very High

#### North Sea - Demersal fisheries with the highest risk of non-compliance

Gear – Mesh size – Fishery	Area	Main target species	Landing obligation	Mis-recording	Illegal gear
Otter trawls / Seines ≥ 120 mm	4.a	Cod	Very High	Very High	Very High
Otter trawls / Seines ≥ 100 and < 120 mm	4.a	Cod	Very High	Very High	Very High
	4.b	Cod	High	High	
Otter trawls / Seines ≥ 70 and < 100 mm	4.a	Norway lobster	High	High	High
	4.b	Plaice, Norway lobster	Very High	Very High	
	4.c	Plaice, Norway lobster	High	High	
Otter trawls / Seines ≥ 120 mm	3.a	Cod	High	High	
Otter trawls / Seines ≥ 90 and < 120 mm	3.a	Cod	Very High	Very High	High
Otter trawls / Seines ≥ 35 and < 70 mm	3.a	Northern prawn	Very High	Very High	
Beam trawls ≥ 80 and < 120 mm	4.b	Sole	High	High	High
	4.c	Sole	Very High	Very High	Very High
Eel Fishery	3.a, 4	Eel		High	

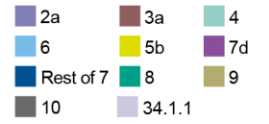


Level of risk: High Very High

**North Sea and Western Waters - Pelagic fisheries with the highest risk of non-compliance**

**Albacore**

Gear	Area	Misrecording
Midwater trawls targeting albacore	7	High
	8	High



**Anchovy**

Gear	Area	Non-compliance with the LO	Misrecording
Polyvalent -Purse seines	8	Medium	Medium
	9	Medium	Medium

**Blue whiting**

Gear	Area	Illegal gear
Polyvalent -Bottom trawls and bottom pair trawls	9	Medium

**Herring**

Gear	Area	Non-compliance with the LO	Misrecording
Freezer trawlers -Midwater trawls and midwater pair trawls	6	Medium	Medium
	Rest of 7	Medium	Medium
RSW tank vessels and Polyvalent -Midwater trawls and midwater pair trawls	3.a	Medium	Medium
	6	Medium	High
	Rest of 7	Medium	High

Level of risk: ■ Medium ■ High

## Horse mackerel

Gear	Area	Non-compliance with the LO	Misrecording	Illegal gear
Freezer trawlers -Midwater trawls and midwater pair trawls	6	■	■	
	7.d	■	■	
	Rest of 7	■	■	
RSW tank vessels and Polyvalent -Midwater trawls and midwater pair trawls	6	■	■	
	Rest of 7	■	■	
Polyvalent - Bottom trawl and pair trawl	9			■
Polyvalent -Purse seines	8		■	
	9		■	
	10	■	■	
	CECAF	■	■	

## Mackerel

Gear	Area	Non-compliance with the LO	Misrecording
Freezer trawlers -Midwater trawls and midwater pair trawls	2.a, 4	■	■
	6	■	■
	Rest of 7	■	■
RSW tank vessels and Polyvalent -Midwater trawls and midwater pair trawls	2.a, 4	■	■
	6	■	■
	Rest of 7	■	■
Polyvalent -Bottom trawl and bottom pair trawls	7.d	■	■
	Rest of 7	■	■
	8		■
RSW tank vessel -Purse seines	2.a, 4		■
Polyvalent -Purse seines	8		■
Traps, pots and pound nets	8		■

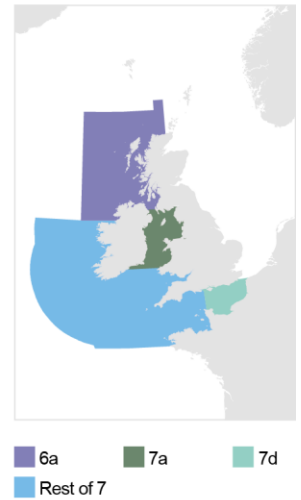
## Industrial Fisheries

Gear	Area	Non-compliance with the LO	Misrecording
Industrial trawls ≥ 16 and < 31 mm	3.a, 4	■	■
Industrial trawls < 16 mm	3.a, 4	■	■

Level of risk: ■ Medium ■ High

**North Western Waters - Demersal fisheries with the highest risk of non-compliance**

Gear – Mesh size – Fishery	Area	Main target species	Non-compliance with the LO	Mis-recording	Illegar gear	Technical measures
Trawls ≥ 120 mm	6	Cod, haddock, saithe, sole, plaice, hake	■	■		
	7.a	Cod, haddock, saithe, sole, plaice, hake	■	■		
Trawls < 120 mm	6	Norway lobster, sole, plaice	■	■	■	■
	7.a	Norway lobster, sole, plaice	■	■		
	7.d	Norway lobster, sole, plaice	■	■		
	rest of 7	Norway lobster, sole, plaice	■	■	■	
Beam trawls < 120 mm	7.a	Plaice, sole	■	■	■	
	rest of 7	Plaice, sole	■	■	■	
Seines	rest of 7	Hake, whiting	■	■		
Gillnets	6	Plaice, sole		■		
Lines	6	Hake		■		
Eel Fishery	6, 7	Eel		■		



Level of risk: ■ High ■ Very High

**South Western Waters - Demersal fisheries with the highest risk of non-compliance**

Gear – Mesh size – Fishery	Area	Main target species	Non-compliance with the LO	Mis-recording
Bottom trawls ≥ 70 and < 100 mm	8.a, 8.b	Hake, Norway lobster	■	■
Bottom trawls ≥ 55 and < 70 mm	9	Hake, Norway lobster	■	■
Gill and trammel nets	9	Anglerfishes, hake, sole		■
Eel Fishery	All	Eel		■

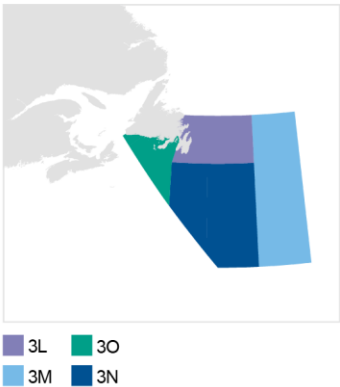


Level of risk: ■ High ■ Very High



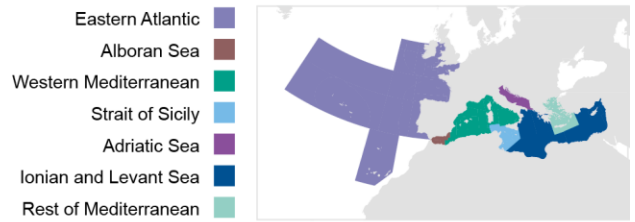
**NAFO - Fisheries with the highest risk of non-compliance**

Gear–Mesh size–Fishery	Main target species	Area	Species misrecording	Area misrecording	Move-on rules
Otter bottom trawlers	Redfish, green halibut	3L	Very High	High	
	Cod, redfish, green halibut	3M	Very High	High	
	Cod, white hake, redfish, green halibut	3N	High	High	
	Redfish, green halibut	3O	Very High		
	Skate	3N			High
Various	Skate	3O			High



Level of risk: High Very High

**Mediterranean Sea and Eastern Atlantic fisheries with the highest risk of non-compliance**



Gear–Fishery	Area	Main target species	Misreporting and/or misrecording	Non-compliance with quota or bycatch limit	Non-compliance with temporal/spatial closures	Non-compliance with the Minimum size of bluefin tuna and swordfish	Non-compliance with general technical and management rules	Non-compliance with the Landing Obligation
Trawlers	Strait of Sicily	Deep-sea rose shrimp, hake	■		■		■	■
	Ionian and Levant Sea	Blue and red shrimp	■				■	■
	Western Mediterranean	Deep-sea rose shrimp, hake, mullus spp.	■		■		■	■
	Adriatic Sea	Deep-sea rose shrimp, hake, mullus spp., Norway lobster, sole	■				■	■
	Mediterranean without Strait of Sicily, ionian and Levant Sea, Western Mediterranean and Adriatic Sea	Hake, mullus spp.	■		■		■	■
Purse seine	Mediterranean Sea without Adriatic Sea	Anchovy, sardine	■					■
	Adriatic Sea	Anchovy, sardine	■					■
Purse seine (catching vessels)	Mediterranean Sea	Bluefin tuna	■					
Purse seine (farms)	Mediterranean Sea	Bluefin tuna	■					
Purse seine (auxiliary vessels)	Mediterranean Sea	Bluefin tuna	■					
Purse seine (towing vessels)	Mediterranean Sea	Bluefin tuna	■					
Long Llines	Alboran Sea	Seabreams	■					
Long Lines, hand-liners	Mediterranean Sea	Albacore, bluefin tuna, swordfish	■	■	■	■	■	
Trammel nets and gill nets	Western Mediterranean Sea	Hake, mullus spp., seabreams	■					
	Adriatic Sea	Pandora, seabreams, sole	■					
	Mediterranean without Western Mediterranean and Adriatic Sea	Hake, mullus spp., seabreams	■					
Sport and Recreational fishery	Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea	Albacore, bluefin tuna, swordfish	■	■	■		■	

Level of risk: ■ High ■ Very High

## Black Sea - Fisheries with the highest risk of non-compliance

Gear	Main target species	Non-compliance with the LO	Mis-recording	Non-compliance with spatial / temporal closures	Fishing without license and authorisation	Use of illegal gears	IUU Fishing activities
Bottom set gillnets (authorised)	Turbot	■	■	■	■	■	■



Level of risk: ■ High ■ Very High

### Minimum common standards for national risk assessment systems

EFCA organised an annual meeting with Member States risk assessment experts to discuss improvements to the regional risk management and to provide support to national risk assessments. The meeting took place via videoconference, on the 16-17 November 2020. With the support of an external expert, EFCA discussed with Member States the result of the analysis of information reported by Member States when conducting their national risk assessment following the requirements of the SCIP. It is expected that the exchange of information and best practices will continue in the future and, as such, EFCA committed to define a way forward, considering additional exchanges with Member States to address specific national and regional needs.

### NAFO Risk Assessment and Post Activity Risk Assessment (PARA)

On 15 April 2020, via videoconference, EFCA organised for the first time a strategic regional risk assessment in the NAFO regulatory area. The meeting successfully implemented the EFCA methodology for risk assessment and estimated risk levels for each threat and fleet segment considered in the analysis. For those fleet segment that scored the top two highest risk scores, EFCA and participants from MS agreed on risk treatment measures for each threat in the context of possible recommendation for planning the 2021 JDP activities.

EFCA also organised the NAFO Post Activity Risk Assessment Methodology (PARA) technical workshop together with technical experts from MS and the COM on the 25-26 November 2020 via videoconference. The main objective of the workshop was to discuss in detail the methodology based on the experience the MS and EFCA have collated after a year of using it. Each element of the PARA was revised, and different approaches used to score the elements from MS were further analysed to have a consistent approach by MS and EFCA. Finally, the overall score was revised to account for new scores agreed. The new version of the PARA methodology was reviewed to be presented to the NAFO/NEAFC SG for approval.

## 2. Support the implementation of alternative, compliance-based methodologies for evaluating the effectiveness of control and inspection activities

### Specific Control and Inspection Programmes

The SCIP makes reference to the requirement for a harmonised methodology for risk assessment, and a methodology to define alternative benchmarks expressed in terms of improved levels of compliance (Art 7 of SCIP). These methodologies were prepared in 2018 by EFCA in cooperation with Member

States and finalised in 2019 and now are available on the EFCA website<sup>46,47</sup>. Considering the developments, mainly concerning progress on established compliance indicators, the documents should be considered live documents. At the annual risk management meeting with the Member States' risk assessment experts, it was considered that the current versions of these documents are a good basis for the work conducted by EFCA and the Member States concerning risk management and defining alternative compliance benchmarks. Work carried out to develop further indicators or to extend existing indicators to other fisheries/areas (see next section) has resulted in additions to the Guidelines that would be presented to the respective Steering Group for approval.

### Further development of compliance indicators

In 2020 EFCA continued to work with the regional indicators already established (for the calculation of illegal discard rates and for the estimation of the species misrecording, the latter specifically in the Baltic Sea for i) unsorted pelagic landings, and ii) salmon catches reported as sea trout. In these cases, the analyses were based on data collected during the last haul programme and dedicated specific actions, analysed by EFCA following previously agreed methodologies.

Further work has included the development of a new indicator to identify non-compliance with technical measures (specifically on the use of blinders and illegal attachments in beam trawlers in the North Sea) which was discussed in collaboration with Member States experts and presented at the Annual Risk Management meeting held in November 2020.

To compensate possible reduction of presential inspections due to the health measures implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic, EFCA, in consultation with the Baltic Sea, North Sea and Western Waters Steering Groups and with the input of the respective regional TJDGs, proposed additional crosschecks of the mandatory documentation (i.e., logbook and sale notes) to explore the possibility of using this information to monitor compliance. With this objective in mind, EFCA requested additional data to the MS concerned in some specific actions carried out between March and June 2020. The analysis of the data provided highlighted the potential usefulness of this data for the identification of fishing vessels with different catch patterns that could become targets for inspections. Results also highlighted that further work is needed to understand the sources of variability in the data collected, and in the applicability of available reference data for the calculation of possible indicators of non-compliance that can be monitored from year to year.

## 3. Improvement of EFCA information systems in support of fisheries monitoring and control

EFCA ensures that good quality data is available for the planning, risks analysis, operational coordination and evaluation of Joint Deployment Plans.

The main data received by EFCA from Member States was:

- vessel positions (VMS);
- electronic logbooks (ERS);
- summary of inspection and surveillance reports (*Activity Reports*);
- target vessels.

The data flow from Member States to EFCA was monitored on a daily basis. Data transmission incidents were reported back to EFCA and to the Member States concerned. Some standard processes have been developed for the monitoring of the data flow and data quality. For VMS and ERS a standard process has been established and manuals are available for EFCA data quality managers. In 2020 there was an increase on the number of vessels for which EFCA is receiving VMS, in view of the extended SCIP scope.

<sup>46</sup> Guidelines on Risk Assessment Methodology on Fisheries Compliance.  
<https://www.efca.europa.eu/sites/default/files/Risk%20Assessment%20Methodology.pdf>

<sup>47</sup> Guidelines on Indicators to Measure Compliance in Fisheries.  
<https://www.efca.europa.eu/sites/default/files/Indicators%20of%20compliance%20in%20fisheries.pdf>

Regarding control data (i.e. *Activity Reports*) in 2020 further work on quality check was prepared considering three levels: i) manual check by coordinators of data received by Member States; ii) development of business rules applied during the integration into the EFCA database of JDP inspection and surveillance information (JaDE); iii) a set of data quality reports available in JaDE user interface.

EFCA is continuously collecting and analysing the needs of end users and improving its Information Systems accordingly. One new version of JaDE has been released in 2020. Two new versions of ERS system were released improving the performance in the exchange of messages with Member States.

In 2020, EFCA has progressed on the establishment of a new unified architecture integrating all data domain dealing with fisheries and control data, in particular a data collection hub initialised with a data exchange over FLUX standard has implemented, which is already in use for exchange of VMS data. A project for implementation of a single vessel repository as master data and reference data management system was also launched. In 2020, EFCA has progressed on the establishment of a new architecture of a unified system for all data domain dealing with fisheries and control data, in particular a node for the exchange of data over FLUX standard has been implemented, which is already in use for exchange of VMS data. The exchange of ERS data via FLUX FMC will be the next step. A project for developments of an application for the management of vessels record and other reference data to be used in different data domain was also launched.

### **Integrated Maritime Services (IMS) for fisheries control**

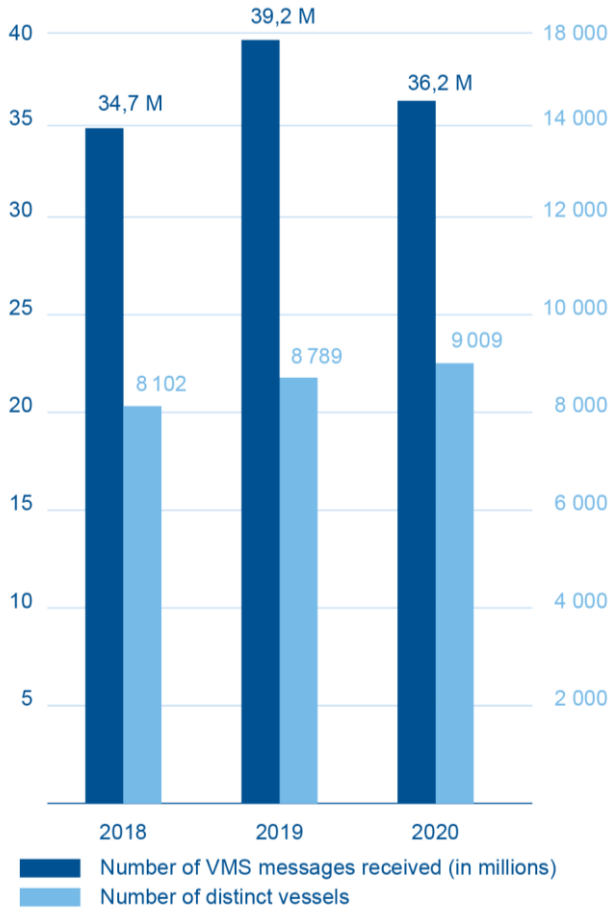
EFCA is also collaborating with EMSA in the provision of services through a web-based application, which integrates maritime data from several sources. This application offers a way to track vessels in real time, through the integration of vessel positions provided by systems such as VMS, Automatic Identification Systems (AIS) or Long Range Identification and Tracking (LRIT).

In 2020 the EFCA IMS application continued to be one of the main tools used for fisheries surveillance and control by its users as well as in the context of addressing IUU<sup>48</sup>. As agreed in the North Sea JDP decision, the Real Time Closures established in the North Sea are visible in the EFCA IMS promoting an efficient monitoring and control of fisheries activities in these areas.

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<sup>48</sup> More details please see Objective 6 - Improve capacities to implement fisheries control and support other coast guard functions.

Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)



Electronic Reporting System (ERS)

Messages	Vessels	Member States	JDP
 <b>1 495 820</b> Total number of messages pulled from Member States	 <b>4 185</b> Total number of vessels pulled from Member States	 <b>13</b> Total number of Member States connected	 <b>5</b> Number of JDPs configured

#### 4. Improvement of data management in support of fisheries monitoring and control

##### Data and System Governance

In 2020, EFCA has continued the implementation of its Data Governance Framework aiming at enhancing the quality of the data used in the support of the coordination of the JDPs. The EFCA Data Governance Framework includes several components, of which three were approved in 2020 (*Organization, Principles & Policies* and *Communication*). Regarding the component on *Processes*, three processes on *Data Quality, Data Governance Maintenance & Compliance* and *Demand Management* have been elaborated but still require a final validation.

Following EFCA Data Governance Framework implementation, the involvement of data external stakeholders was discussed at a dedicated meeting organised by EFCA with Member States and European Commission (5 February 2020, in Madrid). At this meeting the Data Governance Framework and the 2020 workplan was presented. The external aspect of the *Data Governance Organisation* component was debated and agreed, setting the basis of the involvement of Member States, European Commission and European Agencies in their roles as data providers and data users. At the same meeting EFCA also introduces its plan for improvement of the governance of IT systems used in the framework of the JDP.

During 2020, an external consulting company has been contracted to assess the current governance of the systems and to develop the implementation needs for a sound system governance. The outcome of this project is expected on the first quarter 2021.

##### Exchange of Inspection and surveillance reports

EFCA is also leading a project aiming for the automatic exchange of Inspection and Surveillance reports between EU Member States, Commission and EFCA. As a follow up of the amendment of the Commission Implementation Regulation (EU) No. 404/2011 in January 2020 with the publication of the related Implementation Document, EFCA established a new Electronic Inspection & Surveillance Report Working Group (e-ISR WG) with the participation of all Member States and COM. The aim of this working group is to facilitate the implementation of the system for the exchange of electronic fishery Inspection and Surveillance reports (e-ISR) based on FLUX standard. The working group is a forum to share ideas, identify and coordinate the production of common material, such as code lists, and address issues encountered by the different parties during the implementation of the data exchange system, in particular the interpretation of business rules. In 2020 the work of this group was conducted by correspondence and will continue in 2021. For some specific activities it has been decided to setup some task forces with a limited number of experts. The outcome of these task forces is used as input for discussion during the e-ISR WG meetings.

e-ISR meetings	
	Dates
Discussion on the need to establish the e-ISR meeting and Terms of Reference	27 April and 4 May
e-ISR Workplan	25 June
Task force outcomes	10 October
Code list and Business rules interpretation	15 December
Code list and Business rules interpretation	15 December
Recommendation for new timeline of implementation	15 December



### 1.2.1.3 INTERNATIONAL DIMENSION: COMPLIANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL PROVISIONS (OBJECTIVES 4-5)

#### ❖ Introduction

In line with the CFP basic regulation<sup>49</sup>, the remit of EFCA, the new Working Arrangements on EFCA's international activities between the European Commission and EFCA has been approved in 2020 by AB Decision 20-II-6. In this regard, considering the availability of resources the Agency continued to assist the Union to cooperate with third countries and international organisations dealing with fisheries, including RFMOs, in order to strengthen operational coordination and compliance.

OBJECTIVE 4		
Support the EU in the implementation of the external dimension of the CFP		
EXPECTED RESULTS		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support to the EU delegation in RFMOs meetings</li> <li>2. Support to the EU as regards direct cooperation with third countries without prejudice of PESCAO (under objective 5) and in the context of ICCAT and GFCM and other RFMOs, including through JDPs</li> <li>3. Assistance to the European Commission in connection with the evaluation mission to third countries as regards IUU Regulation<sup>50</sup></li> <li>4. Increased collaboration between Member States IUU competent authorities in the organisation of training sessions, verification process and risk analysis relating to the import of fisheries products to the EU</li> </ol>		
PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	Target 2020	Achieved 2020
1. % of RFMOs and third countries to which EFCA assisted on Commission requests <sup>51</sup>	100%	100%
2. % of analysis of catch certificates and supporting documents provided timely to the Commission <sup>52</sup>	100%	100%
3. IUU training sessions satisfaction rate	Attendees satisfaction (good or very good) >80%	100%
MAIN OUTPUTS		
Planned	Achieved	
1. Tasks assigned to EFCA in relation to RFMOs and third countries delivered in accordance with approved annual strategy for external dimension	Yes	
2. Pilot projects and cooperation with third countries	Yes	

<sup>49</sup> Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 on the Common Fisheries Policy, amending Council Regulations (EC) No 1954/2003 and (EC) No 1224/2009 and repealing Council Regulations (EC) No 2371/2002 and (EC) No 639/2004 and Council Decision 2004/585/EC (OJ L 354, 28.12.2013, p. 22); Article 30 of the CFP basic regulation: "The Union shall, including through the European Fisheries Control Agency ("the Agency"), cooperate with third countries and international organisations dealing with fisheries, including RFMOs, to strengthen compliance with measures, especially those to combat IUU fishing, in order to ensure that measures adopted by such international organisations are strictly adhered to".

<sup>50</sup> To evaluate the performance of third countries

<sup>51</sup> In accordance with the approved annual strategy for external dimension

<sup>52</sup> In accordance with the approved annual strategy for external dimension

3. Capacity building delivered to third countries as requested	Yes
4. Analysis of information and reports of missions in third countries encompassing IUU Regulation	Yes
5. Training sessions and seminars for Member States IUU competent authorities delivered	Yes

### 1. Support to the EU delegation in RFMOs meetings

Throughout 2020 EFCA has continued to closely support DG MARE during the preparation, participation and follow-up of the EUs representation in RFMOs (GFCM, ICCAT, NAFO and NEAFC). This has included technical support and contributions to proposals, reporting and the EUs engagement during the intersessional and annual meeting correspondences. Throughout 2020 almost all meetings were conducted through correspondence and/or through virtual meetings, which in general required an adapted and often intense working regime.

As regards ICCAT, EFCA participated and supported the EU Delegation in the ICCAT related meetings and in those intersessional meetings concerning monitoring and control issues. EFCA also participated in all relevant technical and coordination meetings with Member States in support of the activities for which they coordinate on behalf of the EU, such as the implementation of the ICCAT Joint Schemes of International Inspection and also providing support in the development of new monitoring and control provisions. Specifically, EFCA supported MS and the Commission in the re-drafting of the BFT Management Plan as well as supporting other initiatives and responses to ICCAT on all monitoring and control issues, follow-up and feedback.

An EFCA staff member continued to chair the ICCAT panel that deals with the development and reviewing of Monitoring, Control and Surveillance issues (PWG - Permanent Working Group) and continued to Chair the Technical Working Group for the Electronic Bluefin Catch Document Programme (eBCD TWG), both of which required coordination with the Commission, ICCAT Contracting Parties and the ICCAT Secretariat and its Commission officers.

Regarding GFCM, EFCA participated in all technical meetings with the Commission and MS and assisted in the development of proposals which will be put forward to GFCM in 2021. EFCA continued to provide general support to DG MARE as regards control issues following specific requests from the Commission, including but not limited to: the drafting of new inspection schemes/pilot programmes and associated Code of Conduct for Dolphinfish fisheries in the Mediterranean, assisting Greece and Cyprus in the fight against IUU fishing and developing a catch documentation system for turbot fisheries in the Black Sea.

In 2020, within the EFCA sphere of competence, technical support was provided to the European Commission on NAFO and NEAFC matters. Further details on these activities are provided in Objective 1.3. *Support to the EU in relation to RFMOs and third countries in the North Atlantic.*

Below is a summary of dedicated events undertaken or attended by EFCA in relation to our cooperation with ICCAT. The list does not include EU technical meetings, EU coordination, meetings with other ICCAT CPCs or Chairs internal meetings and bilateral meetings with the Commission, all of which were conducted by virtual platforms and/or correspondence and number (>65 virtual meetings).

Events/ meetings		
Events/meetings <sup>53</sup>	Dates	Location
ICCAT Working Group on Bluefin tuna control and traceability measures	2-4 March	Madrid
Intersessional meeting of ICCAT Panel 2	5-6 March	Madrid
ICCAT Annual Session (by correspondence)	October – ongoing	By correspondence

<sup>53</sup> Meeting and other related events in the scope of NAFO and NEAFC are reported in Objective 1.3. Support to the EU in relation to RFMOs and third countries in the North Atlantic.

## 2. Support to the EU as regards direct cooperation with third countries, countries without prejudice of PESCAO (under objective 5) and/or, in the context of ICCAT and GFCM and other RFMOs, including through JDPs

EFCA coordinated the EU contribution to the ICCAT Joint Scheme of International Inspection as regards BFT and SWO and also the EU contribution to the GFCM International Joint Inspection and Surveillance scheme for the Strait of Sicily.

EFCA implemented this activity through the JDP for the Mediterranean, where the compliance with the different relevant elements of the International Scheme were addressed: level of control activities, planning of means, notification of control means and inspectors, notification of sightings and inspections, etc., in full cooperation with the Commission and the Member States (see Objective 2 point 4. *Assistance to Member States, including to Regional Bodies, and the European Commission in the implementation of the CFP, including the landing obligation*).

The JDP was also used as a sustainable operational platform in relation with third countries in the scope of the GFCM and to promote compliance by the Contracting Parties. More specifically EFCA has implemented enhanced surveillance activities in the Mediterranean (for details please refer to Objective 2).

EFCA also continued to support the Commission in the implementation of a project in the scope of the WEST MED initiative on the establishment of Fighting Illegal Unreported and Unregulated Fisheries Fishing Regional Academy - FIUFRA.

Cape Verde requested assistance from EFCA to support national fisheries control operations in August 2020. After consultation with the Commission, EFCA provided specific support, resulting in the provision of 31 synthetic aperture radar images analysis by EFCA, permitting the provision of information on presence of vessels in the area of interest to the authorities from Cape Verde.

## 3. Assistance to the European Commission in connection with the evaluation mission to third countries as regards IUU Regulation

EFCA provided support to the Commission with the planned evaluation of third countries regarding the implementation of the Regulation (EC) No1005/2008 (the IUU Regulation)<sup>54</sup>. In this respect, throughout the year, EFCA was requested to support the Commission in the evaluation of 4 countries: Philippines, Ecuador, China, and Ghana. Due to the travel restrictions posed by the global pandemic, all possible missions were either cancelled or postponed.

In summary, EFCA assisted the Commission with the analysis of a total of 514 Catch Certificates and 191 Processing Statements (Annex IV of the IUU Regulation), in accordance with the figures presented in the following table:

Third country	No of documents analysed		
	CCs	PS	Other documents
<b>Philippines</b>	180	16	(+/-) 400
<b>Ecuador</b>	84	48	(+/-) 200
<b>China</b>	170	107	(+/-) 400
<b>Ghana</b>	80	20	(+/-) 200
<b>Total</b>	<b>514</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>(+/-) 1200</b>

<sup>54</sup> Council Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008 of 29 September 2008 establishing a Community System to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, amending Regulations (EEC) No 2847/93, (EC) No 1936/2001 and (EC) No 601/2004 and repealing Regulations (EC) No 1093/94 and (EC) No 1447/1999 (OJ L 286, 29.10.2008, p. 1).

EFCA also participated in one IUU Expert Group online meeting organised on 17-18 November 2020 by the Commission where, in connection with the CATCH IT system developments, possible new approaches in the implementation of the catch certification scheme were discussed with Member States' experts. EFCA provided its comments on a new Commission draft guidance document and, after the Expert Group meeting, gave further input based on its experience of analysing catch certificates and supporting documents.

#### 4. Increased collaboration between Member States IUU competent authorities in the verification process and risk analysis relating to the import of fisheries products to the EU

EFCA dedicated specific efforts and attention to the provision of training to Member States to assist them in the proper and uniform application of the IUU Regulation and to further foster cooperation and networking. To this end, the usual annual training cycle comprised of a "Newcomers" training in spring and an "Advanced level" training in autumn was foreseen. However, due to the COVID-19 restrictions, this planning had to be adapted and finally the "Newcomers" training was provided as online session in September and the "Advanced level" training was postponed to early 2021.

EFCA also organised on 27-28 October a webinar focusing on BREXIT with regard to the application of NEAFC rules and the implementation of the IUU Regulation, to which more than 100 participants attended.

OBJECTIVE 5		
To strengthen compliance through the implementation of EU international projects as regards fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance		
EXPECTED RESULTS		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Strengthening of prevention and responses to IUU fishing in the areas concerned</li> <li>2. Harmonisation of third countries legal framework in accordance with international standards</li> <li>3. Increased capacity of third countries fisheries inspectors and other officials</li> <li>4. Improved compliance, level playing field and cost-effectiveness in the areas concerned</li> </ol>		
PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	Target 2020	Achieved 2020
1. Joint regional missions organised with EFCA support	2	1
2. Number of trained officials in the areas covered by SRFC and FCWC	20	34
MAIN OUTPUTS		
Planned	Achieved	
1. Implementation of the activities plan for 2020 in the Multiannual 5-year PESCAO plan	Yes	
2. Annual programme of the PESCAO project for 2021 adopted	Yes	
3. Periodic reports of cooperation delivered to EC	Yes	
4. Training workshops at national and regional level, including dedicated training actions funded by international partners and agreed by the EC	Yes	
5. Exploring the preliminary participation in international projects as the ones under the Blue Economy West Med initiative and the ECOFISH Project in Indian Ocean	Yes	

## 1. Strengthening of prevention and responses to IUU fishing in the areas concerned

### PESCAO

The PESCAO programme was developed in the framework of the Regional Indicative Programme for Western Africa, both on component 1 (peace and security) and 3 (resilience). The Action Document was adopted by the Commission on 28 April 2017 - Decision C (2017)2951. EFCA signed its grant contract with the EU Delegation in Senegal in March 2018. The specific objective of PESCAO is to improve regional fisheries governance in Western Africa through better coordination of national fisheries policies. There are 3 expected results:

- Result 1: A Western African fisheries and aquaculture policy is developed and coordination of regional stakeholders is improved;
- Result 2: Prevention of and responses to IUU fishing are strengthened through improved Monitoring, Control and Surveillance at national and regional levels;
- Result 3: Marine resources management at the regional level is improved, building resilience of marine and coastal ecosystems to perturbations.

In the framework of PESCAO - Result 2, EFCA continued during 2020 to provide technical support to the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission, the Fisheries Committee for the Western Central Gulf of Guinea and their member countries, in a coordinated manner, applying its experience in the EU context.

#### Meeting of the Technical Committee

EFCA organised a Technical Committee meeting on 2 December 2020 on behalf of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Presidency. This was an opportunity for the partners to discuss the implementation, the orientations and the strategic axes of the project, circulate information between those responsible for the PESCAO implementation and the other ongoing projects, and ensure and develop complementarity. In addition, the meeting enabled the definition of actions that would be the basis for the work carried out the following year regarding the implementation of the elements involving EFCA.

#### Coordination with other projects/donors in the region of PESCAO

During 2020, EFCA participated in one regional MCS coordination meeting organised by the FCWC on 25 June 2020. EFCA also participated in the Annual Advisory and Coordination meeting organised by FCWC on 9-11 December 2020.

At these meetings, EFCA provided its expertise and experience in regional cooperation in the field of MCS, stemming in particular from its coordination responsibility in the framework of the EU joint deployment plans. The Agency also provided technical support in terms of the development of the regional vessel monitoring systems, regional observers' programme and Standard Operational Procedures for the FCWC.

EFCA also participated in the ECOWAS-PESCAO Steering Committee held online on 6 June 2020, and presented an overview of its activities in relation to PESCAO Result 2.

Regarding maritime security, EFCA participated in one online meeting of the G7++ group of friends of the Gulf of Guinea on 3 December 2020. The participation of EFCA in this meeting, in particular in the Virtual Working Groups 1 (legal) 3 (Maritime Domain Awareness-MDA), and 4 (training, education and exercises) enabled the identification of possible areas of synergy between PESCAO and these projects/initiatives.

#### Collaborative platform

In order to facilitate the access to project related documents and the exchange of information between PESCAO Partners, EFCA has made available a specific "PESCAO corner" in its e-learning platform.

## **Risk Management**

In 2019, EFCA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the FCWC, SRFC and the Regional Academy of Science and Technology of the Sea - Inter-regional Maritime Security Institute (ARSTM-ISMI) to optimise the synergies of the work done by the parties as regards fisheries MCS training. In 2020 and benefiting from the MoU with the FCWC, SRFC and the Regional Academy of Science and Technology of the Sea - Inter-regional Maritime Security Institute (ARSTM-ISMI), EFCA organised a regional workshop on risk management at ARSTM-ISMI premises. Nineteen participants from Benin, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Nigeria, and Togo participated in this regional workshop. The cooperation with ARSTM-ISMI, in terms of logistical and technical support, proved very useful for the success of this event.

The overall objective of the workshop was to strengthen the capacity of the FCWC member states' staff, responsible for implementation of national fisheries Monitoring, Control and Surveillance strategy, to perform risk assessment of fisheries compliance, in the support of a risk-based approach to management. The workshop therefore focused on deepening the participants' understanding of the use of risk assessment as a decision-making tool, to enable a more efficient, targeted and effective application of control resources, ultimately with the objective to improve compliance, reduce IUU fishing, and to ensure the sustainable exploitation of fisheries resources.

## **2. Harmonisation of third countries legal framework in accordance with international standards**

A report on the review of the SRFC and the FCWC member countries' national legal frameworks related to fisheries control and enforcement was updated with the latest legal developments.

The scope of the report comprises the analysis of the legislation of member countries of the SRFC and FCWC and the identification of needs and recommendations in terms of legal updating and/or implementation for each country. It is the reference document for EFCA's contribution to the harmonisation and updating of national legal frameworks in Western African countries covered by PESCOAO, with a view to align them with international standards aiming at eliminating IUU fishing activities.

In 2020 EFCA finalised the assistance to the competent authorities of Cabo Verde in reviewing and amending their draft legislation on the basis of (but not limited to) the recommendations formulated by the legal study. Likewise, EFCA finalised the review and amendment of the Togo National Plan on Action on IUU.

A new contract was signed in 2020 with an external expert to provide legal assistance to Togo and Benin. After a thorough identification of needs in conjunction with the competent authorities, EFCA is providing support on the drafting of implementing legislation. A final draft order defining the VMS rules and technical specifications was submitted to Togo. In addition, first drafts of implementing texts regarding the creation of an IUU vessels list, the powers of the MCS Division and a catch certification scheme have been prepared. For Benin, draft implementing texts on catch declaration rules and terms and conditions for industrial fishing licences have been submitted for comments to the competent authorities.

EFCA has signed two additional contracts with external experts with the purpose of providing legal support to Nigeria and The Gambia. A preliminary analysis of the legal needs has been carried out and submitted to both countries, with the view of finalising the assistance in 2021.

## **3. Increased capacity of third countries fisheries inspectors and other officials**

In spite of the global COVID-19 pandemic, EFCA was engaged in several capacity building activities for third countries both in the SRFC and FCWC regions in 2020. In cooperation with its partners, EFCA organised one online national training on fisheries control and inspection in Sierra Leone. EFCA selected relevant trainers from the PESCOAO pool of trainers to take part in the course. EFCA also participated in a regional training for fisheries inspectors organised by the Regional Academy of Science and Technology of the Sea - Inter-regional Maritime Security Institute based in Abidjan.



#### **4. Improved compliance, level playing field and cost-effectiveness in the areas concerned**

##### **Operational campaigns**

The SRFC organised one joint control campaign during 2020, with EFCA expert's participation. This joint campaign "Sardinelle" was carried out from 23 to 26 January 2020 under the coordination of the SRFC with a representative from each participating state (Cape Verde, Mauritania, Senegal and The Gambia).

The coordination centre was based in Dakar FMC where all the participants were able to pool their surveillance data, which allowed the inspection of 67 fishing vessels during the operation.

The EFCA expert was deployed in the regional coordination centre during the joint control operation and contributed with the provision of EFCA's IMS analysis of satellite images (Copernicus programme). This additional data included information such as vessel location, identification and tracking data (for example AIS). With a view to provide an updated maritime situational picture and consequently ensuring an informed decision as regards the areas of surveillance, the satellite images received were analysed and conveyed to the patrol assets.

An aircraft of the French navy participated in this joint control operation and was provided with a maritime situational analysis report prior to take off. This made it possible to optimise the targeting of the areas and vessels to be monitored during the campaign.

The joint operations continue to contribute to the development of a culture of cooperation amongst the countries in the sub-region, and to reinforce the cooperation between EFCA and SRFC. The results of the joint control operation also underline its value as a robust instrument to curb IUU fishing in the sub-region.

##### **Technical support to the implementation of infrastructures and equipment of the Regional Fisheries control centres**

During 2020, EFCA continued to work with the FCWC in the development of Specification of Requirements for the Regional VMS tender document and supported the FCWC during the Tender publication and clarification processes. Subsequently, EFCA participated as an observer in the Tender evaluation procedure, providing FCWC with expert technical advice.

During 2020 EFCA supported the work of the FCWC Regional MCS Centre in the development of Standard Operational Procedures for the running and the functioning of the FCWC Regional Centre for Monitoring, Control and Surveillance on a day-to-day basis, and for the Joint Operations for the FCWC sub-region, once this initiative is implemented. The EFCA participated in the working group for the coordination of this initiative.

##### **Chartering of aerial means in support of the joint operations**

EFCA prepared the necessary documents to launch the procurement for the chartering of aerial surveillance means under the Frontex Framework Contract, to support SRFC joint operations. The joint operations have been postponed due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, and as such discussions are ongoing with SRFC to identify the optimal deployment period and area for this initiative to continue.



### 1.2.1.4 COAST GUARD AND CAPACITY BUILDING (OBJECTIVE 6)

#### ❖ Introduction

#### Coast Guard functions

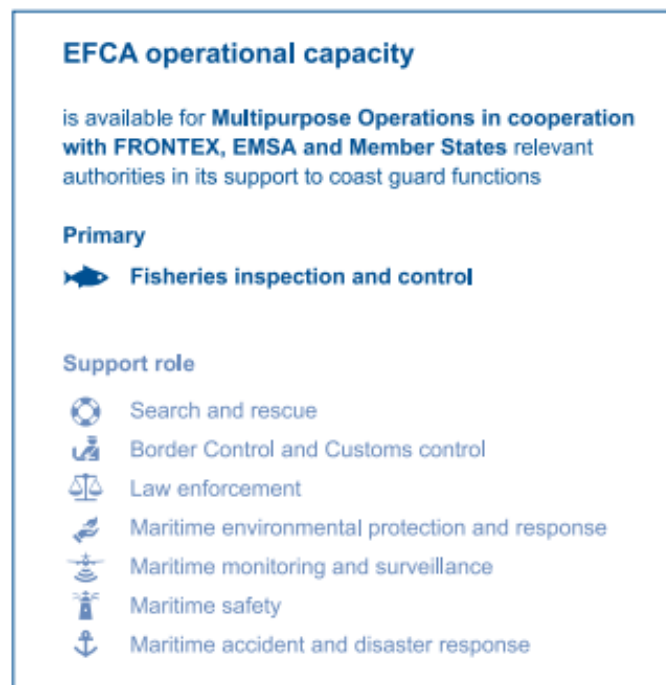
This strategic area was important in 2020 to strengthen EU cooperation on Coast Guard functions with other European agencies, in order to support Member States national authorities. EFCA is considered an agency inside the group of 'security' agencies and contributes to the EUMSS Strategy. Within the framework of the Tripartite Working Arrangement<sup>55</sup>, EFCA cooperated with Frontex and EMSA and assumed the chairmanship of this cooperation from May 2020 to support national authorities carrying out coast guard functions.

EFCA, while implementing its primary mandate related to fisheries control, and within the framework of the Tripartite Working Arrangement, always keeps in mind that the aim of the interagency cooperation is to support Member States' national authorities performing coast guard functions, by providing assistance and expertise on coordination and fisheries control using services and tools available at the other European agencies. This is implemented with the objective of maximizing the synergies between the different areas of cooperation established by the EU coastguard initiative and the EFCA activities.

In accordance with the Steering Committee and Technical Subcommittees created by the TWA, EFCA is closely cooperating with Frontex and EMSA involved to manage the collaboration at strategic and technical level respectively.

EFCA is permanently assessing available technologies and defining methodologies for the delivery of not readily available high-level maritime awareness and fisheries control information. This will also cater for a systematic assessment of the effectiveness, added value and opportunities for enhancement of innovative technologies and selected research projects from a fisheries control user perspective.

#### Coast Guard functions



<sup>55</sup> Arrangement signed on 17 March 2017 by the three agencies following the legislative amendment to the founding regulations of EFCA and EMSA and the adoption of a new Regulation for Frontex.

## Capacity Building

Training activities and training material in support of the effective and uniform application of the CFP are crucial to guarantee a fair and equitable treatment to the Union operators.

Especially COVID-19 pandemic has proven that availability and resilience of on-line tools/material are critical to ensure that capacity building process could continue without major interruption. EFCA continued the development and updating of the different training material to be used by Member States as well as to some third countries. In that regard, the EFCA e-learning platform<sup>56</sup> is accessible to MS in order to enhance harmonised methodology for inspections.

Training courses, seminars, mostly delivered by EFCA on-line covered CFP control and inspection and the relevant international instruments.

OBJECTIVE 6		
Improve capacities to implement fisheries control and support other <sup>57</sup> coastguard functions		
EXPECTED RESULTS		
1. Harmonised training programmes for MS officials including through the support to the development of a Sectoral Qualification Framework for fisheries 2. Updated training material following new Technical Measures Regulations 3. Cooperation with EMSA and Frontex in the implementation of the EU Coastguard initiative 4. EFCA control means chartered and deployed following the agreed planning of operations 5. Promotion of the use of new technologies for fisheries control purposes, including in cooperation with other EU agencies		
PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	Target 2020	Achieved 2020
1. Percentage of EFCA chartered means operational days carried out in multipurpose operations	60%	100%
2. Number of registered users in the EFCA e-learning platform	1000	1033
MAIN OUTPUTS		
Planned	Achieved	
1. EFCA e-learning platform available and updated	Yes	
2. Training delivered to MS officials on request	Yes	
3. Implementation of the annual strategic plan agreed with EMSA and Frontex under the TWA	Yes	
4. Training manuals in collaboration with EMSA and Frontex in the context of the EUCG functions delivered	Yes	

<sup>56</sup> Administrative Board Recommendations on EFCA Five-Year Evaluation (Recommendation 2), 21 June 2017, <https://www.efca.europa.eu/en/content/external-evaluation-2017>

<sup>57</sup> Article 3(3) of the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and repealing Regulation (EU) No 508/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council (COM(2018) 390 final, defines coastguard as follows:

'coastguard' means national authorities performing coastguard functions, which encompass maritime safety, maritime security, maritime customs, prevention and suppression of trafficking and smuggling, connected maritime law enforcement, maritime border control, maritime surveillance, protection of the marine environment, search and rescue, accident and disaster response, fisheries control and other activities related to those functions.

5. Support to European and Mediterranean Coast Guard Forums activities in cooperation with EMSA and Frontex	Yes
6. Training and support of coast guard authorities, including third countries	Yes
7. Fisheries control and multipurpose activities delivered by the EFCA chartered means	Yes
8. Reports regarding the implementation of new technologies in the fisheries control activities	Yes
9. Actions contributing to the implementation of the EU maritime security policy Action Plan, including with EDA and EU SatCen	Yes

### 1. Harmonised training programmes for Member States officials including through the support to the development of a Sectoral Qualification Framework for fisheries

EFCA provided training to Member States inspectors and promoted exchanges between Member States' Union inspectors in the context of JDP operations, both at sea and on land. As from March 2020, all training events took place online, and covered the tasks carried out by Union inspectors deployed in the framework of JDPs (see workshops for inspectors under Objectives 1 and 2), as well as specific training in relation to the IUU Regulation. It is to be noted that EFCA continued to make use of its event registration functionality in the e-learning platform to facilitate the organisation and management of training sessions. EFCA trainers also benefited from a tailored training on how to conduct on line training sessions.

During 2020, regional workshops for inspectors in all JDPs were organised and delivered by EFCA with focus on the standardisation of inspections and in an effort towards achieving a level playing field.

Additional information on operational workshops is provided under objectives 1 and 2. A summary table of training events organised in 2020 by EFCA or national training events to which EFCA contributed is available in Annex I to this report.

#### EFCA E-learning courses material

In order to promote and proliferate the use of its e-learning platform by Member States' inspectors, EFCA finalised the translation of the 3 Core Curricula e-learning courses on "inspection at sea", "port inspections", and "general principles and specific types of inspection" into Bulgarian, Dutch, Estonian, Finnish, Latvian, Lithuanian, Romanian, and Swedish. The translations into the same languages for the video tutorials on the use of mesh gauges and the IMS (developed in cooperation with EMSA) have also been launched. For each e-learning module, a number of quizzes have been drafted and translated, and a multilingual certificate of completion for registered users to the EFCA e-learning platform has been made available.

Based on the manual for FMC operators (EU) on vessels' tracking systems finalised in 2019, EFCA also launched the development of e-learning modules which will be made available on the EFCA e-learning platform in 2021.

For non-EU inspectors, the course "Introduction to inspection at sea/in port" has been made available to Western African countries and organisations covered by the EU-funded project PESCAO. It was used as a reference material for training sessions organised in 2020. A training manual for FMC operators (non-EU) on vessels' tracking systems has also been drafted, and the consultation with PESCAO partners was launched at the end of 2020. Based on this draft manual, the development of e-learning modules has also been initiated.

Currently more than 1000 staff from EU and non-EU countries are now users of the EFCA e-learning platform.

### Support to Member States training activities on request

On 27-28 October 2020, EFCA organised an online training session with more than 100 participants from 17 Member States on the implementation of the IUU Regulation and NEAFC Port State Control scheme to direct landings and imports of fisheries products from the United Kingdom as a third country. After this training session, a “Q&A” document was made available on the EFCA e-learning platform.

EFCA also provided support to CY, IT, HR, GR, IE, BG, RO, with participation of EFCA staff in the context of national trainings on MCS<sup>58</sup>

### Training and briefings in cooperation with other EU agencies

In the context of the inter-agency cooperation, one of the tasks is the organisation of relevant cross-sectoral training. In this regard, and in order to be in line with end-user needs, each Agency consulted its own community. EFCA consulted the Steering Group on Training and Exchange of Experience in January 2020, at a meeting in Paris. Each agency was invited to participate in the consultation meetings of the other two agencies. The existing cross-function training activities planned with the contribution of EFCA in 2020 were:

- Maritime safety and fisheries control rules applicable to fishing vessels – focused to the EMSA and EFCA communities, originally planned in June 2020, this event was postponed to 2021 due to the COVID-19 context.
- EFCA tailored operational briefings for the experts participating in Frontex maritime operations. In 2020, in total there were ten operational briefings provided by EFCA.
- Seven tailored briefings were delivered for Frontex Command and Control Centre Officers dealing with fisheries sighting forms.
- Two tailored briefings were delivered for Frontex European Coastguard Functions Officers working at Frontex International Coordination Centres in Rome, Madrid and Piraeus.

## 2. Updated training material following new Technical Measures Regulations

To give effect to its coordination duties and legal obligations, EFCA supports Member States through designing training programmes on fisheries control and inspection. A priority in the development of such training programmes is to create and make available reference materials for the training of the trainers of the fisheries inspectorates and of Union inspectors before their first deployment, the core curricula.

Essentially, the core curricula consist of several basic courses of practical knowledge for national fisheries officials involved in the control and inspection of fishing vessels and their activities. To date, the published core curricula manuals for the training of fisheries inspectors are the following:

- Core curriculum vol.1 Inspection at sea (updated version, 2017),
- Core curriculum vol.2 Port inspection:
  - 2a) Landing inspection (updated version, 2017)
  - 2b) Transshipment inspection
- Core curriculum vol. 3 General principles and specific types of inspection.

During the Steering Group on Training and Exchange of Experience (SGTEE) held on 14 January 2020, it was decided to update and restructure the three existing manuals in order to avoid overlaps and update/remove outdated content, in particular with regards to newly adopted technical measures. Since then, an external expert has been contracted and started its work at by elaborating an updated structure.

<sup>58</sup> For more detailed information see Annex I

### 3. Cooperation with EMSA and Frontex in the implementation of the EU Coast Guard initiative.

#### Five Coast Guard Cooperation Areas



##### Sharing of information

EFCA Integrated Maritime Services  
Sightings / observations



##### Surveillance and Communication services

Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems  
Piloted Fixed Wing Aircraft  
Copernicus Maritime Services



##### Capacity Building and Training

Coast Guard Practical Handbook  
Cross-sector training and capacity building



##### Cooperation on risk analysis

Cross-sector risk analysis  
Risk Analysis products



##### Capacity Sharing

Multipurpose Maritime Operations  
Operational briefings  
Sharing of airborne and seaborne capacity  
Exercises

#### Implementation of the annual strategic plan agreed with EMSA and Frontex under the TWA

EFCA organised and chaired the Steering Committee of the Tripartite Working Arrangement established between EFCA, EMSA and Frontex on 28 of May 2020. The Steering Committee also had participation by the Executive Directors and Agencies staff via videoconference. The TWA Steering Committee is chaired on a rotational basis between the three agencies, thus EFCA on 28 of May took over the coordinating this cooperation framework for one year, until May 2021. The Steering Committee is composed by the Executive Directors of the three Agencies and is the main forum to define and establish the priorities of the cooperation, through an Annual Strategic Plan (ASP). The ASP agreed for 2021 and incorporated in the EFCA SPD is project oriented and focuses on the specific engagement of Member States national authorities.

A detailed report of the implementation of the annual strategic plan agreed with EMSA and Frontex during 2020 can be found in Annex I.

#### Practical Handbook on EU cooperation on Coastguard functions

The founding regulations of the EFCA, EMSA and FRONTEX foresee that a Practical Handbook on European Cooperation on Coast Guard Functions shall be made available by the European Commission through a recommendation. The European Commission requested the three agencies to take over the drafting process, and to develop the handbook in close cooperation with the Member States. EFCA, that is the Agency in charge of this task under the TWA, coordinated an inter-agency group established for the drafting process and in June 2020 the first version of the Handbook was submitted to the European Commission. The Commission provided feedback by the end of 2020 that the agencies incorporated in the final document.

Experts from all the 22 Member States (coastal states) participated in the drafting process or contributed with the national information to the country factsheets. As Iceland and Norway are part of the EMSA and Frontex governing boards, experts from these countries also contributed to the process.

The draft handbook is composed of:

- A catalogue of services available through the three agencies,
- A training catalogue with all training and e-training available through the three agencies,
- A best practices guidelines and manuals catalogue,

- A list of regional, bilateral, multilateral and international cooperation mechanisms,
- Country factsheets, with information about national authorities with responsibilities to implement coast guard functions.

By the end of 2020, the Commission was also assessing how to make the handbook recommendation compatible with the need for updating it on a regular basis. The agencies are currently considering making the content of the handbook available online through a dedicated portal. This was also strongly recommended by the Member States experts during the drafting process. An online portal hosted by an EU Agency will substantially facilitate the consultation and use of the content by the Member States national authorities.

### Capacity Building

The ECGFA-Net project was financed by the European Commission and was implemented between 2015 and 2019. The main aim was to enhance educational cooperation in the field of coast guard functions and, consequently, to facilitate the interoperability and cooperation amongst different bodies carrying out coast guard functions, in order to enhance the coherence and effectiveness the different activities. EFCA is in the lead within the inter-agency cooperation of the process to take over the results by the three agencies and of the future cooperation with the Member States authorities.

In particular, the ECGFA-Net project developed a Sectoral Qualification Framework for the different Coast Guard functions. EFCA has worked with EMSA and FRONTEX to ensure continuation of the work done and finalised the process related to the hosting the ECGFA-Net Portal, which was made accessible to relevant users from various MS authorities dealing with coast guard functions<sup>59</sup>. EFCA has contracted an external expert to provide support in implementing the Sectoral Qualification Framework for Coast Guard Functions (SQFCGF) and formulate recommendations for future management in the inter-agency cooperation context.

### Risk assessment

The three agencies have in place their own risk assessment frameworks within their mandate to support national authorities performing coast guard functions (e.g. providing risk assessment tools, risk assessment analysis and products and/or Abnormal Behaviour Monitoring. The three agencies continued to exchange information about the types of data, methodologies (steps, levels and objective of risk assessment) and analytical products that each agency is currently using within their frameworks.

The agencies continued an exploratory analysis for a joint risk assessment outcome. Different maps were explored for the Mediterranean Sea by plotting the different data or information from the three agencies. There is an ongoing discussion about the additional data sets that could be considered for the purpose of risk assessment which could be also useful also for MS perspective.

In order to better address the possible needs of the end users in the risk analysis cooperation area, in 2020 the three agencies prepared a survey. This should provide more specific elements, indication and guidance on what the three agencies can implement together to support the national authorities.

### Capacity sharing

In cooperation with EMSA, EFCA has been active in the use and in the promotion of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems for fisheries control. These activities can essentially be summarised in the use of an RPAS on board the EFCA chartered vessel and in the cooperation with Member States fisheries authorities to demand RPAS services or to make the best use of existing RPAS services provided by EMSA in their waters.

Regarding the first activity mentioned above, a light quadcopter RPAS seaborne from the OPV Lundy Sentinel, was operated during most of the year of 2020, as a complementary fisheries control tool to have initial pre-boarding assessments, to monitor the ongoing inspections on board fishing vessels and to monitor post-boarding activities of the previously inspected vessel.

<sup>59</sup> <https://ecqf.efca.europa.eu/>



Regarding the cooperation and support to Member States fisheries authorities on the possible development of RPAS services offered by EMSA in their waters, EFCA cooperated closely in 2020 with Cyprus to analyse the feasibility of such a service. A service request in Cyprus was sent to EMSA, and during 2020, the operational conditions were analysed together with the necessary permits and authorisations.

EFCA continued to operate Lundy Sentinel with pollution response equipment installed on board, consisting of oil dispersant spray booms and an oil recovery trawl, to neutralise oil spills, provided by EMSA. This pollution response capacity is available to the EU Member States at their request. The OPV Lundy Sentinel is notified to the EU's Common Emergency Communication Information System (CECIS) as a vessel of opportunity (VOO).

EFCA, in cooperation with Frontex, has been deploying airborne means in the Eastern, Central and Adriatic Seas as well as receiving tailored sightings from Frontex airborne and seaborne means patrolling on Frontex operational areas. More information on operational support to MS with the airborne capacity can be found under Objective 2.

### **Cooperation with the European Coast Guard Functions Forum**

The chair of the European Coast Guard Functions Forum during 2020 was France. An online event in the framework of the Euronaval exhibition was organised with the contribution of the three agencies. A panel discussion on the EU Maritime Security Strategy was held with the participation of the Executive Directors of the three agencies. Virtual stands were also developed where information about the role and activities of the agencies was made available to the public.

A thematic workshop was organised by the ECGFF and EMSA in February 2020. EFCA contributed with two specific presentations on the use of new technologies for fisheries control, specifically the EFCA IMS and the use of a light RPAS deployed from an offshore patrol vessel. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the French chairmanship of the ECGFF will be extended, and the workshop postponed to be jointly organised with EFCA will be moved to early 2021.

### **The European Union Maritime Security Strategy and its Action Plan**

The European Union Maritime Security Strategy<sup>60</sup> and the respective Action Plan were adopted in 2014. The Action Plan was revised in 2018 and EFCA is included in this revised Action Plan as one of the contributing agencies for 24 out of 56 actions in the Horizontal part and for 6 out of 34 actions in the regional part. It is important to underline that the EUMSS does not aim to create new structures, legislation or additional administrative burden.

During 2020, EFCA contributed to the implementation of the Action Plan through its normal activity and reported regularly on the relevant activities performed for each action. During its activities under the TWA, EFCA promotes cooperation between the authorities performing coast-guard functions, that leads to better maritime security as it does not only improve situational awareness but also helps to anticipate threats and risks and maximizes efficiency of operations at sea.

To this end, EFCA coordinated an intervention of the three agencies to a meeting of the Friends of the Presidency - European Union Maritime Security Strategy group, organised online, where the three agencies presented the state of play of the cooperation and specifically what the three agencies are doing together to contribute to the EU MSS action plan.

### **Cooperation with EUROPOL in the field of fisheries**

In line with the policy framework endorsed by the Council, the EU Policy Cycle for fighting against organised and serious international crime for the period 2018 – 2021 operational activities were only partially implemented by different Action leaders and action co-leaders due to constraints caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The EU Policy Cycle for fighting against organised and serious international crime

<sup>60</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/policy/maritime-security\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/policy/maritime-security_en)



for the period 2018 – 2021 operational activities were only partially implemented by different Action leaders and action co-leaders, due to constraints caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2020, Spain joined EFCA as co-leader of Operational Action (OA) 2.1, dedicated to illegal fishing, while Portuguese authorities continued leading this OA. The OA 2.1 is one of the 20 actions under Environmental EU Crime Priority. The following MS and Agencies participating in the OA 2.1: Estonia, Greece, Spain, France, Croatia, Italia, Malta, Romania, EUROJUST, EUROPOL, INTERPOL and Frontex.

Based on the good experience from the operation in 2019, the intention to taking it a step further during 2020 gave place on 18 February 2020, in Madrid, to the “EMPACT – ENVICRIME: Operational Action (OA) 2.1 – debriefing and planning meeting”, joining Law enforcement and Fisheries control authorities. The main objectives were to deliver the debriefing of 2019 OA 2.1 activities and to prepare OA 2.1 activities for 2020.

The COVID-19 pandemic situation obliged to adjust the operational planning and to postpone to a later stage this activity. The OA 2.1, Illegal fisheries, will be one of the OAs of OAP 2020 that will be extended up to June 2021. In this regard fisheries control community has been updated by EFCA on the programme for the year 2021.

#### **4. EFCA control means chartered and deployed following the agreed planning of operations**

##### **Chartered mean at sea**

EFCA's chartered OPV Lundy Sentinel has been assigned as a fisheries inspection platform for JDPs all year around, in line with the JDP planning. Deployments normally comprised two consecutive weeks at sea and two days at port for crew and inspectors exchanges, as well as for the necessary bunkering. However, after March 2020, this deployment pattern had to be swiftly adapted as a response to the consequences of the coronavirus pandemic and the associated travel restrictions. The participation of Member States inspectors thus was not possible from March 2020, and all missions were to be delivered by EFCA staff. The duration of the patrols at sea were extended to four weeks or more and, after each crew change, a quarantine period of 14 days in the Ria de Vigo was introduced to minimise any potential risk of contamination (see also section 1.2).

As in previous years, the deployments of the OPV were implemented in very close cooperation with Member States. The patrols at sea are established through a risk-based approach and via the cooperation of the TJDGs members operating from Member States FMCs and/or from the EFCA Coordination Centre, which has also operated during the pandemic on a virtual mode.

EFCA chartered OPV contributes to the implementation of JDPs by adding capacity to fisheries control operations outside the territorial waters of MS. Until March 2020, it offered a platform to deploy multinational Member State inspection teams. These serves to promote transparency, level playing field and foster a good exchange of knowledge and expertise, in particular also with the innovative tools available on board the EFCA chartered vessel such as the light quadcopter RPAS. It also provided a first-hand understanding of fisheries situations in terms of compliance, highlighting issues which may need to be addressed through the SG and TJDG. It also provided an additional valuable information and data to help, fine tune risk assessment outputs.

Due to the limitations coming with operating safely the OPV during the coronavirus pandemic and the necessary periods of quarantine as indicated above, EFCA OPV was operational 240 days at sea, with a total of 40 inspections and 5 suspected infringements detected.

Besides fisheries control tasks, EFCA's OPV was made available to multipurpose tasks in the framework of European cooperation on coastguard functions, such as SAR, assistance and pollution response operations, in cooperation with Member State authorities, Frontex and EMSA. In that respect, Lundy Sentinel has on board equipment for pollution response and dedicated medical personnel was on board during the campaign in the Mediterranean Sea.

In order to be ready to face situations requiring immediate assistance to persons found in distress at sea, EFCA OPV is equipped with additional food and first aid supplies to support mass-rescue operations. It is important to underline that the EFCA OPV was available for potential pollution response

tasks also during the quarantine periods established by the EFCA protocol for the OPV to address the coronavirus pandemic.

Before starting fisheries patrols in the Mediterranean Sea, there was a common letter with Frontex launched to Member States (Spain, Italy, Greece) as well as Standard Operating Procedure (SOPs) agreed with Frontex covering the data exchange and reporting in relation to the OPV fisheries patrols in Frontex operational areas INDALO (Spain), THEMIS (Italy), POSEIDON (Greece) as well as asking for mutual assistance in cases of events that could include disembarkation of rescued migrants.

A detailed report of the operation of the chartered vessel Lundy Sentinel can be found in Annex I.

### Chartered aerial surveillance

EFCA is part of the new Inter Institutional framework contract *Aerial Surveillance Services for Border & Coast Guard Functions* launched by Frontex in 2020 and to be awarded in 2021. Through the call, EFCA will have the opportunity to charter flights for Mid-Range or Long-Range Maritime Area Aerial Surveillance depending on the operational needs.

## 5. Promotion of the use of innovative technologies for fisheries control purposes

### How we can benefit from control technologies?

-  Filling up in maritime awareness gap
-  Sharing limited capacity
-  Economies of scale
-  Increased reaction capacity
-  Continuous vessel behaviours monitoring
-  Planners and decision makers are better informed
-  Facilitating information sharing among authorities and across borders
-  Supporting further development of user community specific technologies
-  Contributing to the level playing field
-  Supporting sustainable exploitation of limited resources

### Integrated Maritime Services for fisheries control

The EFCA IMS is one of the cornerstones for the provision of the maritime awareness picture in support of fisheries control coordination activities at EFCA and in the Member States. The application – a result of a long-standing cooperation between EMSA and EFCA – remained under continued development driven by EFCA's consolidated user feedback. In 2020, the project plan for a new upgraded EFCA IMS V2.0 application was refined and agreed upon by both Agencies, the EFCA IMS V2.0 will be available early 2022.

By the end of 2020, there were 1053 credentials issued by EFCA (an increase of 8.3 % compared to 2019) to users of the fisheries control authorities in Member States, the European Commission and EFCA.

#### *Advanced use of the EFCA IMS and related applications*

EFCA, in its role of promoting innovative technologies for the fisheries control user community started to test, implement and promote the use of Automatic Behaviour Monitoring (ABM) functionalities in an

operational environment. The ABM functionalities, providing for automatic alerts using advanced algorithms on position data are embedded in the EFCA IMS. During 2020 EFCA set-up 35 In Area and Speed Anomaly ABM's and supported Member States in assessing the best possible use of such functionalities.

#### *Real Time Closures (RTC's) monitoring*

In 2020, the EFCA IMS was used for the first time to visualise and monitor RTC's. Following the decision by Member States to declare an RTC, EFCA integrated 3 RTC's into the EFCA IMS<sup>61</sup>. In this way, the RTC's could be visualised by all Member States. Furthermore, combined with area access ABM's these combined functionalities have proven most powerful for the automated monitoring of specific areas.

### **Earth Observation Technologies**

#### *Copernicus Maritime Surveillance Service*

In 2020, EFCA used the Copernicus Maritime Surveillance Service (CMS) – managed by EMSA - for fisheries control operations. As the CMS belongs to the Security Services of the EU's Copernicus Program, deliverables are systematically shared between the three Coastguard Agencies. EFCA promotes and coordinates the uptake of CMS Services for the fisheries control user community and feeds EMSA with user feedback on a regular basis.

During the year 14 acquisition requests were prepared and submitted covering various areas of interest such as the North Atlantic (NAFO-NEAFC), the Mediterranean Sea, West Africa and the Gulf of Guinea. Overall, 379 Synthetic Aperture Radar and 2 optical images were delivered for vessel detection or other specific monitoring tasks which were integrated into the EFCA IMS. Overall, 379 Synthetic Aperture Radar and 2 optical images were delivered for vessel detection or other specific monitoring tasks which were integrated into the EFCA IMS.

#### *Enhanced EO analysis*

In parallel, a more systematic approach was introduced by EFCA –in the framework of the EFCA Intelligence Capacity- for the enhanced analysis of Synthetic Aperture Radar and optical satellite images to cater for specific operational requests expressed by end-users. In parallel, a more systematic approach was introduced by EFCA for the enhanced analysis of Synthetic Aperture Radar and optical satellite images, to cater for specific operational requests expressed by end-users.

EFCA's involvement in innovative EO technologies was illustrated through our participation in specific Copernicus workshops, user meetings and technical working groups organised by EMSA as well as Technical Working Groups and expert user forums at EU SatCen. This further materialised through an increased consultation interest from project and open call consortia with research activities in this specific domain.

### **Support to maritime surveillance technology related initiatives**

In 2020, EFCA was involved in various EU maritime surveillance technology related initiatives, including some related to maritime cyber security.

EFCA is a member of the GOVSATCOM – H2020 CSA ENTRUSTED Project Consortium. This European Union Governmental Satellite Communications (EU GOVSATCOM) initiative aims to provide secure and guaranteed satellite communication capacity and services to EU governmental stakeholders (EU countries, EU Agencies and Institutions) for various security, defense, humanitarian aid, emergency response and diplomatic communication missions. In the framework of this project, EFCA represents and safeguards the user needs of the fisheries control user community.

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<sup>61</sup> See point 1.2.1.1., *standardisation*

EFCA is an associated partner of the MED-OSMoSIS project that addresses governance for Maritime Surveillance in the Mediterranean. The main objective of MED OSMoSIS is the development of a number of modules/applications regarding Maritime Surveillance activities.

In addition, as for EO technologies, the research community and related industry consortia increasingly consulted EFCA for the provision of input on various cooperative and non-cooperative communication, positioning and detection technologies. EU Agencies such as the European Global Navigation Satellite Systems Agency and the European Defense Agency facilitated contacts between their project stakeholders seeking specific user input and EFCA. This further confirms EFCA's role as a recognized reference for providing R&D with fisheries control user domain business needs.

### Common Information Sharing Environment (CISE)

Representing the fisheries control user community, EFCA has been involved since 2012 in the Common Information Sharing Environment (CISE) initiative. As from April 2019 EFCA is taking part in the CISE transitional phase. EFCA is a member of the CISE Stakeholder Group and other technical working groups created under this project which is entrusted with the fine-tuning and execution of the activities needed to reach the objectives of the CISE transitional phase. The objective is to integrate and make existing surveillance systems and networks interoperable so that data and other information can be exchanged easily through the use of modern technologies.

A major achievement has been made in 2020 when, in cooperation with EMSA and technical support from JRC, EFCA has succeeded to install the EFCA CISE Node and conducted successful tests with other CISE Nodes. The next step would be to develop "EMSA connector" in order to allow the exchange of specific data sets with other Nodes.

## 1.2.2. HORIZONTAL ACTIVITIES

The horizontal activities include:

Horizontal activities
Communication
Governance and Representation
Horizontal support

### 1.2.2.1. COMMUNICATION (OBJECTIVE 7)

#### ❖ Introduction

The Communication Strategy Plan ensures that EFCA activities are well known for the target audiences and stakeholders. Its activities are aligned with EFCA's Annual work programme and takes on board the feedback and best practices of other EU agencies.

The Annual Communication Strategy had to be adapted to the new COVID-19 by further developing the digital presence of EFCA to reach its stakeholders, basically through social media.

### ❖ Main activity results

EFCA's Single Programming Document confirmed that the core mission of the Agency remained focused on the implementation of the joint deployment plans, encompassing a significant part of the regulated species.

The communication activities also reflected the Agency's commitment to the European Union's international agenda as well as EFCA's tasks in the framework of the EU Coast Guard cooperation.

Moreover, the new visual identity and logo of EFCA rolled out. The new image is better integrated in a digital environment and gives a recognisable, professional and consistent image to EFCA.

The digital communication strategy of EFCA was revised and reinforced adapting to the COVID crisis situation. EFCA used its social media platforms to update about how operational activities were carried out adapting themselves to the COVID-19 protocols. More emphasis was put in the online tools to communicate what EFCA was doing in the absence of meetings and physical events, with the production of a video and a heavier use of social media tools.

Moreover, EFCA has had contacts with local media explaining its COVID-19 plan and how EFCA has adapted to the new situation.

<b>OBJECTIVE 7</b>		
<b>Promote a culture of compliance of the Common Fisheries Policy and foster the European Union values</b>		
<b>EXPECTED RESULTS</b>		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Stakeholders are informed about fisheries sustainability, the CFP rules in general and control measures concretely as well as its contribution to the European Border and Coast Guard and the cooperation programme PESCAO.</li> <li>2. General public is aware of the work of the EFCA in the area of control of the Common Fisheries Policy as well as its contribution to the European Border and Coast Guard and the cooperation programme PESCAO.</li> <li>3. Local public is familiar with the general values of the European Union</li> <li>4. Institutional partners are well-informed about the Agency's work and mission</li> <li>5. EFCA staff is informed and involved in EFCA's work</li> </ol>		
<b>PERFORMANCE INDICATORS</b>	<b>Target 2020</b>	<b>Achieved 2020</b>
1. Number of visits to the EFCA by stakeholders	7	1
2. Participation in international events, fairs, information seminars, conferences or meetings of other stakeholders that EFCA attended	9	11
3. Followers in Twitter	3000	2979
4. Monthly Number of page views to the EFCA website	8000	9783
5. Publications and audiovisual material produced	3	3
6. Number of meetings or events with the local public	6	4
7. Meeting with all staff when relevant	3	3
8. Satisfaction with EFCA's intranet	90%	90%

MAIN OUTPUTS	
Planned	Achieved
1. Organisation of visits in EFCA premises	Yes
2. Ensuring the quality and timeliness of EFCA's website content and social media presence	Yes
3. EFCA presence in the main EU fairs, events, information seminars, meetings or conferences related to its areas of work	Yes
4. Layout and distribution of the main publications of the Agency	Yes
5. Production of effective video material and infographics describing EFCA's work	Yes
6. Effective communication tools, presentations or briefings available for trainings, visits, meetings or fairs	Yes
7. Strong media relations on the topics covered by the EFCA	Yes
8. Reinforcement of a visual identity to be respected in the Agency	Yes
9. Organisation of international and local events with vast local institutional presence and media coverage	No
10. Cooperation with other EU institutions and agencies on Communication	Yes
11. Sound implementation of the Internal Communication Strategy, including staff meetings, cross-unit events and an updated collaborative intranet	Yes

### Results achieved by objective

#### 1. Stakeholders are informed about fisheries sustainability, the CFP rules in general and control measures concretely as well as its contribution to the European Border and Coast Guard and the cooperation programme PESCAO

Through its communication with non-governmental stakeholders, EFCA contributes to build a culture of compliance of the Common Fisheries Policy by generating trust, confidence and accountability of the CFP measures. For this reason, during 2020 EFCA was present in the meetings of the Advisory Councils relevant to EFCA work, such as the meeting organised by the Pelagic AC in The Hague in March.

#### 2. General public is aware of the work of the EFCA in the area of control of the Common Fisheries Policy as well as its contribution to the European Border and Coast Guard and the cooperation programme PESCAO

In view of supporting the Communication Strategy defined by the European Commission, EFCA met in DG MARE premises to plan the year ahead. The cooperation with DG MARE on social media has been constant throughout the year, through the sharing of posts and content.

One video was produced this year, illustrating EFCA's participation in the context of the European Coast Guard cooperation.

Regarding the online tools, EFCA's kept its website updated and intensified the presence of its social media channels: Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn, by implementing a designed social media strategy aiming at reaching out to stakeholders.



When it comes to publications, a short version of the Annual Report 2019 has been designed and printed as well as the Single Programming Document 2020. Other material was produced, such as customised USB and material for the PESCAO programme, such as notebooks.

With the design and application of the new visual identity and logo of EFCA, the different applications and tools were updated with it.

Moreover, EFCA issued 13 press releases covering different areas of its work, ranging from news on the adoption of the Work Programme and the Annual Report, operational support to MS, information on Real Time Closures, European Coast Guard cooperation, the fight against IUU or the results of the evaluations on non-compliance with the Landing Obligations in certain fisheries.

### **3. Local public is familiar with the general values of the European Union**

Until EFCA moved to telework during the COVID restrictions, EFCA received the visit from representatives from the University of Vigo and students from the school O Labor in Vigo.

Moreover, EFCA was represented at the most relevant local events such as those convened by Vigo city hall or the Port Authority. EFCA also held some VCs with local stakeholders, such as ARVI.

### **4. Institutional partners are well informed about the Agency's work and mission**

Under the interagency cooperation, EFCA participated in the online celebration of the Euronaval fair. It shared a virtual stand together with Frontex and EMSA and EFCA Executive Director was part of the Euronaval Round Table on "EU maritime strategy". EFCA's material was displayed in the virtual stand and the new video on coast guard cooperation was played during the ED speech in the roundtable.

### **5. EFCA staff: keep staff informed and involved in EFCA's work**

EFCA kept its staff updated about the epidemiological situation in its surroundings, the legislation and protocols applying to its region and the information coming from the EU institutions on health. For this purpose, the intranet homepage was redesigned to make internal news more visible, as they became a vital source of information for the staff. Both the intranet and the email were the main tools used. Meetings within each unit and management meetings were convened more regularly.

After every Administrative Board meeting, an information meeting was organised with EFCA staff to keep them updated.

#### **❖ Compliance regarding transparency, accountability and integrity**

EU institutions, bodies and Member States hold the EU agencies politically, financially and judicially accountable for their activities. These include the European Parliament, Council and Commission, as well as the Court of Justice, the ECA, the IAS, OLAF and the European Ombudsman.

All the meetings held by the Executive Director and staff with organisations or self-employed individuals engaged in EU-policy making and policy implementation are made public, in accordance with an Executive Director Decision on this subject.

EFCA's communication strategy and its presence on social media increase openness and transparency. EFCA has placed emphasis on developing a culture of integrity, loyalty and trust. It achieves this through the instruments put in place to ensure ethical behaviour. EFCA avoids situations that might impair its independence or impartiality, through its comprehensive rules on prevention and management of conflicts of interest. In addition to the staff regulations, EFCA has in place a code of good administrative behaviour for its staff as well as a handbook on management and prevention of conflicts of interest, which offer comprehensive information and advice on a variety of issues, ranging from behavioural tips to compliance with legal obligations. Furthermore, EFCA has in place a Code of



Conduct for all persons participating in EFCA activities. Operational staffers likely to be deployed in multipurpose operations receive a specific training on Human Fundamental Rights. EFCA provides compulsory training for staff on anti-harassment, ethics and integrity, and publishes the declarations of interests of the members of the Administrative Board, the Advisory Board and the management team.

It is essential for all staff members to observe ethical principles and standards of integrity and conduct. Adherence to these fundamental values requires continuous awareness raising, guidance and training. Moreover, EFCA implemented its anti-fraud strategy, which was based on a risk assessment exercise, taking into account the OLAF guidelines and in consultation with OLAF. EFCA has developed a culture of integrity in which related risks are identified, assessed and addressed. Compliance with rules and maintaining a high level of ethical standards are shared responsibilities of EFCA's staff, creating an environment of trust, loyalty, responsibility and respect in the workplace. To this end, EFCA has in place a number of tools for protection of staff in general, and whistle-blowers in particular.

#### ❖ Data protection

Activities undertaken in the area of data protection in the course of 2020 were in line with the principles of transparency and accountability, highlighting the status of data protection compliance in EFCA.

The ARES register of records was continuously revised and managed by the DPO, and the public part of EFCA records of processing operations were made available on EFCA's website under the Data Protection section – Public Register compliant to Art. 31 EUDPR Regulation 2018/1725.

The DPO monitored the guidance provided by the European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS) on how to comply with the requirements and prepared background material and answered to various surveys and requests for information.

Implementing Rules concerning the restriction of certain rights of data subjects in relation to the processing of personal data in the framework of activities carried out by the EFCA pursuant to Article 45.3 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 were drafted. The draft document took on board specific recommendations provided by the EDPS on 23 December 2019 after being consulted on EFCA's draft internal rules. The final text was submitted for Decision at the Administrative Board meeting in April. The adopted text was translated into all EU languages and published finally in the Official Journal of the European Union on 3 August 2020<sup>62</sup>.

#### ❖ Access to Documents

Access to documents is an essential component of the policy of transparency being implemented by the European institutions. Under the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU, all EU citizens and all residents of the Union enjoy this right of access, which is governed by Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 (referred to as "PAD Regulation")<sup>63</sup>.

To facilitate access to documents, the Library section in EFCA's website provides direct access to the majority of documents via a search form. The documents are directly accessible in electronic format. The main publications (i.e. annual reports and work programmes) are also available in the EU Bookshop catalogue, managed by the Publications Office of the European Union.

Documents which cannot be consulted directly on the Library may be supplied on request via a specific mailbox ([efca-documents@efca.europa.eu](mailto:efca-documents@efca.europa.eu)). After considering each request, the service responsible will send a reasoned reply within 15 working days. During 2020 there were four requests of access, which were responded positively.

<sup>62</sup> [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32020Q0803\(01\)&from=EN](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32020Q0803(01)&from=EN)

<sup>63</sup> Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents (OJ L 145, 31.5.2001, p. 43); applicable to EFCA.

### 1.2.2.2. GOVERNANCE AND REPRESENTATION (OBJECTIVES 8-10)

#### ❖ Introduction

Governance and representation cover the Administrative Board, Advisory Board and representation and networks horizontal tasks.

The Administrative Board is the governing and controlling body of EFCA. It is composed of six members representing the European Commission and one representative per Member State.

The Advisory Board is composed of one representative of each Advisory Council (AC)<sup>64</sup> and was established by the Agency Founding Regulation to advise the Executive Director and to ensure close cooperation with stakeholders.

OBJECTIVE 8		
Provide the EFCA Administrative Board with the capacity for achieving its responsibilities in governance and expertise		
EXPECTED RESULTS		
1. EFCA Administrative Board is regularly and effectively informed of the EFCA's work and developments 2. EFCA Administrative Board ensures the matching of tasks foreseen for the Agency in the single programming document and resources available to the Agency 3. Increased AB involvement and output legitimacy <sup>65</sup>		
PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	Target 2020	Achieved 2020
1. Number of Administrative Board meetings	2	1
2. Preparation and notification in due course of the Administrative Board:		
o Single programming document	100%	100%
o Annual Report	100%	100%
3. Preparation, adoption and notification of Budget and the Accounts in due course	100%	100%
4. Monitoring the submission to EFCA of Annual written declarations of interest of Administrative Board members to ensure a proper control of those declarations of interest and compliance with legal obligations	100%	95% <sup>66</sup>
MAIN OUTPUTS		
Planned	Achieved	
1. Agency Administrative Board Decisions	Yes	

<sup>64</sup> The Advisory Councils are stakeholder organisations composed of representatives from the industry, NGOs and other groups of interest. 5%

<sup>65</sup> Within the Five-Year Independent External Evaluation of EFCA exercise, the AB of EFCA issued a series of recommendations, one of them related to the Administrative Board functioning (Recommendation 6), 21 June 2017, <https://www.efca.europa.eu/en/content/external-evaluation-2017>

<sup>66</sup> Three Administrative Board member/alternate, who did not participate in the meetings, did not submit the declaration of interest by 31 December 2020. All members participating in the meetings submitted their declarations.

2. Adoption of the Agency single programming document	Yes
3. Adoption of the Agency Annual Report	Yes
4. Adoption of the Agency Budget and establishment plan	Yes
5. Adoption of the Agency Accounts	Yes
6. Annual Declaration of interest of the Administrative Board members submitted before the year end	Yes

### Results achieved by objective

**1. EFCA Administrative Board was regularly and effectively informed of the EFCA's work and developments**

**2. EFCA Administrative Board ensured the matching of tasks foreseen for the Agency in the programming document and resources available to the Agency**

**3. Increased Administrative Board involvement and output legitimacy**

The 34th meeting of the Administrative Board to take place on 2 April 2020 was cancelled due to the COVID restrictions. Nonetheless, all the documents prepared following the agenda of the meeting were circulated to the Administrative Board members for comments and information. Subsequently, all the necessary decisions were taken by the Administrative Board by written procedure:

- Annual Report 2019
- Amendment to the SPD 2020-2024
- Internal rules on restriction of rights of Data
- Staff Regulation implementing rules
- Final Annual Accounts 2019

The next Administrative Board meeting took place on 14 October 2020 and it was held online.

In October, the Administrative Board adopted the Working arrangements between DG MARE and EFCA as regards EFCA's international activities, Single Programming Document containing the Multiannual work programme 2021-2025, the Annual work programme for 2021 and the Budget and Establishment plan for 2021; the draft Single Programming Document containing the Multiannual work programme 2022-2026, Annual work programme for 2021 and Staff Regulation implementing rules.

In November, the Administrative Board adopted the decision on the Reporting Officer for the annual appraisal of the EFCA Executive Director by written procedure.

## OBJECTIVE 9

**Ensure an effective dialogue at the level of the Advisory Councils through the Advisory Board**

### EXPECTED RESULTS

1. Close cooperation with the Advisory Councils ensured
2. Facilitate the interaction of the Administrative Board-Advisory Board-EFCA<sup>67</sup>

<sup>67</sup> Within the Five-Year Independent External Evaluation of EFCA exercise, the AB of EFCA issued a series of recommendations, one of them related to the Administrative Board and the Advisory Board interaction (Recommendation 7), 21 June 2017, <https://www.efca.europa.eu/en/content/external-evaluation-2017>

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	Target 2020	Achieved 2020
1. Number of Advisory Board meetings	2	2
2. Advisory Board conclusions to be prepared, delivered and notified to the Advisory and Administrative Board in due course	100%	100%
MAIN OUTPUTS		
Planned	Achieved	
Advisory Board advice regarding the Multiannual and Annual work programme of the Agency, containing the main concerns, needs and priorities of the stakeholders to be considered in the Agency field of action	Yes	

### Results achieved by objective

#### 1. Close cooperation with the Advisory Councils ensured

The Advisory Board met twice in 2020<sup>68</sup>, both of them online.

Throughout 2020, EFCA participated in meetings of the Executive Committees and Working Groups of the Advisory Councils, especially in those of the ACs affected by the Joint Deployment Plans adopted by EFCA, and when items related to EFCA competences were included in the agendas. The knowledge gained during the meetings supported the coordination function of the Agency by keeping EFCA staff informed of the discussions taking place and the main issues of concern for the AC members.

Advisory Council meetings		
Meeting	Dates	Location
BSAC <sup>69</sup> Ex Com meetings	20 January 4 September	Brussels Videoconference
Inter AC meeting	28 April	Videoconference
BSAC Ecosystem based working group meeting	21-22 September	Videoconference
AAC <sup>70</sup> General Assembly	8 September 2020	Videoconference
LDAC WG 5 Horizontal Issues	17-18 September	Videoconference
LDAC WG 2 North Atlantic RFMOs and Fishing Agreements	6 November	Videoconference
PELAC <sup>71</sup> Ex Com meeting, WG I and II	4 March	The Hague
PELAC WG I and II	7 October	Videoconference
NSAC <sup>72</sup> Demersal Working Group meeting	13 November	Videoconference
MEDAC <sup>73</sup> General Assembly, Focus Group Strait of Sicily meeting	19 February	Rome

<sup>68</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/partners/advisory-councils\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/partners/advisory-councils_en)

<sup>69</sup> Baltic Sea Advisory Council (BSAC)

<sup>70</sup> Aquaculture Advisory Council (AAC)

<sup>71</sup> Pelagic Advisory Council (PELAC)

<sup>72</sup> North Sea Advisory Council (NSAC)

<sup>73</sup> Mediterranean Advisory Council (MedAC)

## 2. Facilitate the interaction between the Administrative Board and Advisory Board of EFCA

To promote the participation of the Administrative Board members in the Advisory Board, thus to boost interaction among the two bodies, in October 2020 the Advisory Board invited the Administrative Board members. Five Member States attended the Advisory Board meeting.

A representative of the Advisory Board took part in the deliberations of the Administrative Board meetings without the right to vote. The Advisory Board representative in the EFCA Administrative Board was appointed in accordance with the yearly rotation system agreed by the Advisory Board members. From 2 March 2020 to 1 March 2021 the representative of the Advisory Board was Mr Daniel Buhai, from the Black Sea Advisory Council and the alternate, Mr José Manuel Fernández Beltrán from the Pelagic Advisory Council.

OBJECTIVE 10		
Ensure the Agency representation, cooperation, dialogue and transparency with other institutional bodies, EU agencies and third parties		
EXPECTED RESULTS		
1. Synergies with other Institutions and bodies were enhanced 2. EU institutions and bodies and general stakeholders were informed on EFCA activities		
PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	Target 2020	Achieved 2020
1. Participation on the Heads of Agencies and Heads of Administration network meetings (number of meetings)	2 meetings	9 meetings
2. List of meetings where EFCA has participated to be communicated to the Administrative Board	Twice a year under the AB Information from the Executive Director	2
MAIN OUTPUTS		
Planned	Achieved	
1. Attendance to relevant meetings for the Agency	Yes	
2. Contribution to the EU decentralised Agencies working groups	Yes	
3. Presentations and briefings delivered in the different meetings	Yes	
4. Briefings and documents issued to inform the institutional bodies and third parties	Yes	

- 1. Synergies with other Institutions and bodies were enhanced and**
- 2. EU institutions and bodies and general stakeholders were informed on EFCA activities**

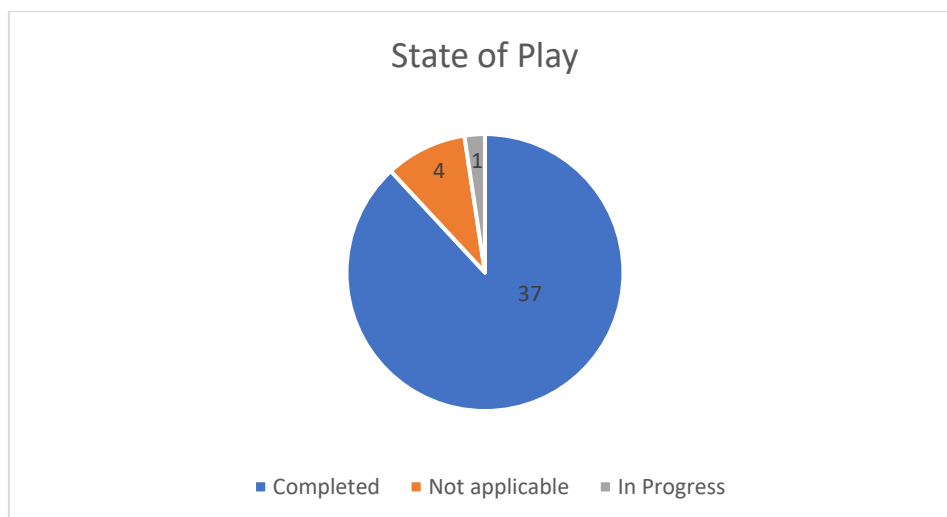
EFCA attended the meetings convened by the European Commission, where its presence was desirable, required or in the interest of the Agency.

On horizontal matters, the inter-agency cooperation network coordinates the relations between Agencies, the Commission and the European Parliament. In this context, the Executive Director and the Head of Unit Resources attended the various meetings held at managerial level. Likewise, Agency staff met their counterparts through specific technical networks: Procurement, Communication, Data protection, Legal, IT, the Performance Development Network (PDN) and Accounting. The PDN has

worked, among other areas on the revision of the template of the Single Programming Document and the Consolidated Annual Activity Report and Sustainability Reporting among other issues.

Noteworthy is the contribution of EFCA to the Roadmap proposed by the European Commission following the tripartite approach on EU decentralised agencies endorsed by the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission in July 2012. EFCA is actively committed to put in place the actions to be performed as defined by the Commission.

The progress of each action is closely followed-up and the state of play as of 31 December 2020 is as follows:



The Agency was also represented on the Board of the Translation Centre in LU.

### 1.2.2.3. HORIZONTAL SUPPORT (OBJECTIVE 11)

#### ❖ Introduction

Ensure the optimisation in the allocation and use of EFCA's resources in accordance with the principle of sound financial management and with the guarantee concerning the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions. Ensure the rationalisation, simplification, scalability and streamlining of EFCA's processes. In particular, it entails the provision of the support necessary for the administrative, financial and physical functioning of the Agency as an independent body, including the support of Protocol issues under the Seat Agreement with Spain, ICT helpdesk, and security of people, premises, and properties.

OBJECTIVE 11
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ensure the optimisation in the allocation and use of EFCA's resources in accordance with the principle of sound financial management and with the guarantee concerning the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions</b></li> <li>• <b>Ensure the rationalisation, simplification, scalability and streamlining of EFCA's processes</b></li> </ul>
EXPECTED RESULTS
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Increase of efficiency in the administration through further efforts in the area of e-administration and maintain the levels already achieved in this respect.</li> <li>2. Maintaining high levels of budget implementation performance through close budget programming, reporting and regular follow up of the information gathered from the financial systems and the input from the operational units.</li> <li>3. Compliance with all legal requirements in the operational and administrative fields ensured.</li> <li>4. Highly available, secure and cost-effective ICT services to support the EFCA business processes and its internal/ external operational activities ensured.</li> </ol>

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	Target 2020	Achieved 2020
1. Execution payments appropriations	>70%	81%
2. Percentage of planned procurements launched	>80%	83%
3. Open remarks/ recommendations from ECA and IAS <sup>74</sup>	<2	0
4. Availability rate for all operational applications hosted by EFCA	>99%	99.8%
5. Sysper modules made available to EFCA implemented	>90%	62%
MAIN OUTPUTS		
Planned	Achieved	
1. Implementation of the modules of e-Prior and Sysper made available to EFCA	Yes	
2. Regular Reports to management on administrative implementation and forecasted information (budget, recruitment, procurement, training, etc.)	Yes	
3. Regular monitoring and implementation of any open remarks/ recommendations from ECA and IAS	Yes	
4. Use of Cloud or synergy with other Agencies for hosting infrastructure/applications maximised where applicable.	Yes	

### Results achieved by objective

#### 1. Increase of efficiency in the administration through further efforts in the area of e-administration and maintain the levels already achieved in this respect

EFCA has been strongly betting for a paperless and electronic ways of working for the past 5 years. It has been investing resources and advancing in this objective for the last years, automating its administrative procedures through **Sysper** (HR), **MIPS** (mission management), **AGM** (meeting reimbursements management), **e-Submission** (Procurement) and many other measures making all these procedures more efficient and less paper dependent.

Particularly in 2020, many of the objectives set out in this area have been achieved earlier than expected due to the teleworking arrangements as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic situation. All horizontal support procedures have now achieved a 100% paperless objective.

- All signatures requiring a blue ink signature in the past are now signed through EU SIGN platform. This implementation affects all areas in administration, and mainly for the signature of contracts, tax certificates and procurement documents.
- All financial and procurement procedures were mirrored in ARES through e-signatories.
- The VAT certificates procedures have been further improved.
- As regards Sysper, few new modules and functionalities were implemented or prepared for implementation. As happened in previous years, the Directorate-General for Human Resources and Security (DG HR), the Directorate-General for Informatics (DG DIGIT) and the Paymaster's Office (PMO) updated the planning in the course of the year, which caused delays in the implementation; inter alia the implementation of the Ethics module was postponed to 2021.

In addition, the budget adoption and programming process has been automatized, reducing the dependence on the excel workbooks for this purpose. The new budget programming tool (BAPT) will allow the users to enter their budget forecasts and will contrast implementation information during the financial year.

<sup>74</sup> Recommendations rated Very Important or Critical.



## **2. Maintaining high levels of budget implementation performance through close budget programming, reporting and regular follow up of the information gathered from the financial systems and the input from the operational units**

The budget implementation for 2020 has been lower than in previous years, but EFCA still achieved a level above what was expected considering the circumstances. The COVID-19 pandemic did not allow the implementation of 90% of the meetings and missions budget in 2020. The regular meetings with the operational units, the monthly reporting and the budget conferences organised during the year helped in the evaluation of the budget impact of the COVID-19. EFCA was able to compensate this impact in the budget forecast by incorporating commitments for additional chartering of means, replacement of obsolete equipment, additional communication efforts and other contracts planned for 2021. In addition, the appropriations carried forward to 2020 were closely monitored, resulting in an execution of 93.5%.

All details related to the budget implementation can be found in Annex II and in section 2.3.1.

## **3. Compliance with all legal requirements in the operational and administrative fields ensured**

By the end of the summer, the ECA performed the first audit mission of 2020 financial year and will finalise the audit of year 2020 during the first quarter of 2021. There were no preliminary findings for year 2020, and there was full compliance with the regularity and legality of the financial transactions.

## **4. Highly available, secure and cost-effective ICT services to support the EFCA business processes and its internal/ external operational activities ensured**

Regarding the improvement of the efficiency of EFCA administration and operations, several tasks were performed in 2019.

- Set the IT Governance Framework based on the IAS audit recommendations and according to the Control Objectives for Information and Related Technologies (COBIT), ITIL, Capability Maturity Model Integration (CMMI) and other frameworks and methodologies.

The following policies have been approved or drafted more concretely.

- A Service catalogue has been created to describe the IT services EFCA provides to internal and external users. It has been agreed in the Information Technology Steering Committee (ITSC) and approved by Executive Director.
- The requirements for gathering management policy have been established.
- Fishnet migration took place in November. The new platform provides enhanced security, more capabilities for collaboration and is more stable. There was a significant effort made to ensure the migration was as seamless as possible for the users. The migration is part of the strategic decision to minimise the technologies used and thus the cost of operating them.
- The support of IT in the effort of the Agency to reduce the carbon footprint by reducing missions and meeting has resulted in the investment in the acquisition of state-of-the-art video/web conference platforms. Apart from the functionality already provided in Fishnet the meeting rooms will have also physical equipment for videoconference.
- Back office functions (email, intranet etc.) have moved to the cloud in order to minimise the cost in the long term and enhance the security and agility. Also moving to the cloud gives EFCA the ability to try and use new technologies faster.

The automation of the budget programming process has been launched and will be finalised in 2020.

Continuing the Digital Workplace Enhancement, EFCA has continued to move systems to the cloud. The use of the cloud provided better control of the cost per system and thus better transparency.

EFCA, since August, is hosting the European Coast Guard Functions Training platform.

The yearly maintenance of operational applications (ERS, JaDE and VMS) continued throughout the year with frequent updates.

### ❖ Facilities

#### Physical Security, Health and Safety & Workplace improvement

As of March 2020, the actions in Workplace Improvement and Health and Safety have been focussed in the adaptation of the EFCA premises to the sanitary crisis and establishing prevention and protection protocols. Measures taken are, among others: Reduction of the access to the premises to the strict need to go principle and fixing a maximum number of staff and users on site; Scheduling and recording presence on site to allow tracking in case of incident; Restricting number of physical meetings; Closing security front desk with glass partitions; Establishing directions for internal circulation of staff and users in the building; Installing hydro alcoholic gel dispensers on each floor; Establishing specific cleaning protocols for constant disinfection of surfaces and risk areas; Establishing a compulsory body temperature check at the entrance for all users and visitors; revising protocol for mail/post distribution and pick-up; Launching specific communication campaign, etc.

The established protocols to face the COVID-19 situation have been audited by AENOR and a Certification of the protocols has been granted.

Physical security has been maintained during the whole sanitary crisis by permanent presence of the security guards and the unchanged use of the security systems.

### ❖ Business Continuity Plan (BCP)

Although not considered as a Business Continuity situation, the sanitary crisis and consequential massive teleworking has proven the resilience of the Agency in front of critical and long-lasting situations. From early March 2020 on, the EFCA Business Continuity Management Team monitored and analysed the impact of telework of nearly all staff caused by the pandemic on the business continuity. It concluded early on that EFCA was well prepared to continue its operations reliably via telework and did not recommend to the Executive Director to activate the EFCA Business Continuity Plan at any point during 2020. It suggested, however, some adaptations of the units' individual Recovery Actions Plans and specific arrangements for back-up solutions in case of COVID-19 related direct or indirect absences affecting up to 30% of the staff as a precautionary assumption, which were subsequently implemented. No additional BCP exercise has been organised.

### ❖ Information Security Management

The International Standard Organization (ISO) has published ISO/IEC 2700x series as the international standard for the management of information assets and to safeguard business continuity. Its objective is to help organisations like EFCA ensure that information assets are always adequately protected and are available when they are needed. The aim is to achieve in the most pragmatic way possible an Information Security Management System (ISMS) which can eventually be certified according to the standard UNI/EN ISO 27001– 2016.

The ITSC decided in March 2016 to establish an Information Security Management System based on the international standard ISO 2700x series. Following preparatory work in 2017, the implementation phase started in 2018.

Accordingly, 15 new ISMS policies were drafted in 2019 that govern the full set of 114 information security controls of the standard ISO. In 2020 the policies were revised and updated to the version 2016 of the standard ISO27001. Two of them were also registered in ARES and now are in force.

## PART II (A) MANAGEMENT

### 2.1 ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD

22.04.2020	Decision No 20-W-1	Adoption of the Annual Report of EFCA for year 2019
22.04.2020	Decision No 20-W-2	Amendment of the AB Decision No 19-II-4 of 22 October 2019 concerning the adoption of the EFCA Single Programming Document containing the Multiannual work programme 2020 - 2024 and the Annual work programme for year 2020 and of the Budget and the Establishment Plan of the European Fisheries Control Agency for year 2020
22.04.2020	Decision No 20-W-3	Internal rules concerning the restriction of certain rights of data subjects in relation to the processing of personal data in the framework of activities carried out by the European Fisheries Control Agency
22.04.2020	Decision No 20-W-4	The non-application of the Commission Decision on the maximum duration for the recourse to non-permanent staff in the Commission services
23.06.2020	Decision No 20-W-5	Adoption of the EFCA Final Annual Accounts for financial year 2019
14.10.2020	Decision No 20-II-6	Article 30 of the CFP - approving the Working arrangements between DG MARE and EFCA as regards EFCA's international activities
14.10.2020	Decision No 20-II-7	Adoption of the EFCA Single Programming Document containing the Multiannual work programme 2021 - 2025 and the Annual work programme for year 2021 and of the Budget and the Establishment Plan of the European Fisheries Control Agency for year 2021
14.10.2020	Decision No 20-II-8	Adoption of the EFCA Draft Single Programming Document containing the Multiannual work programme 2022 - 2026 and the Annual work programme for year 2022
14.10.2020	Decision No 20-II-9	Adoption of General implementing provisions to the Staff Regulations
24.11.2020	Decision No 20-W-6	Reporting Officer for the annual appraisal of the EFCA Executive Director

### 2.2 MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

COVID-19 was a major event that impacted also in EFCA's activities. In early April, EFCA took measures to adjust its operational activities to adapt to the new situation as described in point 1.2.1. With these measures, EFCA ensured that the fundamental aspects of the JDP were fully addressed, including in particular the prioritisation of international obligations to which the EU was concerned and those originating from RFMO rules.

EFCA's corporate services also adapted to the new circumstances as it has been reported in the results of objectives 7, 8, 9 and 10.

The other major external development in 2020 that impacted EFCA's activities was BREXIT. EFCA preparedness for the different scenarios is reported under the results of Objective 1.

The adoption of the Green Deal is another policy development in which the Common Fisheries Policy is enshrined and to which EFCA contributes through its work promoting a culture of compliance.

## 2.3 BUDGETARY AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

### 2.3.1. BUDGETARY AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT (ART 103 FFR)

The financial year 2020 has been strongly marked by the pandemic situation as a result of the COVID-19. The complete stop to the travelling by staff and experts from all Member States have had a direct effect in the budget implementation of EFCA's 2020 budget. The budget lines heavily affected by travelling suffered a reduction in the implementation of missions and meetings appropriations. Nevertheless, EFCA pooled its resources together to continue the implementation in alternative ways and make an efficient use of the budget by bringing forward some contracts planned for 2021, as well as making investments in IT equipment and building maintenance which had not been possible in previous years due to shortages in the budget. The final implementation of the budget is 97.3% for commitments and 81.2% for payments. Particularly on the operational expenditure, the commitment implementation was 96.6% from which 16% was carried forward for payment in 2021.

There were no amendments to the initial voted budget 2020, and the transfers performed per title are reflected below.

	TITLE	Voted budget	Transferred	Appropriations (non-differentiated)
1	Staff Expenditure	8,591,000	-235,350	8,355,650
2	Building and Administrative Expenditure	1,570,000	235,350	1,805,350
3	Operational Expenditure	6,739,000	-	6,739,000
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16,900,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>16,900,000</b>

Further details of amounts transferred can be found in Annex II.

The implementation of the ad-hoc grant PESCAO has been 44%, and the unused credit of this assigned revenue will be implemented in 2021.

In terms of commitments carried forward from 2019, EFCA consumed 93.5%.

EFCA cancelled 3% of the payment appropriations in 2020 including all fund sources. The main cancellation comes from the non-used EU Budget contribution.

The payment delay has been maintained at the levels of 2019, passing from an average of 16.2 to 16.06 days. There was a 98% compliance with the Financial Regulation time limits, slightly lower than in 2019, but still within target. No interest was charged to EFCA for any payment delay.

#### Procurement

EFCA signed 3 framework contracts as a result of open procedures launched in 2020.

- Legal services in the field of maritime law, marine insurance law, law of the sea and aviation law (200 000 euro). The procedure was finalised during the 3rd quarter of 2020, and the contract was signed in September.
- Cleaning services for the premises of EFCA (300 000 euro). This procedure was finalised during quarter 4 and the framework contract was signed in October.
- Interim services for EFCA (512 000 euro). Framework contract signed in December 2020.

Further to that, several negotiated procedures were launched, such as:

- Insurance Brokerage (100 000 euro)
- Internet services (40 000 euro)

- Supply of technical assistance services in the field of audits and controls - Audit of Annual Accounts for EFCA 2020 & 2021 (42 745 euro)

Following the shared procurement approach, EFCA joined 16 different inter-institutional tenders with the Commission and other agencies.

### 2.3.2. INFORMATION ON GRANT, CONTRIBUTION AND SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS PROVIDED IN ANNEX VI (WHEN APPLICABLE)

Currently EFCA has one grant agreement signed with the Delegation of the EU in Senegal (Project PESCAO, see Objective 5.)

EFCA has signed several Service Level Agreements (SLAs) and Memorandum of Understandings with other agencies, Member States and other Bodies, sharing operational tasks and providing tools for cooperation in the implementation of different operational activities.

COUNTERPART	SUBJECT	SIGNATURE DATE	REFERENCE
<b>EMSA</b>	SLA between the EFCA and EMSA for the MARSURV service	28/03/2018	Ares(2019)2544621
<b>EMSA/FRONTEX/EFCA</b>	Tripartite Working Arrangement	17/03/2017	A-00368
<b>FRONTEX</b>	MoU for the Inter Institutional Procurement on Aerial Surveillance Services	12/01/2017	A-01209
<b>FRONTEX</b>	SLA between EFCA and Frontex for the joint use of Frontex capability - Aerial and maritime surveillance in support of EFCA activities	06/02/2017	A-00628
<b>SRFC, FCWC, ISMI</b>	MoU between EFCA, SRFC, FCWC and the Regional Academy of Science and Technology of the Sea for optimising the training in the scope of PESCAO	15/03/2019	Ares(2019)1835621
<b>French Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Directorate</b>	Cooperation in Capacity building activities	24/09/2010	CFCA/2010/A-01005

In addition, for the sake of efficiency, EFCA shares services with the Commission and other agencies for administrative processes and contracts:

- 9 SLA's /MoU signed with agencies; e.g. EMSA, FRONTEX and the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO);
- The EC carried out a merging exercise of the different SLAs and services offered to agencies, gathering all services of each DG into more global agreements. EFCA has now 10 SLA's/MoU with the Commission;
- EFCA joined around 46 inter-institutional calls with the Commission and agencies for which contracts are currently in use;
- EFCA is amongst the first wave of agencies where Sysper2 (HR IT tool) is being implemented;
- EFCA currently uses the following corporate systems shared by the Commission for the financial and procurement procedures:
  - Accrual Based Accounting (ABAC) Workflow and Legal Commitment Kernel (LCK) for the implementation of the budget;
  - Systems Applications and Products (SAP)/ABAC for the Accounting processes;
  - ABAC Assets for the processing of the order forms, assets and inventory;

- AGM for the reimbursement of the experts of meetings organised by EFCA;
- Missions Integrated Processing System (MIPS) for the approval and payment of mission costs for EFCA's staff;
- e- Invoicing for the electronic invoicing from third parties, and e-Submission for the open calls for tender.

### 2.3.3. CONTROL RESULTS

EFCA received a total budget of €16.9 million as a contribution from the General EU Budget for 2020, representing an increase of 0.9% in respect of 2019. In addition, EFCA received resources during 2020 in relation to the grant for Improved Regional fisheries governance in Western Africa (PESCAO project), to be implemented from 2018-2022. In total, the grant awarded equalled €2.5 million, from which €0.68 million was earmarked for 2020.

#### 2020 Budget Implementation

Title	Budget (EUR)	Committed (EUR)	% exec	Paid (EUR)	% exec
<b>TITLE I</b>	<b>8 591 000</b>	<b>8 123 488</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>8 078 628</b>	<b>94%</b>
<b>TITLE II</b>	<b>1 570 000</b>	<b>1 803 815</b>	<b>115%</b>	<b>1 265 555</b>	<b>81%</b>
<b>TITLE III</b>	<b>6 739 000</b>	<b>6 511 832</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>4 375 646</b>	<b>65%</b>
JDP's, Operational plans and Pilot Projects	955 000	250 433	26%	170 856	18%
Risk assessment and Data Analysis	1 050 000	1 194 259	114%	520 664	50%
International dimension: compliance with international provisions	250 000	10 019	4%	10 019	4%
Coast Guard and Capacity Building	4 484 000	5 057 121	113%	3 674 108	82%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16 900 000</b>	<b>16 439 135</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>13 719 830</b>	<b>81%</b>

EFCA has estimated the implementation of the Activity based budget 2020 based on the four operational activities presented in the SPD 2020 (detailed information is provided under Annex V).

Some of the overhead and indirect costs (interim services, translation costs, etc.) have been analysed further to allow for more precise distribution of the cost. The degree of staff dedication to each activity has also been weighted with the number of man/months worked and salary levels.

The results of this exercise for 2020 have been the following:

Code	Activity	AWP 2020	AR 2020	% execution vs. planned
<b>1</b>	JDPs, Operational Plans and Pilot projects	5 429 883	4 251 156	<b>78%</b>
<b>2</b>	Risk assessment and data analysis	3 361 060	3 370 271	<b>100%</b>
<b>3</b>	International dimension: compliance with international provisions	1 867 552	1 362 199	<b>73%</b>
<b>4</b>	Coast Guard and Capacity Building	6 241 505	7 455 509	<b>119%</b>



It needs to be noted that the results above do not include the implementation of the revenues received from the grants provided to EFCA. These grants have an implementation phase over one year and, therefore, cannot be easily compared in consideration of the annuality principle of the EU subsidy funds. For implementation information on the grants, please refer to Annex V (R0 fund source implementation).

EFCA continues to carry out ex-ante verification over a subset of financial transactions in its financial circuits based on a risk assessment methodology. To compensate for this, internal ex-post verification on a sample of transactions is carried out quarterly by EFCA financial staff. In 2020, around 43% of the payments have been processed without an ex-ante verification. This figure is lower than in 2019 due to the absence of cost claims for missions and experts' travel cost claims, which fall under the type of payments without ex-ante verification.

The results of the ex-post exercise performed revealed a projected error rate very close to 0%, lower than previous exercises.

Performance Indicators	Target	Achieved
Execution rate commitments appropriations	As close as possible to 100%	97.3%
Execution payments appropriations	≥70%	81.2%
Percentage of payments done within the time limits	>98%	98%

#### 2.3.4. COST AND BENEFITS OF CONTROLS

The control procedures stem to a large degree from regulatory requirements, which cannot be curtailed. Nevertheless, EFCA continues to make efforts in further streamlining and lowering the costs of its financial procedures and circuits without compromising those requirements. In the absence of any significant weakness detected which could have a material impact as regards the legality and regularity of the financial operations, it is concluded that the relevant control objective of effectiveness has been achieved.

EFCA strives for increasing efficiency in all procedures related to administration, while it continues to safeguard the resources of the agency and maintains its compliance with its legal obligations in this area (Financial and Staff Regulations among others). In this continuous effort to improve the efficiency EFCA successfully implemented the Commission's available corporate IT solutions, i.e. e-procurement, document management system (ARES), HR management (Sysper2), management of missions (MIPS) and Advanced Getaway for Meetings (AGM).

Based on the most relevant key indicators and control results, EFCA has assessed the effectiveness, efficiency and economy of its control system and reached a positive conclusion on the cost-effectiveness of the controls for which it is responsible.

## 2.4 DELEGATION AND SUB-DELEGATION OF THE POWERS OF BUDGET IMPLEMENTATION TO AGENCY'S STAFF

EFCA's Authorising Officer, the Executive Director, has delegated the budget implementation powers to each Head of Unit based on the competencies of each unit. The threshold under which the budget implementation powers are delegated is €80,000 per transaction. Each Head of Unit has been delegated the budget lines linked to the expenditure of their area of activity. In the case of the Head of Unit Resources and IT, the routine administrative expenditure (such as salaries and building services) has been delegated without a threshold. There are no sub delegations at EFCA.

All delegation agreement details are reflected in an Executive Director decision, and each delegated Authorising Officer has signed their conformity to comply with the Charter of the Authorising Officer by delegation. The authorising officer by delegation shall report regularly to the authorising officer on the



implementation of programmes, operations or actions in respect of which powers have been delegated to him/her, and shall inform the authorising officer in writing of the management problems encountered and the solutions proposed to remedy them. No weaknesses were identified.

## 2.5 HUMAN RESOURCES (HR) MANAGEMENT

### ❖ Personnel Selection and Recruitment

On 31 December 2020, the establishment plan was 98 % filled, with 60 Temporary Agents (TA). The number of Contract Agents (CA) was within the estimates, with 10 CA<sup>75</sup>. This is similar to the situation at the end of 2019. Additionally, 3 CA were covered by ad hoc grants, under the PESCAO project.

On 31 December 2020 the number of SNEs was 6<sup>76</sup>. The SNE work volume in 2020 resulted in 6 person/years of usage sourced by the EFCA budget and 2 person/years due to funding for the PESCAO project.

External personnel were used for replacement and amounted to 0.64 full-time equivalent (FTE).

Furthermore, external service providers were used for delivering specified structural services within the EFCA premises, in the areas of ICT and Logistics. The total of this amounted to 9.4 FTE.

### ❖ Organisational development and staff structure

EFCA has carried out a job screening exercise for 2020 following the methodology agreed with the Commission. The jobs include all statutory staff as well as external service providers working *intra-muros*. The results are displayed in Annex IV allowing a comparative view on the allocation of human resources with the previous year. Operational staff accounts for 65.2 % of the total workforce.

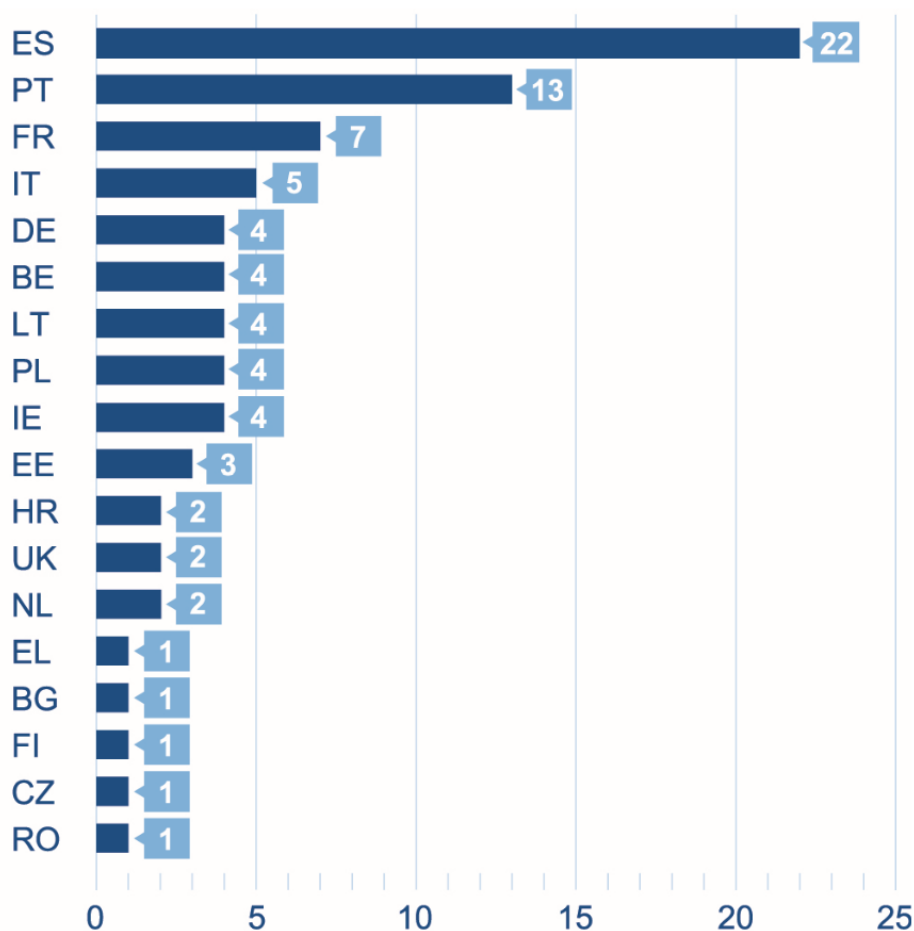
In 2020, the volume of staff on parental leave, maternity leave or partly absent due to working part-time resulted in 3.3 person/years. On 31 December 2020, the total FTE of staff on parental or maternity leave or being partly absent due to working part-time was 2, with 2 FTE of operational staff.

As in the previous years there is a wide composition of staff in regard to nationalities as analysed in the chart below.

Including SNEs, nationals of 18 EU Member States were working at EFCA on 31 December 2020. This table by nature only includes posts filled.

<sup>75</sup> This figure does not include CA covered by ad hoc grants.

<sup>76</sup> This figure does not include SNEs covered by ad hoc grants.



EFCA staff and SNE by Nationality (31/12/2020)

On 31 December 2020, the overall average age of staff, including SNEs was 48 years. The average age of staff, not counting SNEs, was the same.

#### ❖ Change management process

No reorganisations took place in 2020.

As of 10 March 2020, EFCA staff were requested to telework, due to the case of *force majeure* caused by the COVID-19 pandemic situation. To help staff adapt to and accommodate this drastic change on a professional level as well as regards their health and safety and personal well-being, EFCA provided relevant information, support, tools and training opportunities. Moreover, EFCA developed an action plan on the phased return to the office. In June, EFCA moved from phase 0 (teleworking as a rule) to phase 1 of the action plan and resumed phase 0 at the beginning of September until the end of the year.

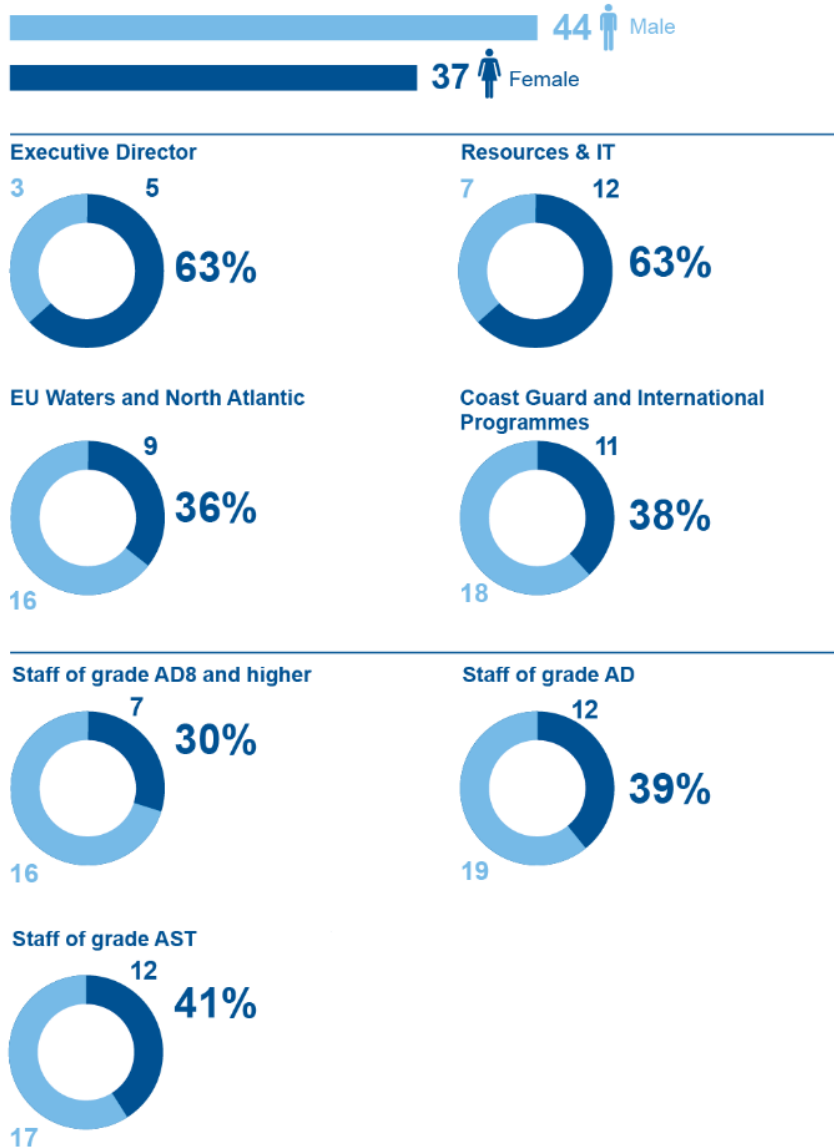
#### ❖ Gender distribution among EFCA staff

EFCA promotes a policy of equal treatment and aims to reach an optimal gender balance among its staff, both in numbers as well as in grade and level of responsibility. The Agency has an equal treatment statement included in each vacancy notice published.

On 31 December 2020, the overall percentage of female staff members was 49%. This figure is reduced to 46%, if SNEs are included (see data below). Against these figures, the percentage of female staff grade AD8 (administrator's function group, grade 8) and higher was 30% (this number is expected to increase in future years), while in the range AD 5 to AD 7, the balance of female staff was 62,5% on 31

December 2020. Moreover, 36% of female staff were Head of Sector and 50 % of female staff Deputy Head of Unit.

There is a majority of male staff employed in operational coordination. In addition, the majority of staff of grade AD8 and higher are males. On the other hand, there is a majority of female staff under the Executive Director and in Unit Resources and IT.



❖ **Personnel policies and procedures**

The EFCA intranet platform provides HR-related information within webpages, including documents, templates and forms.

❖ **General Implementing Provisions of the Staff Regulations**

Several new General Implementing Provisions (GIP) of the Staff Regulations were adopted by the Administrative Board, inter alia on leave rules.

### ❖ Appraisal and Reclassification

The annual appraisal exercise was performed for all staff members. Following the reclassification exercise, 12 staff members were reclassified.

### ❖ Training and Tuition

EFCA continued to offer online training on ethics principles via EU Learn. Refreshment training on ethics, integrity and fraud prevention, which follows a five-year-cycle, was organised for all staff. The regular language courses provided via an e-learning tool in 2020, made the organisation of courses more efficient and gave more flexibility to staff to obtain their individual learning goals. In addition to those, virtual language courses were provided during summer months in an intensive format. Spouses continue to participate in Spanish language classes organised by the Agency.

Figures related to the staff training activities in 2020 are as follows:

- number of collective courses organised in the EFCA premises: 6;
- number of external training courses followed: 47;
- number of persons following language courses: 23;
- average number of training days per staff member: 2,44.

The scheme concerning tuition provided to staff members' children in the Vigo area in their mother tongue, and support for English and Spanish was continued in 2020 with an increase of requests after the summer period.

## 2.6 STRATEGY FOR EFFICIENCY GAINS

EFCA strives for increasing efficiency in all procedures related to administration, while it continues to safeguard the resources of the agency and maintains its compliance with its legal obligations in this area (Financial and Staff Regulations among others).

- The administrative procedures and processes have been digitalised and revised to adapt to a paperless environment. EFCA will continue to revise and streamline the procedures relying on a risk-based approach.
- Additional efficiencies in procurement are being searched for in a continuous basis. EFCA will continue to invite other agencies, if applicable, to participate in its open calls, particularly the EU agencies in Spain. This results in rotating the leading role between agencies, bringing efficiencies to the procurement efforts of agencies overall.
- The centralisation of common administrative tasks has also been successful in finding efficiencies. The financial initiation and verification continue to be centralised, which allows for greater control of transactions, unifying the methodologies and containing the knowledge in these areas. EFCA will continue to centralise where applicable to find new opportunities for efficiency.
- In general, EFCA's approach is to make use of the already existing applications in the Commission (ABAC Workflow, Legal Commitment kernel, Asset management, mission management system, meetings management, Sysper modules, etc..). This reduces the maintenance costs of supporting the amendments and updates in the Financial and Staff Regulations, for example, as well as in the tax and accounting rules.

## 2.7 ASSESSMENT OF AUDIT AND EX-POST EVALUATION RESULTS DURING THE REPORTING YEAR

### 2.7.1. INTERNAL AUDIT SERVICE (IAS)

The Internal Audit Service (IAS) of the Commission is the agency Internal Auditor. It provides independent advice, opinions and recommendations on the quality and functioning of internal control systems of the agency.

During 2020 the IAS has established a new audit plan (Strategic Internal Audit Plan 2021-2023). This audit plan is based on the results of an in-depth risk assessment carried out by the IAS between April and June 2020, interviewing EFCA key staff and Administrative Board members using videoconference tools. The IAS risk assessment consisted of a review of the principal documentation regarding EFCA's activities and processes and was focused on EFCA's high risks regardless of the maturity of the key controls. This new methodology is harmonised with the approach applied for the European Commission.

The plan was presented by the IAS to the Administrative Board in October 2020 and provides a short-list of audit topics that aims at supporting the planning of the IAS audits during the next three years (2021-2023). The strategic internal audit plan has been coordinated with the work plan of the European Court of Auditors to avoid potential overlapping.

In line with the International Standards for the Professional Practise of Internal Auditing, the internal auditor confirmed the organisational independence of the internal audit activity.

### 2.7.2. EUROPEAN COURT OF AUDITORS (ECA)

EFCA is audited every year by the European Court of Auditors. The audit provides a Statement of Assurance as to the reliability of the accounts of the Agency and the legality and regularity of the transactions underlying them. Furthermore, in preparing the specific Annual Report on the Agency, ECA shall consider the audit work performed by an independent external auditor on the Annual Accounts of the Agency.

In 2020, EFCA received a [Statement of Assurance](#) certifying an unqualified opinion<sup>77</sup> for 2019 Annual Accounts and indicating that the accounts are reliable and the transactions underlying the accounts are legal and regular.

With regards to the 2020 Financial Year, ECA conducted its on-site audits and will conclude with a desk review in the first quarter of 2021.

At the same time, the 2020 Annual Accounts are being audited by an external audit firm. The final report of the Court, comprising its own observations as well as the results of the external auditor's work, is expected in late 2021.

## 2.8 (A) FOLLOW UP OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION PLANS FOR AUDITS AND EVALUATIONS

### INTERNAL AUDIT SERVICE (IAS)

There are no open critical or very important recommendations.

<sup>77</sup> Unqualified audit opinion - The auditor's report contains a clearly written expression of opinion on the financial statements or the legality and regularity of underlying transactions as a whole. An unqualified opinion is expressed when the auditor concludes that, on the whole, the underlying transactions are legal and regular and the supervisory and control systems are adequate to manage the risk.

In 2020, 6 action plans were implemented by EFCA, and the related recommendations were considered closed by the IAS. Currently, there are 3 open recommendations all rated as important and they are in their final phase of implementation in accordance with the agreed action plans.

## EUROPEAN COURT OF AUDITORS (ECA)

For 2019 the Court's Report on the annual accounts of the agency did not include any observation.

The observation issued in 2018 was considered completed, the actions taken by the agency were considered sufficient to respond to the Court's observation.

## EVALUATIONS

Information included in Part II. (B) External Evaluations

### 2.8. (B) FOLLOW UP OF RECOMMENDATIONS ISSUED FOLLOWING INVESTIGATIONS BY THE EUROPEAN ANTI-FRAUD OFFICE (OLAF)

No investigations/recommendations have been carried out or issued during 2020.

### 2.9 FOLLOW UP OF OBSERVATIONS FROM THE DISCHARGE AUTHORITY

The European Parliament granted the Executive Director of the EFCA the discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2018. [On its resolution](#), the EP acknowledged the important contribution to the implementation of the objectives of the reformed CFP and highlighted the very good results achieved by the Agency.

The EP resolution contained comments addressed to EFCA. For each comment that required measures EFCA implemented and informed the Discharge authority accordingly. EFCA report on the measures taken can be found here ([hyperlink to European Parliament - EFCA report](#)).

The EP resolution contained also a number of recommendations addressed to the EU agencies collectively; EFCA is actively committed to follow-up and implement the EP observations of horizontal nature, where applicable to the Agency.

### 2.10 ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT

The EU Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) Certification project, launched in 2018, has continued during 2020, focussing on the preparation of documentation, drafting of policies and collection of data. Certification has not been reached due to the particular circumstances of the sanitary situation.

It is to be noted that, from before 2020, EFCA had taken technical steps in order to increase videoconferencing and teleworking capacity, with the objective of reducing business travel and consequent carbon footprint. The sanitary crisis has accelerated dramatically the transition to distance working, proving the preparedness of EFCA.

The carbon footprint of the Agency for 2020 has been of 5352,92 tons of CO<sub>2</sub>. This represents an increase of 28% with regards to 2019.

The above statistic belies the fact that the generalised teleworking has led to a reduction of the overall carbon emissions for the EFCA Headquarters by 67%. However, this reduction has been outweighed due to the need (because of travel restrictions) for the OPV Lundy Sentinel to use the port of Vigo as departure/return point for its missions in the North and Western Atlantic. This has resulted in an increase of 25% of the fuel consumption.

This reduction has been counterbalanced by the fact that, on one side, the Agency has not proceeded to any retirement of electronic and electric material and no consequent CO<sub>2</sub> benefit and, on the other hand, due to travel restrictions.

## 2.11 ASSESSMENT BY MANAGEMENT

EFCA has a system of management supervision and internal control in place to ensure the Agency is managed effectively and efficiently. The main elements of the system are described below.

At the end of 2020 EFCA had three units and an Executive Director Office. The EFCA management team consists of the Executive Director and all the Heads of Unit, playing a key role in the strategic and day to day management of the Agency. The Accounting Officer, the Internal Control Coordinator and the Head of Sector Policy and Communication are also attending the management meetings.

The EFCA Administrative Board adopted the EFCA Programming Document in October 2019 containing the Multiannual work programme 2020-2024 and the Annual work programme for 2020. The execution of the Programming Document is monitored internally on a quarterly basis, discrepancies are discussed with the units, and corrective actions are taken as necessary.

The Annual Report outlines the achievements for the year and the resources used, with the primary aim of increasing the accountability and transparency of the agency. The Annual Report is the tool used to monitor and report on the implementation of the agency's activities and serves as a mirror image of the Single Programming Document.

EFCA continues to implement and further enhance its activity-based management. Moreover, the agency's budget nomenclature follows the principles of activity-based budgeting (ABB). It complies with the principles of specification, transparency and sound financial management, providing the clarity and transparency necessary for the budgetary process and facilitating the identification of the main objectives as reflected in its Single Programming Document.

In 2020 EFCA continued to establish and improve formal internal Service Level Agreements defining the level of service expected between different EFCA units/desks. The internal SLAs help to clarify expectations amongst EFCA internal services and will increase the efficiency.

Assurance is based on the examination of the evidence of the effectiveness of the procedures and the controls in place. Such evidence derives from both internal and external sources.

Internally, the Executive Director is responsible for ensuring the implementation of the internal control systems, which are monitored and assessed on a regular basis and in accordance with the established mechanisms and procedures, as described in the sections above. The outcome of the implementation of these processes is included in Part III. A further source of assurance is the outcome of the internal audits carried out by the Internal Audit Service of the European Commission, which serves as the internal auditor of the Agency.

Externally, assurance is based on an examination of the evidence resulting from the observations and recommendations included in the European Court of Auditors' report, as well as the European Parliament's observations included in the Executive Director's discharge decisions.

Based on the information provided and as a result of an analysis and assessment of the internal and external elements of assurance related to the processes and procedures in place, it is considered that EFCA fully achieves the five internal control objectives for management (cf. article 30 (2) of the 2019 EFCA Financial Regulation), which include:

- effectiveness, efficiency and economy of operations
- reliability of reporting
- safeguarding of assets and information
- prevention, detection, correction and follow-up of fraud and irregularities
- adequate management of the risks relating to the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions, taking into account the multiannual character of programmes as well as the nature of the payments concerned.



## PART II. (B) EXTERNAL EVALUATIONS

From the date of the Agency having taken up its responsibilities, and every five years thereafter, the Administrative Board shall commission an independent external evaluation of the implementation of its Founding Regulation.

Each evaluation shall assess the impact of this Regulation, the utility, relevance and effectiveness of the Agency and its working practices and the extent to which it contributes to the achievement of a high level of compliance with rules made under the Common Fisheries Policy.

The second Five-Year Independent External Evaluation of EFCA was commissioned by the Administrative Board for the period 2012-2016.

The evaluation results for the Five Year Independent External Evaluation of EFCA 2012-2016 were presented on 20 June 2017 during a seminar to which the stakeholders and the Administrative and Advisory Boards representatives were invited.

The evaluation reviewed the implementation of EFCA's Founding Regulation during 2012-2016 against the evaluation criteria of follow-up on the last evaluation, relevance, coherence, utility, added value, efficiency, effectiveness, impact, sustainability and gender balance. The report indicated that "Data collected with the help of extensive desk research, interviews with some 60 stakeholders, five case studies (focusing on specific EFCA activities) and five surveys of key stakeholders confirm EFCA's positive performance across all evaluation criteria. This is mostly explained with EFCA successfully operationalising a role of 'honest broker' between the Member States, EC and industry, allowing EFCA to achieve objectives in terms of Member States cooperation and compliance, thus contributing to the level-playing field and the sustainable exploitation of living aquatic resources. EFCA's strong performance was supported by adequate governance arrangements and working practices, with commendable efficiency efforts, e.g. use of e-administration."

The Administrative Board issued recommendations to the European Commission regarding changes to the Founding Regulation, the Agency and its working practices. The evaluation findings and recommendations were forwarded by the European Commission to the European Parliament and the Council and were made public (<https://www.efca.europa.eu/en/content/external-evaluation-2017>).

During the Administrative Board meeting on 14 of March 2018 it was decided that the implementation of the AB's recommendations would be a common agenda point to be followed up in the AB meetings.

From the 11 recommendations of the External Evaluation for the period 2012-2016, 11 recommendations were implemented.

The recommendations issued by the Administrative Board are being taken into consideration in the Single Programming Document of the Agency.

## PART III ASSESSMENT OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE INTERNAL CONTROL SYSTEMS

### 3.1 EFFECTIVENESS OF INTERNAL CONTROL SYSTEMS

EFCA implements an internal control framework applicable at all levels of management and is designed to provide reasonable assurance that operations are effective and efficient, but also that the financial reporting is reliable and the agency complies with applicable laws and regulations.

In April 2019, the Administrative Board adopted a revised Internal Control Framework (ICF) aligned with the control framework adopted by the European Commission and required by the EFCA Financial Regulation in its Article 30.

The new ICF moves away from a compliance-based to a principle-based system. It provides the necessary flexibility to adapt to specific characteristics and circumstances while ensuring a robust internal control with a consistent assessment. The ICF, which considers the structure and size of EFCA, consists of 5 internal control components and 17 principles. Each principle is further deployed in specific characteristics. These specific characteristics are defined in such way as to take into account the specific governance arrangements in the Agency. They are defined to assist management in implementing internal control procedures and in assessing whether the principles are present and functioning. The Internal Control Framework supplements the Financial Regulation and other applicable rules and regulations.

One key element of EFCA's internal control framework is the monitoring and registration of exceptions to the established regulations, policies, rules and procedures. An exception is any transaction, financial or operational, which requires an approach that deviates from the established regulations, policies, rules and procedures.

A total of 5 of such exceptions were registered in 2020 (vs. 3 in 2019), of which three ex-ante (approval for a future foreseeable deviation) and two ex-post (approval after the deviation had occurred) exceptions.

Most of the events registered were unavoidable due to the pandemic situation. The events were related to the exceptional reimbursement of expenses incurred by participants for trainings that had to be cancelled in March 2020, amendment of contract for mobile services behind the Framework Contract period due to impossibility of migration during the confinement and the absence of qualified signature in purchase orders and contracts also due to the confinement in March 2020.

None of the exceptions were material and of a nature that could lead to a formal reservation to the Authorising Officer's annual declaration of assurance. Where appropriate, corrective actions were carried out, namely the implementation of an electronic qualified signature which is in use since May 2020. A further step will be the full integration of the qualified electronic signature in the EFCA document management system (ARES).

In the last assessment for 2019 exercise, a weakness was identified regarding the contract management area. The measures taken in 2020, in particular improvements on the clear definition of roles and responsibilities in this domain and awareness raised, revealed to be effective.

The assessment of internal control is founded both on ongoing (continuous) monitoring and on specific (periodical) assessments, the main sources (non-exhaustive) contributing for both assessments are register of exceptions and/or deficiencies, the audit results from different sources, ex-post controls results, implementation of the anti-fraud strategy, dedicated surveys, and key performance indicators.

The assessment for the reporting year was performed at the level of the principles (based on the analysis of the detected strengths and deficiencies), at the level of the components (based on an analysis of the results at principle level) and at the level of the internal control system as a whole (based on an analysis of the results at component level).

In 2020 an in-depth internal control survey took place to complement and substantiate the assessment performed by the Internal Control Coordinator. The survey results revealed a very high level of implementation of the internal control principles.

- Fraud prevention and detection

An anti-fraud strategy is in place since 2014, and it was updated in 2018. The actions defined are being implemented and they focus on reducing the fraud risks identified in the EFCA risk assessment.

Most of the actions are of continuous nature with a special focus on awareness raising on ethics and integrity and on the implementation and monitoring of adequate policies for the prevention and management of conflict of interests. EFCA makes available to all staff through the intranet comprehensive information and practical guides regarding ethics and staff conduct. Moreover, an additional and detailed code of conduct was developed for all persons participating in EFCA activities carried out on chartered means.

At EFCA the risk of fraud overall can be considered low or very low, and it is mostly linked with ethical behaviour. Since the creation of the agency and during 2020 there was no indication (internal or external) of any fraud case.

### 3.2 CONCLUSIONS OF ASSESSMENT OF INTERNAL CONTROL SYSTEMS

As described in the previous point and based on the most relevant key indicators, control results, and internal survey performed the assessment concluded that, overall, the internal control system is present (compliance) and functioning (effectiveness).

Component / Principles / Assessment		
I. Control Environment	Category 1- Principles are present and functioning well	Category 1 – The component is present and functioning well
II. Risk Assessment	Category 1- Principles are present and functioning well	Category 1 – The component is present and functioning well
III. Control Activities	Category 1 – Principles are present and functioning well	Category 1 – The component is present and functioning well
IV. Information and Communication	Category 1- Principles are present and functioning well	Category 1 – The component is present and functioning well
V. Monitoring Activities	Category 1- Principles are present and functioning well	Category 1 – The component is present and functioning well
<b>OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF INTERNAL CONTROL SYSTEM</b>		
Are all components operating together in an integrated manner? (It assesses globally the combination of the assessments of the internal control components – Category 1/2/3 or 4)		Category 1 – The internal control system is present and functioning
Is the overall internal control system effective? Category 1. Minor- Yes Category 2. Moderate- Yes Category 3. Major- Partially Category 4. Critical- No		↓ YES

In conclusion, EFCA has assessed the effectiveness, efficiency and economy of the control system and reached a positive conclusion. Management has reasonable assurance that, overall, suitable controls are in place and working as intended; risks are being appropriately monitored and mitigated. No significant control weaknesses were reported.

### 3.3 STATEMENT OF INTERNAL CONTROL COORDINATOR IN CHARGE OF RISK MANAGEMENT AND INTERNAL CONTROL

*I, the undersigned,*

*In my capacity as Internal Control Coordinator in charge of risk management and internal control, I declare that in accordance with EFCA's Internal Control Framework, I have reported my advice and recommendations on the overall state of internal control in Agency to the Executive Director.*

*I hereby certify that the information provided in the present Annual Report and its annexes is, to the best of my knowledge, accurate, reliable and complete.*

*Done at Vigo on 11 March 2021*

**SIGNED**

*Paulo Castro  
Internal Control Coordinator*

## PART IV. MANAGEMENT ASSURANCE

This part reviews the assessment of the elements contained in this report and draws conclusions supporting the Declaration of Assurance of the Executive Director and whether or not it should be qualified with reservations.

For the expenditure of 2020, the Authorising Officers by Delegation signed a Declaration of Assurance to the Authorising Officer, similar to the one signed by the AO himself, for the area for which they have been delegated responsibility. No reservations were raised by the Authorising Officers by Delegation.

### 4.1 REVIEW OF THE ELEMENTS SUPPORTING ASSURANCE

The Executive Director has relied on the following elements of assurance:

- the declarations of assurance from the Authorising Officers by Delegation;
- the positive assessment of the EFCA's Internal Control system and the satisfactory implementation of the adopted Internal Control Framework;
- the statement of the Internal Control Coordinator;
- the Accounting Officer's certification of the provisional accounts;
- the management of risks which are being appropriately monitored and mitigated;
- the absence of overdue or long-standing audit recommendations;
- the absence of vital observations from the European Parliament;
- the positive Statement of Assurance issued by ECA in 2020 for the financial year 2019 on the true and fair view of the EFCA 2019 Annual Accounts and on the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions;
- the low impact of quantitative and qualitative nature of the identified exceptions;
- the qualitative and quantitative materiality criteria established by the agency (Annex IX);
- the progress made during the year in regularly monitoring performance and overseeing the on-going action plans for all necessary improvements and reinforcements;
- the resources allocated to trainings in relation to the implementation of the Financial Regulation, Ethics and Integrity and Fraud prevention;
- the EFCA anti-fraud strategy and Conflict of Interests policy as adopted by the EFCA.

### 4.2 RESERVATIONS

The content of this report stems from the results of management monitoring controls and the systematic analysis by the internal and external auditors and other assurance providers of the evidence available. This approach provides sufficient guarantees of the exhaustiveness and reliability of the reported information and results in a complete coverage of the budget and resources delegated to the Executive Director and assigned to the activities described herein, including those within the framework of the Programming Document as approved by the Administrative Board.

Taking into account all the elements reviewed below, the absence of any significant weakness and the materiality criteria as described in Annex IX, it can be positively concluded that the Executive Director has reasonable assurance and has no reasons to introduce any reservation for the year 2020.

In conclusion, for 2020 nothing opposes to the signing the Declaration of Assurance

## PART V. DECLARATION OF ASSURANCE

*I, the undersigned, Executive Director of the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA),*

*In my capacity as authorising officer,*

*Declare that the information contained in this report gives a true and fair view<sup>1</sup>.*

*State that I have reasonable assurance that the resources assigned to the activities described in this report have been used for their intended purpose and in accordance with the principles of sound financial management, and that the control procedures put in place give the necessary guarantees concerning the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions.*

*This reasonable assurance is based on my own judgement and on the information at my disposal, inter alia:*

- *the declarations of assurance from the Authorizing Officers by Delegation;*
- *the results of the annual review of the internal control system;*
- *the statement issued by the Internal Control Coordinator;*
- *the results and follow-up of ex-post audits, evaluations and controls;*
- *the recommendations of the Internal Audit Service, the accompanying action plans and their follow up;*
- *the lessons learnt from the reports of the Court of Auditors and the accompanying action plans and their follow up;*
- *the lessons learnt from the discharge reports of the Discharge authority for years prior to the year of this declaration.*

*Confirm that I am not aware of anything not reported here which could harm the interests of the agency.*

*Done at Vigo on 17 March 2021*

**SIGNED**

*Pascal SAVOURET  
Executive Director*

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<sup>1</sup> True and fair in this context means a reliable, complete and correct view on the state of affairs in the Agency.

## ANNEXES

## ANNEX I: CORE BUSINESS STATISTICS

## BALTIC SEA JDP

(Report based on data registered in EFCA JDP information system on 31/01/2021)

<b>Joint Deployment Plan</b>	Baltic Sea JDP 2020
<b>Reporting period</b>	01 January to 31 December 2020
<b>Participation</b>	DE, DK, EE, FI, LT, LV, PL, SE
<b>Operational area</b>	Union waters of ICES areas 27.3.b,c,d

	<b>Campaign</b>	<b>Member States</b>	<b>Number of Experts</b>	<b>Man-days</b>
Coordination Centre in EFCA (CC)	Baltic Sea	DE	1	5
		DK	1	7
		PL	1	5



A – DEPLOYED CONTROL MEANS					
Member State	Patrol Vessel		Aircraft	Exchange of Inspectors	
	Days at sea		No of Flights	Joint Teams at Sea	Mixed Teams ashore
	Committed Patrols (patrol sea days)	Other Patrols (sea days with events)		No Exchanges*	No Exchanges*
DE	228	71	2	3	2
DK	120	97		2	1
EE			11		4
FI	47	7			
LT	24	10	2	6	
LV		26		3	
PL	21	21		10	
SE	69	14	121		1
EFCA	26				
<b>Total</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>8</b>

\* One exchange is equivalent to 1 inspector for a period of up to 5 days.

B – ACTIVITY CARRIED OUT														
Type of Activity	Type of Deployment	Type of object	Indicator	Patrol Coordinator										
				DE	DK	EE	FI	LT	LV	PL	SE	EFCA	Total	
Surveillance	Air		Sightings reported	2		46					431		479	
	Sea		Sightings reported	605	176			35	14	1		33	864	
Inspections	Land	Vessel	No. of Inspections	540	368	282	218	121	519	649	119		2,816	
			No. of inspections with suspected infringements	2	9	7	4	2	12	15	7		58	
			% of inspections with suspected infringements	0.4	2.5	2.5	1.8	1.7	2.3	2.3	5.9		2.1	
			Total no. of suspected infringements	2	9	7	4	3	12	17	7		61	
			Total no. of inspections of targets	12	12	46		12	54	3	1		140	
			Inspections of targets with suspected infringements		2	2			1				5	
		Transport	No. of inspections					16						16
		Business	No. of inspections				32							32
	Other Fishing Gear	No. of inspections								38			38	
	Sea	Vessel	No. of Inspections	72	97		10	67	84	56	27	9	422	
			No. of inspections with suspected infringements	1	1							2	4	
			% of inspections with suspected infringements	1.4	1.0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	22.2	0.9	
			Total no. of suspected infringements	1	3							2	6	
			Total no. of inspections of targets	1	7		1	3	5				17	
		Other Fishing Gear	No. of inspections				88				1		89	
Other Trap		No. of inspections				6						6		

C - RESULTS OF CONTROL ACTIVITIES											
Type of Deployment	Object	Indicators	Country in which the Object is registered								
			DE	DK	EE	FI	LT	LV	PL	SE	Total
Land	Business	No. of inspections				32					32
		No. of inspections with suspected infringements				0					0
	Other fishing gear	No. of inspections								38	38
		No. of inspections with suspected infringements								0	0
	Transport	No. of inspections			4		5	7			16
		No. of inspections with suspected infringements			0		0	0			0
	Vessel	No. of inspections	525	356	280	223	153	474	671	134	2,816
		No. of inspections with suspected infringements	2	9	6	5	3	11	15	7	58
		% of inspections with suspected infringements	0.4	2.5	2.1	2.2	2.0	2.3	2.2	5.2	2.1
		Total no. of suspected infringements	2	9	6	5	4	11	17	7	61
		Total no. of inspections of targets	9	16	47		30	36	2		140
		Inspections of targets with suspected infringements		2	2		1				5
Sea	Other Fishing Gear	No. of inspections				88					88
		No. of inspections with suspected infringements				0.0					0
	Other Trap	No. of inspections				6					6
		No. of inspections with suspected infringements				0.0					0
	Vessel	No. of inspections	45	117		2	63	91	82	22	422
		No. of inspections with suspected infringements	1	1					2		4
		% of inspections with suspected infringements	2.2	0.9		0.0	0.0	0.0	2.4	0.0	0.9
		Total no. of suspected infringements	1	3					2		6
		Total no. of inspections of targets	1	7			3	6			17

<b>D - TYPE OF SUSPECTED INFRINGEMENTS DETECTED DURING THE JDP</b>			
<b>Suspected Infringement Category</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>% Total</b>
<b>Landing Obligation</b>	No recording of BMS	1	1%
<b>Conservation Measures</b>	Illegal gear	2	3%
	Non-compliance - by-catch rules	4	6%
	Retain / land prohibited species	1	1%
	Retain / land species below MCRS	1	1%
<b>Misrecording</b>	Misrecording – logbook	9	13%
	Misrecording - catch quantity	7	10%
	Non-compliance - margin of tolerance	21	31%
	Non-compliance - notification rules	8	12%
<b>Others</b>	Non-compliance - designated ports rules	1	1%
	Non-function or operate without VMS, AIS and/or ERS	3	4%
	Others not specified	9	13%
<b>Total</b>		<b>67</b>	<b>100%</b>

Results of risk assessment of non-compliance

Baltic Sea



- 22      23      24
- 25      26      27
- 28      29      30
- 31      32

Gear – Mesh size Target species	Non-compliance with LO	Misrecording	Illegal gear	Fishing in closed areas, closed seasons
Other trawls ≥105 mm DEMERSAL SPECIES				
Danish seines ≥105 mm DEMERSAL SPECIES				
Other trawls, pair trawls ≥32 and <90 mm HERRING Sprat				
Other trawls, pair trawls ≥16 and <32 mm SPRAT Herring				
Other trawls, pair trawls ≥16 and <105 mm HERRING Sprat				
Gillnets ≥157 mm SALMON				
Longlines SALMON				

Main target species in UPPERCASE

Level of risk: ■ Low    ■ Medium    ■ High    ■ Very High

**Baltic Sea**



- 22      23      24
- 25      26      27
- 28      29      30
- 31      32

Gear – Mesh size Target species	Non-compliance with LO	Misrecording	Illegal gear	Fishing in closed areas, closed seasons
Traps SALMON				
Gillnets ≥110 mm, longlines DEMERSAL SPECIES				
Gillnets ≥32 and <110 mm, traps HERRING				
Recreational Fisheries COD				
Eel fisheries EEL				

Main target species in UPPERCASE

Level of risk: ■ Low    ■ Medium    ■ High    ■ Very High

## NORTH SEA JDP

(Report based on data registered in EFCA JDP information system on 31/01/2021)

<b>Joint Deployment Plan</b>	North Sea JDP 2020
<b>Reporting period</b>	1 January to 31 December 2020
<b>Participation</b>	BE, DE, DK, FR, IE, NL, SE, UK.
<b>Operational area</b>	Union waters of ICES areas 27.2.a, 27.3.a and 27.4

Coordination Centre in EFCA (CC)	Campaign	Member States	Number of Experts	Man-days
	North Sea	UK	2	10
		NL	3	10



A – DEPLOYED CONTROL MEANS					
Member State	Patrol Vessel		Aircraft	Exchange of Inspectors	
	Days at sea		No of Flights	Joint Teams at Sea	Mixed Teams ashore
	Committed Patrols (patrol sea days)	Other Patrols (sea days with events)		No Exchanges*	No Exchanges*
BE	7		21	2	
DE	427	9	3		
DK	198	67			
FR	12				
UK		220	81		
NL	111		3		
SE	48	9	111		
EFCA	7				
<b>Total</b>	<b>810</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>

\* One exchange is equivalent to 1 inspector for a period of up to 5 days.

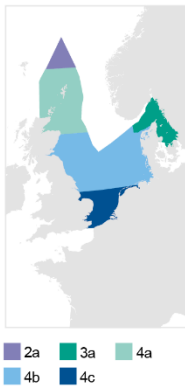
B – ACTIVITY CARRIED OUT											
Type of Activity	Type of Deployment	Indicator	Patrol Coordinator								
			BE	DE	DK	FR	UK	NL	SE	EFCA	Total
Surveillance	Air	Sightings reported	125	4			718	38	848		1,733
	Sea	Sightings reported		1,673	261		572			1	2,507
Inspections	Vessels on Land	Number of Inspections	41	144	788	7	5,188	35	393		6,596
		Number of inspections with suspected infringement		1	53	1	16		16		87
		% of inspections with suspected infringements	0.0	0.7	6.7	14.3	0.3	0.0	4.1		1.3
		Total number of suspected infringements		1	58	1	18		16		94
		Total number of inspections of targets		8	121	2	5	2			138
		Inspections of targets with suspected infringements			11	1					12
	Vessels at Sea	Number of Inspections	8	33	95		37	104	38	1	316
		Number of inspections with suspected infringement	4	1	4		6	9			24
		% of inspections with suspected infringements	50.0	3.0	4.2		16.2	8.7	0.0	0.0	7.6
		Total number of suspected infringements	5	1	4		6	14			30
		Total number of inspections of targets		3	35			16			54
		Inspections of targets with suspected infringements			1			2			3

C - RESULTS OF CONTROL ACTIVITIES																	
Type of Deployment	Object	Indicators	Country in which the Object is registered													Total	
			BE	DE	DK	FR	FO	UK	IE	LT	LV	NL	NO	PT	SE		
Air	Vessel	Total number of suspected infringements	2			1						1				4	
Land	Vessel	Number of Inspections	46	129	693	29	2	5,083	1	1	2	108	112	1	389	6,596	
		Number of inspections with suspected infringement	1	3	44			16				9			14	87	
		% of inspections with suspected infringements	2.2	2.3	6.4	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.3	0.0	0.0	3.6	1.32
		Total number of suspected infringements	2	3	47			18					10			14	94
		Total number of inspections of targets		17	100	6							15				138
		Inspections of targets with suspected infringements		2	8								2				12
Sea	Vessel	Number of Inspections	9	18	85	1		46	4			117	1		35	316	
		Number of inspections with suspected infringement	1	1	3			6				13				24	
		% of inspections with suspected infringements	11.1	5.6	3.5	0.0		13.0	0.0				11.1	0.0		0.0	7.6
		Total number of suspected infringements	1	6	3			6					14				30
		Total number of inspections of targets		8	32								14				54
		Inspections of targets with suspected infringements		1	1								1				3

<b>D - TYPE OF SUSPECTED INFRINGEMENTS DETECTED DURING THE JDP</b>			
<b>Suspected Infringement Category</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>% Total</b>
<b>Landing Obligation</b>	Illegal sales - below MCRS	1	1%
	No recording of BMS	1	1%
<b>Conservation Measures</b>	Illegal fishing - closed area/period/depth	6	5%
	Illegal gear	14	11%
	Illegal gear - attachment	2	2%
	Non-compliance - gear marking rules	1	1%
<b>Misrecording</b>	Misrecording - logbook	35	27%
	Misrecording - catch quantity	32	25%
	Non-compliance - margin of tolerance	1	1%
	Non-compliance - notification rules	13	10%
<b>Others</b>	Absence or inappropriate pilot ladder	1	1%
	Equipment not calibrated or certified	1	1%
	Fishing without authorization / licence	4	3%
	Non-compliance - production logbook rules	1	1%
	Non-function or operate without VMS, AIS and/or ERS	6	5%
	Obstruction to inspection	1	1%
	Others not specified	8	6%
<b>Total</b>		<b>128</b>	<b>100%</b>

Results of risk assessment of non-compliance

North Sea - Demersal

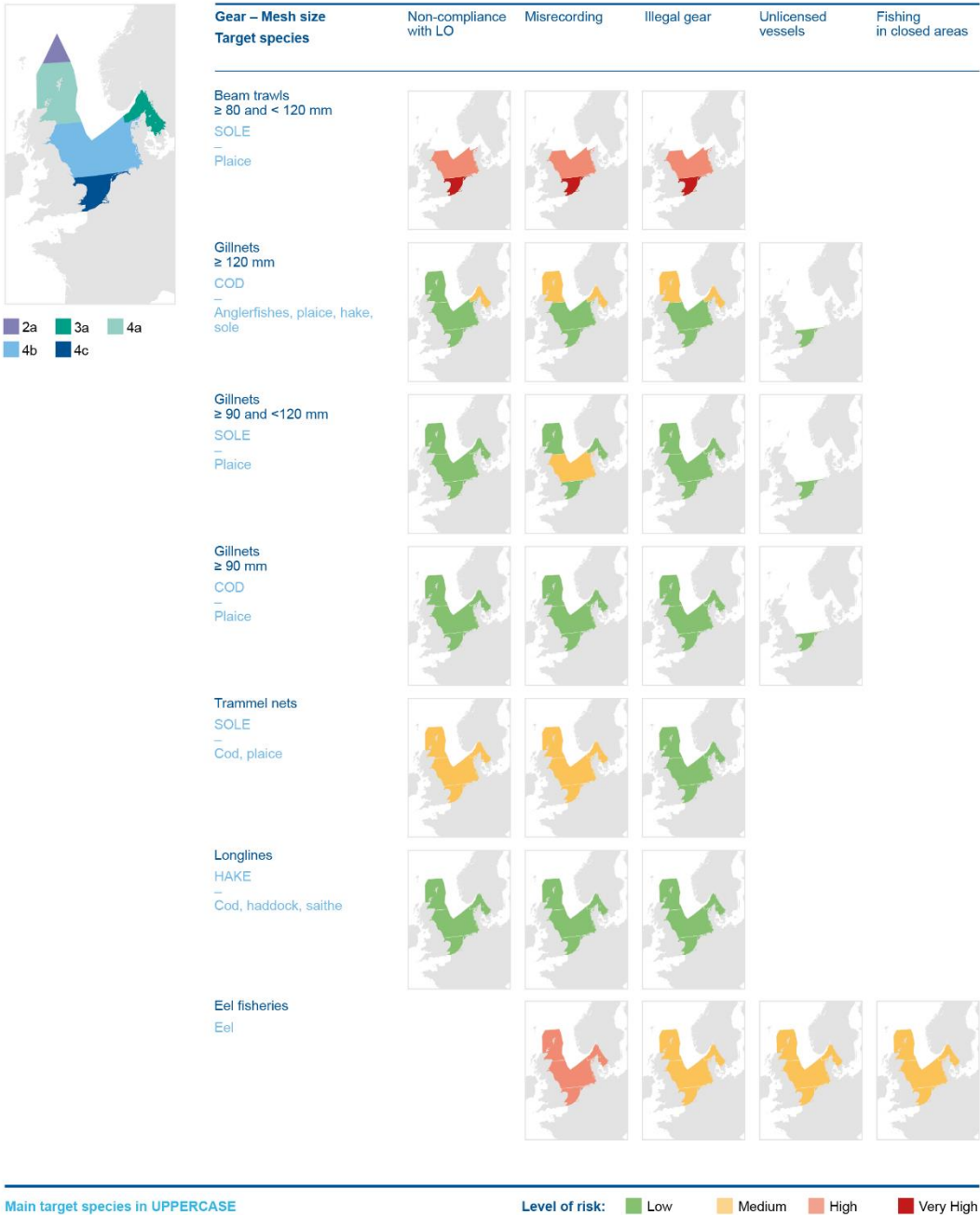


Gear – Mesh size Target species	Non-compliance with LO	Misrecording	Illegal gear	Unlicensed vessels	Fishing in closed areas
<b>Otter trawls/Seines ≥ 120 mm</b> COD – Anglerfishes, hake, haddock, Norway lobster, plaice, sole, saithe, whiting					
<b>Otter trawls/Seines ≥ 100 and &lt; 120 mm</b> COD – Anglerfishes, hake, haddock, Norway lobster, plaice, saithe, whiting					
<b>Otter trawls/Seines ≥ 70 and &lt; 100 mm</b> NORWAY LOBSTER – Plaice, cod, haddock, hake, whiting					
<b>Otter trawls/Seines ≥ 90 and &lt; 120 mm</b> COD – Hake, haddock, Norway lobster, sole, plaice, saithe, whiting					
<b>Otter trawls/Seines ≥ 70 and &lt; 90 mm</b> NORWAY LOBSTER – Cod					
<b>Otter trawls/Seines ≥ 35 and &lt; 70 mm</b> NORTHERN PRAWN – Cod					
<b>Beam trawls ≥ 120 mm</b> PLAICE – Cod, sole					

Main target species in UPPERCASE

Level of risk: ■ Low ■ Medium ■ High ■ Very High

North Sea - Demersal



The 2020 risk assessment results of pelagic fisheries in the North Sea are presented in the Western Waters JDP (just below).

## WESTERN WATERS JDP

(Report based on data registered in EFCA JDP information system on 31/01/2021)

<b>Joint Deployment Plan</b>	Western Waters JDP 2020
<b>Reporting period</b>	01 January to 31 December 2020
<b>Participation</b>	BE, DE, DK, ES, EE, FR, UK, IE, LT, LV, NL, PL, PT
<b>Operational area</b>	Union waters of ICES subareas 27.5, 27.6, 27.7, 27.8, 27.9 and 27.10, and CECAF divisions 34.1.1, 34.1.2 and 34.2.0.

Coordination Centre in EFCA (CC)	Campaign	Member States	Number of Experts	Man-days
	Western Waters	IE	3	15
		UK	2	17



A – DEPLOYED CONTROL MEANS					
Member State	Patrol Vessel		Aircraft	Exchange of Inspectors	
	Days at sea		No of Flights	Joint Teams at Sea	Mixed Teams ashore
	Committed Patrols (patrol sea days)	Other Patrols (sea days with events)		No Exchanges*	No Exchanges*
BE	5		1	2	
DE					1
DK					1
ES	29	49	53	2	
FR	44	3	4	5	
UK	267	83	27		
IE	139	25	31	5	
NL	18				
PT			22		
EFCA	29				
<b>Total</b>	<b>531</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>2</b>

\* One exchange is equivalent to 1 inspector for a period of up to 5 days.

B – ACTIVITY CARRIED OUT														
Type of Activity	Type of Deployment	Type of Object	Indicator	Patrol Coordinator										
				BE	DK	ES	FR	UK	IE	NL	PT	EFCA	Total	
Surveillance	Air		Sightings reported	15		127	192	204	192		84		814	
	Sea		Sightings reported					529	212			44	785	
Inspections	Land	Vessel	No. of inspections	62	4	1,734	274	300	888	3	76		3,341	
			No. of inspections with suspected infringements	12		226	4	1		1	12		256	
			% of inspections with suspected infringements	19.4	0.0	13.0	1.5	0.3	0.0	33.3	15.8		7.7	
			Total no. of suspected infringements	12		277	4	1		1	15		310	
			Total no. of inspections of targets			78	17	1	479				575	
			Inspections of targets with suspected infringements			21							21	
		Transport	No. of Inspections			60						1		61
			No. of inspections with suspected infringements			6						1		7
			% of inspections with suspected infringements			10.0						100.0		11.5
			Total no. of suspected infringements			7						1		8
		Business	No. of Inspections			17						4		21
			No. of inspections with suspected infringements			3						1		4
			% of inspections with suspected infringements			17.7						25.0		19.1
	Total no. of suspected infringements				3						1		4	
	Sea	Vessel	No. of Inspections			112	54	10	79	15		6	276	
			No. of inspections with suspected infringements			16	3		3	1			23	
			% of inspections with suspected infringements			14.3	5.6	0.0	3.8	6.7		0.0	8.3	
			Total no. of suspected infringements			19	3		3	1			26	
			Total no. of inspections of targets			11			23			3	37	
			Inspections of targets with suspected infringements			3			1				4	

C - RESULTS OF CONTROL ACTIVITIES													
Type of Deployment	Object	Indicators	Country in which the Object is registered										
			BE	DE	DK	ES	FR	UK	GL	IE	NL	PT	Total
Air	Vessel	Total no. of suspected infringements				4						2	6
Land	Business	No. of inspections				17						4	21
		No. of inspections with suspected infringements				3						1	4
		% of inspections with suspected infringements				17.7						25.0	19
		Total no. of suspected infringements				3						1	4
	Transport	No. of inspections				57		1		2		1	61
		No. of inspections with suspected infringements				6						1	7
		% of inspections with suspected infringements				10.5		0.0		0.0		100.0	11.5
		Total no. of suspected infringements				7						1	8
	Vessel	No. of inspections	69	4	2	1669	422	345	1	681	7	141	3,341
		No. of inspections with suspected infringements	12			200	7	1		1	2	33	256
		% of inspections with suspected infringements	17.4	0.0	0.0	12.0	1.7	0.3	0.0	0.2	28.6	23.4	7.8
		Total no. of suspected infringements	12			243	7	1		1	2	44	310
		Total no. of inspections of targets		2		66	16			491			575
Inspections of targets with suspected infringements					18	2			1			21	
Sea	Vessel	No. of inspections	5			111	91	21		29	19		276
		No. of inspections with suspected infringements				12	8	1		1	1		23
		% of inspections with suspected infringements	0.0			10.8	8.8	4.8		3.5	5.3		8.3
		Total no. of suspected infringements				15	8	1		1	1		26
		Total no. of inspections of targets				11	1			25			37
		Inspections of targets with suspected infringements				3				1			4

<b>D - TYPE OF SUSPECTED INFRINGEMENTS DETECTED DURING THE JDP</b>			
<b>Suspected Infringement Category</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>% Total</b>
<b>Landing Obligation</b>	Discard species subject to LO	1	0%
	No recording of BMS	6	2%
	Sales - below MCRS	2	1%
<b>Conservation Measures</b>	Fishing without or after attainment of a quota / catch limit	43	12%
	Illegal fishing - closed area/period/depth	6	2%
	Illegal fishing - method	1	0%
	Illegal gear	10	3%
	Retain / land species below MCRS	1	0%
<b>Misrecording</b>	Misrecording - logbook	70	20%
	Misrecording - sales notes	5	1%
	Misrecording - transport documents	5	1%
	Misrecording - catch quantity	127	36%
	Non-compliance - margin of tolerance	3	1%
	Non-compliance - notification rules	42	12%
<b>Others</b>	Absence or inappropriate pilot ladder	2	1%
	Equipment not calibrated or certified	1	0%
	Fishing without authorization / licence	3	1%
	Missing mandatory documents	1	0%
	Non-compliance - labelling rules	1	0%
	Non-compliance - stowage /capacity plan rules	3	1%
	Non-compliance - transshipment rules	4	1%
	Obstruction to inspection	11	3%
	Others not specified	5	1%
	Non-compliance - traceability	1	0%
<b>Total</b>		<b>354</b>	<b>100%</b>

Results of risk assessment of non-compliance

North Sea and Western Waters - Pelagic



- 2a
- 3a
- 4
- 6
- 5b
- 7d
- Rest of 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 34.1.1

**Albacore**

Gear	Non-compliance with LO	Misrecording	Illegal gear	Fishing in non-authorized areas
Midwater trawls targeting albacore				
Bait boats, Pelagic Trolling and poles and lines targeting albacore				
Pelagic longlines targeting albacore				

**Anchovy**

Gear	Non-compliance with LO	Misrecording	Illegal gear	Fishing in non-authorized areas
RSW tank vessel and Polyvalent - Mid water and mid water pair trawl				
Polyvalent - Bottom trawl and pair trawl				
Polyvalent - Purse seine				

Level of risk: ■ Low ■ Medium ■ High ■ Very High

North Sea and Western Waters - Pelagic

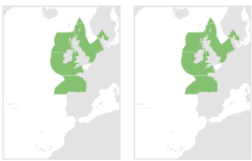


- 2a      3a      4
- 6      5b      7d
- Rest of 7      8      9
- 10      34.1.1

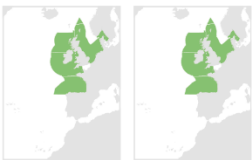
**Blue whiting**

Gear	Non-compliance with LO	Misrecording	Illegal gear	Fishing in non-authorized areas
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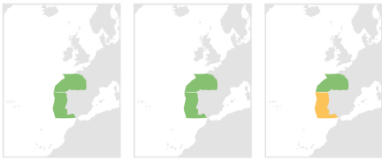
Freezer Trawls - Mid water and mid water pair trawl



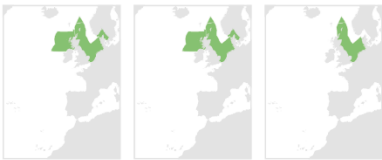
RSW tank vessel and Polyvalent - Mid water and mid water pair trawl



Polyvalent - Bottom trawl and pair trawl



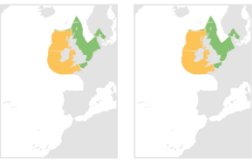
RSW tank vessel - Purse seine



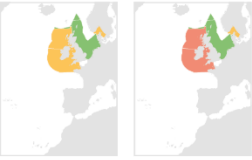
**Herring**

Gear	Non-compliance with LO	Misrecording	Illegal gear	Fishing in non-authorized areas
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Freezer Trawls - Mid water and mid water pair trawl



RSW tank vessel and Polyvalent - Mid water and mid water pair trawl



Level of risk: ■ Low ■ Medium ■ High ■ Very High

North Sea and Western Waters - Pelagic

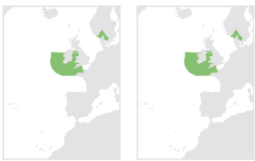


- 2a      3a      4
- 6      5b      7d
- Rest of 7      8      9
- 10      34.1.1

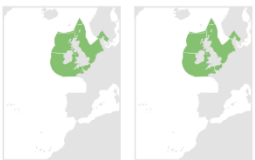
**Herring**

Gear	Non-compliance with LO	Misrecording	Illegal gear	Fishing in non-authorized areas
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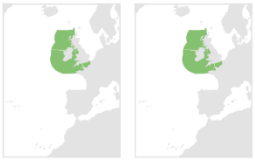
Polyvalent - Bottom trawl and pair trawl



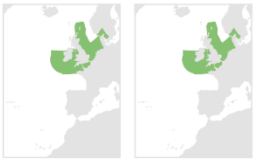
RSW tank vessel - Purse seine



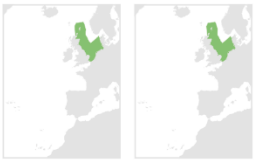
Polyvalent - Purse seine



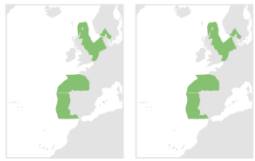
Gillnets anchored (set), and Gillnets (drift)



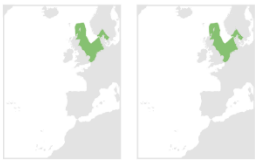
Trammel nets



Polyvalent - Lines



Traps, pots and pound nets



Level of risk: ■ Low    ■ Medium    ■ High    ■ Very High



North Sea and Western Waters - Pelagic

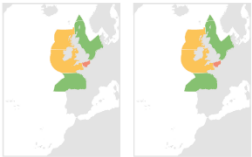


- 2a      3a      4
- 6      5b      7d
- Rest of 7      8      9
- 10      34.1.1

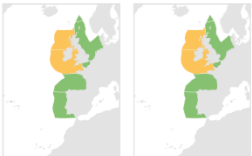
**Horse mackerel**

Gear	Non-compliance with LO	Misrecording	Illegal gear	Fishing in non-authorized areas
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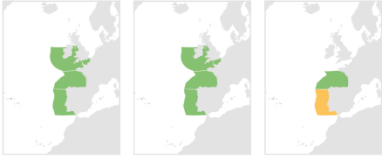
Freezer Trawls - Mid water and mid water pair trawl



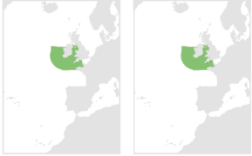
RSW tank vessel and Polyvalent - Mid water and mid water pair trawl



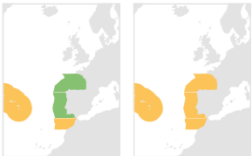
Polyvalent - Bottom trawl and pair trawl



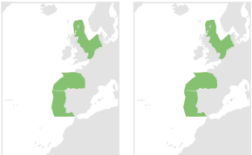
RSW tank vessel - Purse seine



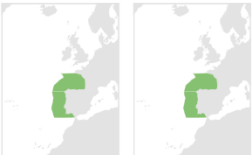
Polyvalent - Purse seine



Gillnets anchored (set), and Gillnets (drift)



Polyvalent - Lines



Level of risk: ■ Low    ■ Medium    ■ High    ■ Very High

North Sea and Western Waters - Pelagic

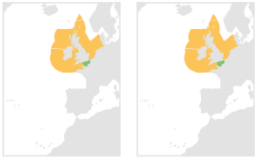


- 2a      3a      4
- 6      5b      7d
- Rest of 7      8      9
- 10      34.1.1

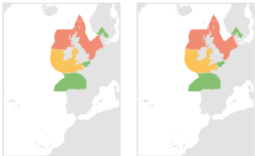
**Mackerel**

Gear	Non-compliance with LO	Misrecording	Illegal gear	Fishing in non-authorized areas
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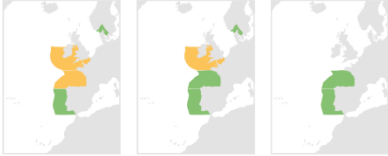
Freezer Trawls - Mid water and mid water pair trawl



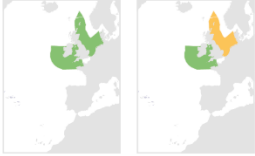
RSW tank vessel and Polyvalent - Mid water and mid water pair trawl



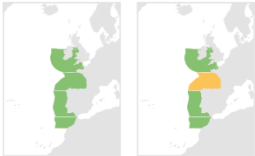
RSW tank vessel and Polyvalent - Mid water and mid water pair trawl



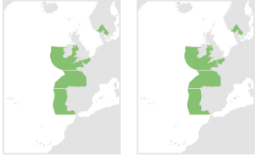
RSW tank vessel - Purse seine



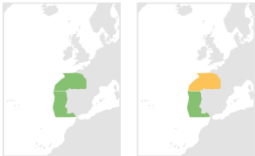
Polyvalent - Purse seine



Gillnets anchored (set), and Gillnets (drift)



Polyvalent - Lines



Level of risk: ■ Low ■ Medium ■ High ■ Very High

North Sea and Western Waters - Pelagic

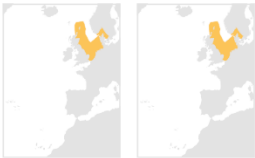


- 2a      3a      4
- 6      5b      7d
- Rest of 7      8      9
- 10      34.1.1

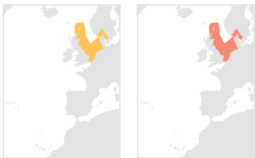
**Industrial Fisheries**

Gear	Non-compliance with LO	Misrecording	Illegal gear	Fishing in non-authorized areas
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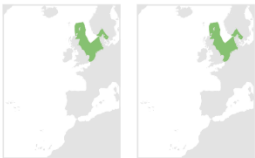
Industrial trawl 16-31 mm



Industrial trawl < 16mm

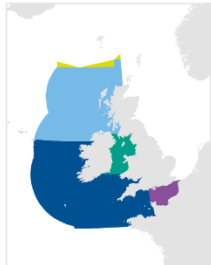


Industrial purse seine



Level of risk: ■ Low    ■ Medium    ■ High    ■ Very High

North Western Waters - Demersal

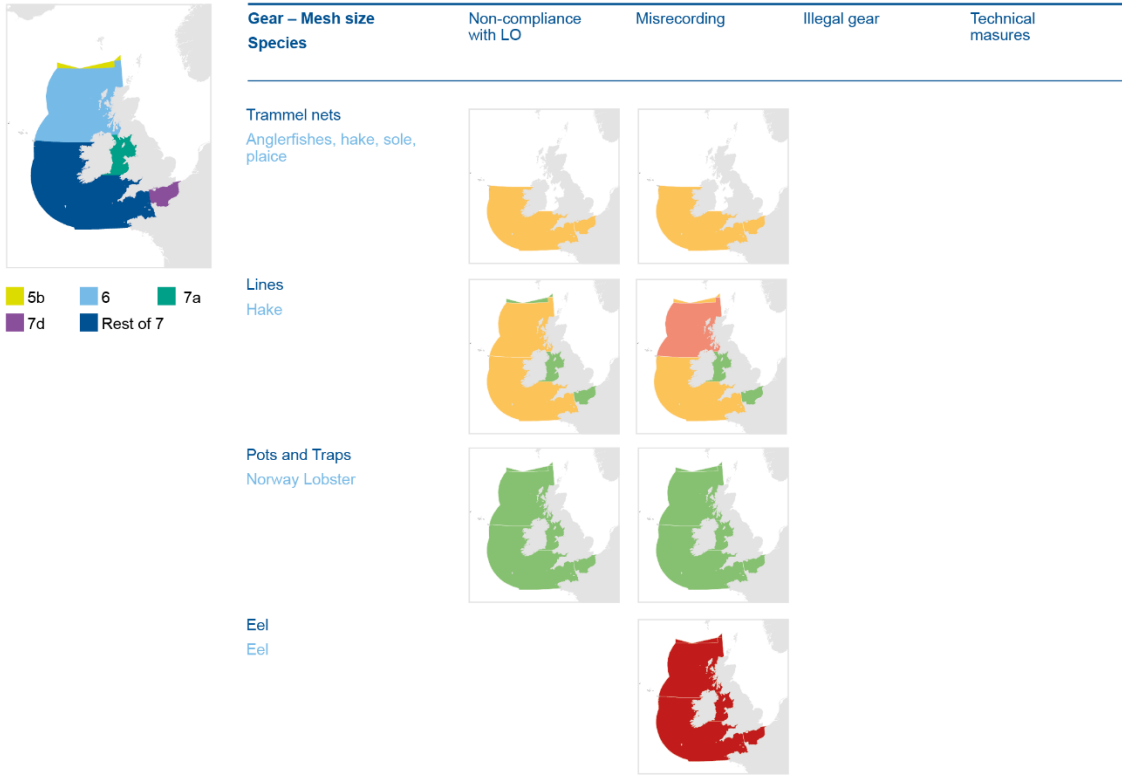


5b 6 7a  
7d Rest of 7

Gear – Mesh size Species	Non-compliance with LO	Misrecording	Illegal gear	Technical masures
Trawls ≥ 120 mm Grenadiers, cod, haddock, saithe, sole, plaice, hake				
Trawls < 120 mm Haddock, hake, Norway lobster, sole, plaice				
Deep water trawl Grenadiers, black scabbardfish, blue ling				
Beam trawl ≥ 120 mm Anflerfishes, sole, plaice				
Beam trawl, <120 mm Sole, plaice				
Seines Cod, haddock, hake, plaice, withing				
Gillnet Anglerfishes, saithe, hake, sole, plaice				


Level of risk: ■ Low ■ Medium ■ High ■ Very High

North Western Waters - Demersal



Level of risk: ■ Low    ■ Medium    ■ High    ■ Very High

South Western Waters - Demersal

	Gear – Mesh size Species	Non-compliance with LO	Misrecording	Illegal gear	Fishing in unauthorized areas
<p>8c Rest of 8 9 10 34.1.1.</p>	<p>Bottom trawls ≥ 100 mm Anglerfishes, hake</p>				
	<p>Bottom trawls 70 - 100 mm Hake, Norway Lobster</p>				
	<p>Bottom trawls targets mixed pelagic / demersal 55 - 70 mm Hake, Norway Lobster</p>				
	<p>Midwater trawls Hake</p>				
	<p>Beam trawls 70 - 100 mm Anflerfishes, sole</p>				
	<p>Seines Hake</p>				
	<p>Gill and trammel nets ≥ 170 mm Anflerfishes, sole</p>				

Level of risk: ■ Low ■ Medium ■ High ■ Very High

South Western Waters - Demersal

	Gear – Mesh size Species	Non-compliance with LO	Misrecording	Illegal gear	Fishing in unauthorized areas
<p>8c Rest of 8 9 10 34.1.1.</p>	<p>Gill and trammel nets 100 - 169 mm Anglerfishes, hake, sole</p>				
	<p>Gill and trammel nets 80 - 99 mm Anglerfishes, hake, sole</p>				
	<p>Longlines targeting demersal Hake</p>				
	<p>Hooks and Lines targeting GFB and ALF Alfonsinos, greater forkbeard</p>				
	<p>Longlines (Targeting BSF) Black scabbardfish</p>				
	<p>Lines (Targeting SBR) Red seabream</p>				
	<p>Artisanal gears Hake</p>				

Level of risk: ■ Low ■ Medium ■ High ■ Very High



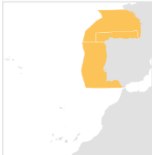
South Western Waters - Demersal



8c Rest of 8 9  
10 34.1.1.

Gear – Mesh size	Non-compliance with LO	Misrecording	Illegal gear	Fishing in unauthorized areas
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Eel Fisheries  
Eel



Level of risk: Low Medium High Very High

## NAFO JDP

(Report based on data registered in EFCA JDP information system on 31/01/2021)

<b>Joint Deployment Plan</b>	NAFO JDP 2020
<b>Reporting period</b>	01 January to 31 December 2020
<b>Participation</b>	CY, DE, DK, ES, EE, FR, IE, LT, LV, NL, PL, PT, SE, UK
<b>Operational area</b>	NAFO Regulatory Area

A – DEPLOYED CONTROL MEANS					
Member State	Patrol Vessel	Exchange of Inspectors			
	Days at sea	Joint Teams at Sea		Mixed Teams ashore	
	Committed Patrols (patrol sea days)	Man-days Deployed	Man-days Hosted	Man-days Deployed	Man-days Hosted
ES	27				
EE				10	
PT		40			10
EFCA	71		40		
<b>Total</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>

B – ACTIVITY CARRIED OUT							
Type of Activity	Type of Deployment	Type of Object	Indicator	Patrol Coordinator			
				ES	PT	EFCA	Total
Surveillance	Sea		Sightings reported	35		23	<b>58</b>
Inspections	Land*	Vessel	Number of inspections		1		<b>1</b>
			Number of inspections with suspected infringement		1		<b>1</b>
			% of inspections with suspected infringements		100.0		<b>100.0</b>
			Total number of suspected infringements		1		<b>1</b>
	Sea	Vessel	Number of inspections	16		19	<b>35</b>
			Number of inspections with suspected infringement	1		2	<b>3</b>
			% of inspections with suspected infringements	6.3		10.5	<b>8.6</b>
			Total number of suspected infringements	1		3	<b>4</b>


\* Inspection by mixed team

C - RESULTS OF CONTROL ACTIVITIES										
Type Deployment	Object	Indicators	Country in which the Object is registered							
			CA	ES	EE	FO	JP	PT	RU	Total
Land	Vessel	Number of inspections			1					1
		Number of inspections with suspected infringements			1					1
		% of inspections with suspected infringements			100.0					100.0
		Total number of suspected infringements			1					1
Sea	Vessel	Number of inspections	2	7	3	1	3	15	4	35
		Number of inspections with suspected infringements		1	1	1				3
		% of inspections with suspected infringements	0.0	14.3	33.3	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.6
		Total number of suspected infringements		1	1	2				4

D - TYPE OF SUSPECTED INFRINGEMENTS DETECTED DURING THE JDP			
Suspected Infringement Category		Total	% Total
<b>Conservation Measures</b>	Illegal fishing - prohibited or moratorium species	1	20%
<b>Others</b>	Non-compliance - labelling rules	2	40%
	Non-compliance with observer programmes	1	20%
	Obstruction to inspection	1	20%
<b>Total</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>100%</b>

Results of risk assessment of non-compliance

NAFO

Gear – Mesh size Species	Species misrecording	Area misrecording	Illegal gear	Move-on rules
 3L 3O 3M 3N				
Otter bottom trawlers 130 mm Redfish, green halibut				
Otter bottom trawlers 130 mm Cod, redfish, green halibut				
Otter bottom trawlers 40 mm Prawn				
Otter bottom trawlers 130 mm Cod, white hake, red, green halibut				
Bottom trawlers 280 mm Skate				
Otter bottom trawlers 130 mm Red, green halibut				
Bottom trawlers 280 mm Skate				
Otter bottom trawlers 60 mm Squid				

Level of risk: ■ Low ■ Medium ■ High ■ Very High

## NEAFC JDP

(Report based on data registered in EFCA JDP information system on 01/02/2021)

<b>Joint Deployment Plan</b>	NEAFC JDP 2020
<b>Reporting period</b>	1 January to 31 December 2020
<b>Participation</b>	CY, DE, DK, ES, EE, FR, IE, LT, LV, NL, PL, PT, SE, UK
<b>Operational area</b>	NEAFC Regulatory Area

A – DEPLOYED CONTROL MEANS				
Member State	Patrol Vessel	Aircraft	Exchange of Inspectors	
	Days at sea	No. of Flights	Joint Teams at Sea	
	Committed Patrols (patrol sea days)		Man-days Deployed	Man-days Hosted
DE	38			
ES	32			21
UK	2	5		
IE	2	17		
PT		1	55	
SE		4		
EFCA	57			34
<b>Total</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>55</b>

B – ACTIVITY CARRIED-OUT										
Type of Activity	Type of Deployment	Type of Object	Indicator	Patrol Coordinator						
				DE	ES	UK	IE	SE	EFCA	Total
Surveillance	Air		Sightings reported			1	38	49		88
	Sea		Sightings reported	240	72		2		18	332
Inspections	Sea	Vessel	No. of inspections		7					7

C - RESULTS OF CONTROL ACTIVITIES					
Type of Deployment	Object	Indicators	Country in which the Object is registered		
			LT	RU	Total
Sea	Vessel	Number of inspections	1	6	7
		No. of inspections with suspected infringements	0	0	0

## MEDITERRANEAN JDP

(Report based on data registered in EFCA JDP information system on 31/01/2021)

<b>Joint Deployment Plan</b>	MED-JDP 2020
<b>Reporting period</b>	01 January to 31 December 2020
<b>Participation</b>	CY, ES, FR, GR, HR, IT, MT, PT, SI, EFCA, FRONTEX
<b>Operational area</b>	ICES Subareas 27.7, 27.8, 27.9, 27.10 FAO 34.1.2 and FAO 37.1 – 37.2 – 37.3

A - DEPLOYED CONTROL MEANS							
Patrol Coordinator	Patrol Vessel		Aircraft	Exchanges of Inspectors			
	Days at sea		N° of Flights	Joint Teams at sea		Mixed Teams ashore	
	Committed Patrols (patrol sea days)	Other Means (sea days)		Man-days Deployed	Man-days Hosted	Man-days Deployed	Man-days Hosted
CY	159						
ES	264	144	84		5		
FR	20		1	12			
GR	1941		7				
HR	186	1	18	2		5	
IT	123		3	7	2		5
MT	62		8		21		
PT		8	5				
SI	276						
EFCA	26		34	7			
FRONTEX		87	176				
<b>Total</b>	<b>3057</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>



B - ACTIVITY CARRIED OUT															
Type of Activity	Type of Deployment	Type of Object	Indicator	Patrol coordinator											
				CY	ES	FR	GR	HR	IT	MT	PT	SI	EFCA	FRONTEX	Total
Surveillance	Air		Sightings reported		644	60	75	24	8	79	33		54	343	1320
	Land		Sightings reported		263			1							264
	Sea		Sightings reported	15	115		16	221	76	72		1336	23	116	1990
Inspections	Land	Vessel	Number of inspections	951	1915	671	6432	150	15	1776	77	25			12012
			Number of targeted inspections	165	73	33	1	6				7			285
		Transport	Number of inspections	23	7		278	7	4			10			329
		Business	Number of inspections	156	29		483	228	20		1	256			1173
		Fish Farm	Number of inspections		2			2							4
		Other	Number of inspections	440	7		62								509
	Sea	Vessel	Number of inspections	963	498	16	5712	201	139	227	5	13	5		7779
			Number of targeted inspections	37	31	16		24				2	2		112
		Fish Farm	Number of inspections		182			29		32	4				247
		Other	Number of inspections	303			17								320

B - ACTIVITY CARRIED OUT															
		<b>Trap</b>	<b>Number of inspections</b>		87										87
		<b>Other Fishing Gear</b>	<b>Number of inspections</b>		1			5	6						12

C - RESULTS OF CONTROL ACTIVITIES																										
Type of Deployment	Object	Indicators	Country in which the Object is registered																							
			BE	CN	CY	DZ	EG	ES	FR	GR	HR	IR	IS	IT	JP	LB	MT	NL	PA	PT	SL	TN	TR	UNK	Total	
Air	Vessel	Total no. of suspected infringements						15			3			1											19	
Land	Business	No. of inspections			156			29		483	228			20						1	256				1173	
		No. of inspections with suspected infringements			8			22		7	47			8								15				107
		% of inspections with suspected infringements			5.13			75.86		1.45	20.61			40.00						0.00	5.86					9.12
		Total no. of suspected infringements			12			29		8	51			8								15				123
	Fish farms	No. of inspections						2			2															4
		No. of inspections with suspected infringements																								0
		% of inspections with suspected infringements						0.00			0.00															0.00
		Total no. of suspected infringements																								0
	Other	No. of inspections		1	437		1	6		62			1	1												509
		No. of inspections with suspected infringements			74			4		18			1	1												98
		% of inspections with suspected infringements		0.00	16.93		0.00	66.67		29.03			100.00	100.00												19.25
		Total no. of suspected infringements			93			9		20			1	3												126
	Transport	No. of inspections			23			7		278	13			6								2				329
		No. of inspections with suspected infringements			2			1		6	1			1												11
		% of inspections with suspected infringements			8.70			14.29		2.16	7.69			16.67								0.00				3.34
		Total no. of suspected infringements			4			1		7	1			1												14

	Vessel	No. of inspections	4		955	1		1857	677	6365	150	7	1	84	11		1772	1	17	85	25				12012		
		No. of inspections with suspected infringements			26			411	2	87	35		1	5				3	1		17	3				591	
		% of inspections with suspected infringements	0.00		2.72	0.00		22.13	0.30	1.37	23.33	0.00	100.00	5.95	0.00			0.17	100.00	0.00	20.00	12.00				4.92	
		Total no. of suspected infringements			32			778	2	106	42		1	7				8	2		39	3				1020	
		Inspections of Targets			166			73	33		6											7					285
		Inspections of Targets with suspected infringements			6			29			1																36
Sea	Fish farm	No. of inspections					182				29						32			4					247		
		No. of inspections with suspected infringements					5																			5	
		% of inspections with suspected infringements					2.75				0.00							0.00			0.00					2.02	
		Total no. of suspected infringements					5																			5	
	Abandon Fishing gear	No. of inspections						1																	11	12	
		No. of inspections with suspected infringements						1																	4	5	
		% of inspections with suspected infringements						100.00																	36.36	41.67	
		Total no. of suspected infringements						1																	4	5	
	Other	No. of inspections			303						17															320	
		No. of inspections with suspected infringements			17						7															24	

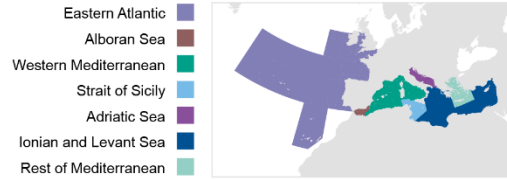
		% of inspections with suspected infringements			5.61					41.18													7.50	
		Total no. of suspected infringements			17						7													24
	Trap	No. of inspections																						87
		No. of inspections with suspected infringements																						0
		% of inspections with suspected infringements																						0.00
		Total no. of suspected infringements																						0
	Vessel	No. of inspections			956	1		295	36	5713	197			165	28	3	206		156	2	14	2	5	7779
		No. of inspections with suspected infringements			42			45	7	147	40			54		1	1				6	2	2	347
		% of inspections with suspected infringements			4.39	0.00		15.25	19.44	2.57	20.30			32.73	0.00	33.33	0.49		0.00	0.00	42.86	100.00	40.00	4.46
		Total no. of suspected infringements			46			67	8	171	51			64		3	2				6	4	4	426
		Inspections of Targets			37			21	28		24										2			112
		Inspections of Targets with suspected infringements			2			4	3		2										1			12

D - TYPE OF SUSPECTED INFRINGEMENTS DETECTED DURING THE JDP			
Suspected Infringement Category		Total	% Total
Landing Obligation	No recording of BMS	29	2%
	Sales - below MCRS	27	2%
Conservation Measures	Fishing without or after attainment of a quota / catch limit	25	1%
	Illegal fishing - closed area/period/depth	245	14%
	Illegal fishing - method	63	4%
	Illegal gear	127	7%
	Non-compliance - by-catch rules	13	1%
	Non-compliance - effort rules	5	0%
	Non-compliance - gear marking rules	33	2%
	Offer for sale fish below MCRS	2	0%
	Retain / land prohibited species	11	1%
	Retain / land species below MCRS	59	3%
	Misrecording	Sales - below MCRS	7
Misrecording - catch quantity		180	10%
Misrecording - logbook		391	22%
Misrecording - sales notes		7	0%
Misrecording - transport documents		8	0%
Non-compliance - BFT documentation and/or reporting rules		22	1%
Non-compliance - margin of tolerance		1	0%
Non-compliance - notification rules		51	3%
Others	Non-compliance with BFT video rules	13	1%
	Absence or inappropriate pilot ladder	5	0%
	Equipment not calibrated or certified	3	0%
	Falsifying, deleting or concealing the markings, identity or registration of a fishing vessel	5	0%
	Fishing without authorization / licence	107	6%
	Missing mandatory documents	5	0%
	Non-compliance - designated ports rules	3	0%
	Non-compliance - designated ports rules for BFT	4	0%
	Non-compliance - list of authorised vessels rules (BFT and/or SWO)	9	1%
	Non-compliance - safety rules	23	1%
	Non-compliance - stowage /capacity plan rules	2	0%
	Non-compliance - traceability	89	5%

<b>D - TYPE OF SUSPECTED INFRINGEMENTS DETECTED DURING THE JDP</b>			
<b>Suspected Infringement Category</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>% Total</b>
	Non-compliance - transshipment rules	5	0%
	Non-compliance with observer programmes	2	0%
	Non-function or operate without VMS, AIS and/or ERS	57	3%
	Obstruction to inspection	34	2%
	Other - crew requirements	23	1%
	Others not specified	67	4%
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,762</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Results of risk assessment of non-compliance

#### Mediterranean Sea and Eastern Atlantic Risk of non-compliance

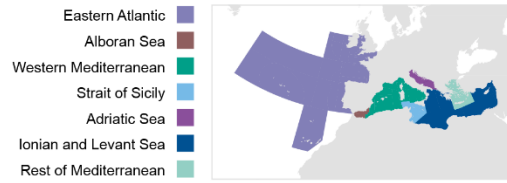


Gear-Fishery	Area	Main target species	Misreporting and/or misrecording	Non-compliance with quota or bycatch limit	Non-compliance with temporal/spatial closures	Non-compliance with minimum size of BFT/SWO	Non-compliance with general technical and management rules	Non-compliance with the LO
Bottom trawls	Strait of Sicily	Deep-sea rose shrimp, hake	High		Medium		High	High
	Ionian and Levant Sea	Deep-sea rose shrimp blue and red shrimp	Medium		Medium		Medium	Medium
	Western Mediterranean	Deep-sea rose shrimp, hake, mullet spp.,	High		Medium		Medium	High
	Adriatic Sea		Medium		Medium		Medium	High
	Mediterranean without SoS, W Med and Adriatic (in the case of HKE, DPS) and W Med and Adriatic (in the case of MUX, NEP)	Deep-sea rose shrimp, hake, mullet spp., norway lobster	Medium		Medium		Medium	High
Midwater trawls and pair trawls	Mediterranean Sea without Adriatic Sea	Anchovy, sardine	Medium		Medium		Medium	Medium
	Adriatic Sea	Anchovy, sardine	Medium	Medium	Medium		Medium	Medium
Midwater trawls and pair trawls	Eastern Atlantic	Bluefin tuna	Medium	Medium	Low	Low	Low	
Purse seine	Mediterranean (Excluding Adriatic sea )	Anchovy, sardine	Medium				Medium	High
	Adriatic Sea	Anchovy, sardine	High	Medium	Medium		Medium	High
Purse seine (Catching vessels)	Mediterranean Sea	Bluefin tuna	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	
Purse seine (Catching vessels)	Mediterranean Sea	Bluefin tuna	Medium		Medium			
Purse seine (Auxiliary vessels)	Mediterranean Sea	Bluefin tuna	Medium			Medium		
Purse seine (towing vessels)	Mediterranean Sea	Bluefin tuna	Medium		Medium			
Longlines, hand lines	Alboran Sea	Seabream	Medium	Medium	Medium		Medium	Medium
	Mediterranean without Alboran Sea	Hake, red seabream	Medium		Medium		Medium	Medium
Long Lines, hand-liners, trolling boats, bait boats	Mediterranean Sea	Albacore, bluefin tuna, swordfish	Medium	Medium	Medium	High	Medium	

Level of risk: Low Medium High Very High



**Mediterranean Sea and Eastern Atlantic**  
Risk of non-compliance



Gear-Fishery	Area	Main target species	Misreporting and/or misrecording	Non-compliance with quota or bycatch limit	Non-compliance with temporal/spatial closures	Non-compliance with minimum size of BFT/SWO	Non-compliance with general technical and management rules	Non-compliance with the LO
Bait boats	Eastern Atlantic	Bluefin tuna	■	■	■	■	■	
Trammel nets and gill nets	Western Mediterranean	Hake, mullus spp.	■		■		■	■
	Adriatic	Hake, mullus spp.	■		■		■	■
	Mediterranean without W Med and Adriatic	Hake, mullus spp.	■		■		■	■
Fixed traps	Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea	Bluefin tuna	■	■		■	■	
Pots and traps	Mediterranean Sea	Various crustaceans	■	■	■		■	■
Mechanised dredges	Mediterranean Sea	Various bivalves	■	■	■		■	■
Mechanised dredges	Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea	Albacore, bluefin tuna, swordfish	■	■	■	■	■	
All gears	Mediterranean Sea	Eel	■	■	■		■	■
Surrounding net without purse line	Mediterranean Sea	Dolphinfish	■		■		■	
Divers	Mediterranean Sea	Coral	■	■	■		■	■

Level of risk: ■ Low ■ Medium ■ High ■ Very High

## BLACK SEA JDP

(Report based on data registered in EFCA JDP information system on 01/02/2021)

<b>Joint Deployment Plan</b>	Black Sea JDP 2020
<b>Reporting period</b>	1 January to 31 December 2020
<b>Participation</b>	BG, RO, EFCA, FRONTEX
<b>Operational area</b>	FAO 37.4.2

A – DEPLOYED CONTROL MEANS							
Member State	Patrol Vessel		Aircraft	Exchange of Inspectors			
	Days at sea			Joint Teams at Sea		Mixed Teams ashore	
	Committed Patrols (patrol sea days)	Other patrols (sea days)	No of Flights	Man-days Deployed	Man-days Hosted	Man-days Deployed	Man-days Hosted
BG	42			0		8	
RO	35			0			8
Frontex		120	3				
<b>Total</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>

B - ACTIVITY CARRIED OUT							
Type of Activity	Type of Deployment	Type of Object	Indicator	Patrol coordinator			
				BG	RO	FRONTEX	Total
Surveillance	Air		Sightings reported			4	4
	Sea		Sightings reported	41	174	67	282
Inspections	Land	Vessel	Number of inspections	1217	325		1542
			Number of inspections targeted vessels	601	244		845
		Transport	Number of inspections	2	34		36
		Business	Number of inspections	84	101		185
	Sea	Vessel	Number of inspections	92	48		140
			Number of inspections of targeted vessels	9	17		26
Other Fishing gear		Number of inspections		1		1	

C - RESULTS OF CONTROL ACTIVITIES					
Type Deployment	Object	Indicators	Country in which the Object is registered		
			BG	RO	Total
Land	Business	Number of inspections	84	101	185
		Number of inspections with suspected infringements			0
		% of inspections with infringements	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Total number of suspected infringements			0
	Transport	Number of inspections	2	34	36
		Number of inspections with suspected infringements	1		1
		% of inspections with infringements	50.00	0.00	2.78
		Total number of suspected infringements	1		1
	Vessel	Number of inspections	1217	325	1542
		Number of inspections with suspected infringements	10	8	18
		% of inspections with infringements	0.82	2.46	1.17
		Total number of suspected infringements	16	9	25
		Inspections of targets	601	244	845
		Inspections of targets with suspected infringements	3	7	10
	Sea	Vessel	Number of inspections	94	46
Number of inspections with suspected infringements			4	3	7
% of inspections with infringements			4.26	6.52	5.00
Total number of suspected infringements			6	3	9
Inspections of targets			10	16	26
Inspections of targets with suspected infringements					0
		Number of inspections		1	1

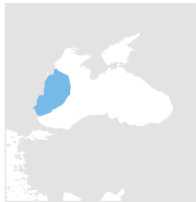
	Other Fishing gear	Number of inspections with suspected infringements			0
		% of inspections with infringements		0.00	0.00
		Total number of suspected infringements			0



<b>D - TYPE OF SUSPECTED INFRINGEMENTS DETECTED DURING THE JDP</b>			
<b>Suspected Infringement Category</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>% Total</b>
<b>Conservation Measures</b>	Illegal fishing - closed area/period/depth	4	11%
	Illegal fishing - method	1	3%
	Illegal gear	2	6%
	Non-compliance - gear marking rules	1	3%
<b>Misrecording</b>	Misrecording - logbook	3	9%
	Misrecording - transport documents	1	3%
	Misrecording - catch quantity	4	11%
	Non-compliance - notification rules	5	14%
<b>Others</b>	Fishing without authorization / licence	7	20%
	Missing mandatory documents	3	9%
	Non-function or operate without VMS, AIS and/or ERS	1	3%
	Others not specified	1	3%
	Third country vessels fishing in EU waters	2	6%
<b>Total</b>		<b>35</b>	<b>100%</b>

Results of risk assessment of non-compliance

Black Sea



EU Waters of the Black Sea

Gear – Mesh size Species	Non-compliance with LO	Misrecording	Illegal gear	Non-compliance with spatial / temporal closures	Fishing without licence and authorisation	IUU fishing activities
Mid-water otter trawls Sprat						
Bottom set gillnets (authorised) Turbot						

Level of risk: ■ Low ■ Medium ■ High ■ Very High

## TRAINING ACTIVITIES IN 2020

Area	Action	Date(s)	Place	No. of participants	Satisf. % (good/very good)
Med. Black Sea	Black Sea JDP training for inspectors	19-20/02	Constanta	22	100
	MED Landing Obligation SWO and BFT	27/03	online	31	92
	MED Landing Obligation + Adriatic Sea Management Measures for demersal species and small pelagics	24/04	online	46	92
	Support to HR National training	20-21/05	online	35	n/a
	IMS training (1) (CY)	28/05	online	9	n/a
	Support to national training (IT)	8-9/09	online	13	n/a
	Support to national training (IT)	21-22/10	online	17	n/a
	IMS training IT	23/10	online	6	n/a
	Support to national training (HR)	28/10	online	32	n/a
	Training on the Landing Obligation GR	29/10	online	87	n/a
	IMS training (RO and BG)	18-19/11	online	8	n/a
	IMS training (GR)	24-25/11	online	15	n/a
	IMS training (2) (CY)	26-27/11	online	9	n/a
	Training on Technical measures (GR)	8/12	online	68	n/a
NAFO-NEAFC	Training for NAFO inspectors	28-30/01	Vigo	23	100
	Briefing for NAFO inspectors (ES)	25/05	online	8	n/a
	National training for NEAFC inspectors (IE)	11 and 13/02	Cork and Killybegs	42	n/a
	Training for NEAFC inspectors (ES-PT)	08/05	online	12	n/a
Western Waters/ North Sea/Baltic Sea	Western Waters JDP webinar for EU inspectors	3-4/06	online	42	71
	North Sea JDP webinar for EU inspectors	19-20/05	online	23	100
	Baltic Sea JDP webinar for EU inspectors	28-29/10	online	45	89
All MS	IUU training for newcomers	15-17/09	online	23	100
	BREXIT Webinar (IUU/NEAFC)	27-28/10	online	>100	n/a
	<b>Subtotal EU inspectors</b>	<b>23 events</b>		<b>716</b>	<b>93</b>
Third countries	Regional training for fisheries inspectors ISMI-PESCAO	10-14/02	Abidjan	19	100
	PESCAO support to Sierra Leone national inspection training	14-16/12	online	15	100
	<b>Subtotal non-EU inspectors</b>	<b>2 events</b>		<b>34</b>	<b>100</b>
MS + third countries + EU org.	Registered active users to the EFCA e-learning platform			1033	n/a
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>No of events: 25</b>		<b>No. of participants: 750+1033 = 1783</b>	<b>95</b>

## COAST GUARD COMMON REPORT OF THE ANNUAL STRATEGIC PLAN



## Tripartite Working Arrangement – TWA

## Annual Report 2020

## (Implementation of the Annual Strategic Plan 2020)

Objectives	Outcome
<b>Horizontal</b>	
<p>To hold the annual joint European Coast Guard event under the coordination of EMSA in line with the experience gained at the previous annual events, while enhancing interaction between participants.</p>	<p>The European Coast Guard event was organised online on 10 December 2020 under the coordination of EMSA. The event focused on challenges and opportunities that the COVID-19 pandemic brought before the EU coast guard cooperation, the developments in the cooperation and on the priorities of action for the years to come. 157 participants coming from national authorities of 3 communities (EFCA, EMSA and Frontex), EU Commission, EFCA, EMSA, SatCen, Frontex and ECGFF attended the event.</p>
<p>To promote further European cooperation with national authorities on coast guard functions at EU, EU sea basins and national level.</p>	<p>The agencies provided information on the state of play of the cooperation to the Council Friends of the Presidency group on European Union Maritime Security Strategy (EUMSS).</p> <p>The agencies continued also the cooperation with the European Coast Guard Functions Forum (ECGFF). In February 2020 EMSA organised with the ECGFF a joint workshop, with the contribution of EFCA and Frontex, on "Information sharing and data security in the maritime safety and security domains" that was held in person, before travel restrictions were introduced.</p> <p>In October 2020, the three agencies jointly contributed to a panel discussion on the "EU Maritime Strategy" organised virtually by the Secrétariat général de la Mer (SG Mer) of France, as chair of the ECGFF, during the Euronaval exhibition. The three agencies also organised common virtual stands during the same exhibition.</p>
<p>To ensure the annual joint participation of the agencies in the European Maritime Day.</p>	<p>The agencies registered for a joint stand and for a joint Stakeholders' workshops with the subject "EU cooperation on coastguard functions in practice". Unfortunately, due to the coronavirus pandemic the European Maritime Day was cancelled in 2020. It will now be organised in May 2021 and the stakeholders' workshop will be held in virtual mode.</p>



Objectives	Outcome
To produce a set of communication tools (brochures, videos etc.) promoting EU inter-agency Cooperation and make it available to the three agencies for dissemination.	The agencies developed specific videos material for the promotion of the EU coast guard cooperation. The agencies also coordinated communication through social media on specific events with joint activities or contributions.
To organise a joint hearing at the European Parliament in 2020 on the outcome of inter-agency cooperation.	This activity was not possible to implement due to the coronavirus pandemic.
<b>Information sharing</b>	
Exchange of vessel position and earth observation data between the three agencies based on the SLA's in place, complete the mapping of data sets, analyse the usefulness to identifying of cooperative and non-cooperative objects at sea and to take one area, SAR, for which all three agencies have an interest, to work together to support the Member States SAR Community, to improve the awareness of Member States of the data available and to improve the exchange of information with them.	<p>The agencies noted the progress made on the objective of sharing data. This included the implementation of regular and systematic sharing of Earth Observation services between the three agencies. Likewise, Terrestrial AIS data acquired from the commercial market and processed by EMSA on behalf of Frontex in specific areas of interest is now available to all three agencies and their respective user communities.</p> <p>The agencies completed the mapping of data sets, including descriptions of the data sets themselves in a standardised and systemic manner. An overview table of data sets available to the communities of each Coast Guard Function was also prepared. Data sets, descriptions and mapping were compiled into one document, the Maritime Data Catalogue, as a definitive product of the work of the agencies.</p> <p>Considering the current restrictions in place as a result of precautionary measures against COVID-19 and reflecting discussions in previous meetings, the agencies agreed to postpone the specific focus on supporting the Member States' SAR Community.</p>
Visualisation and identification of assets participating in operations in the maritime picture, where possible.	<p>The agencies have created a catalogue of the assets available from each of the three agencies, however more detailed information such as areas of operations cannot be regularly shared in light of the restrictions in place.</p> <p>Considering such operational sensitivities, a potential way forward could be to create a repository where Member States can consult who the point of contact for each asset and associated deployment is.</p>
Continue to explore machine learning/artificial intelligence applied to the maritime picture to the benefit of MS national authorities.	<p>The first step in developing machine learning capabilities is to prepare data sets which can be used as training data. The work completed by the agencies in the form of the Maritime Data Catalogue may contribute to identifying relevant datasets.</p> <p>Regarding Earth Observation (EO), EMSA has a project to set up training datasets for the</p>

Objectives	Outcome
	<p>development of machine learning algorithms. The focus of such algorithms is on extracting information from Earth Observation images.</p> <p>EMSA is developing a historical Automated Behaviour Monitoring (ABM) and Global Port Calls detection capability. These two functionalities may produce datasets that can be used in training machine learning models.</p> <p>The Risk Analysis team is developing the use of algorithms. The main challenge is the access to big data.</p>
<p>To explore how to structure enhanced cooperation between EU agencies and Member States, for example with Maritime Rescue Coordination Centres, for exchange of operational information in real time and other provisions related to responses.</p>	<p>The procedure for Incidental Sightings of Potential Marine Pollution is in place and cases are reported by Frontex to EMSA via this channel.</p> <p>The EMSA Central Organisation Database (COD) is an example of interagency cooperation that can lead to an increased exchange of information with Maritime Rescue Centres (MRCC). The locations, areas of responsibility and contact details for the MRCCs are made available in SEG to EFCA in a layer for displaying information from the COD and development is underway to provide this same service to Frontex (system-to-system).</p>
<b>Surveillance and communication services</b>	
<p>To analyse the possibility to increase specific surveillance and communication services to relevant stakeholders and to identify additional opportunities.</p>	<p>The systematic sharing of Earth Observation (EO) services between the three agencies is in place. EMSA provides EO added value services to Frontex and EFCA and has shared the planning and products between the agencies. The planning of EO services for the three agencies by the same team at EMSA allows for the resolution of any conflict in acquisitions and to maximise access to quality services for all agencies.</p> <p>The benefits of sharing Earth Observation services are clear. Those have been demonstrated in the Baltic Sea exercise, led by Frontex in cooperation with the Finnish authorities. In addition to the Vessel Detection Service (VDS) tasking specifically for the exercise, Frontex also exploited the VDS available from the planned CleanSeaNet oil spill monitoring imagery in the area.</p>
<p>To avoid duplication and overlap of surveillance and communication services, in particular in the area of RPAS services.</p>	<p>EMSA informed Frontex and EFCA during regular formal (SLA meetings, remotely piloted aircraft system (RPAS) user group) and informal meetings on the ongoing and planned developments regarding RPAS operations and invited them or their stakeholders in Member States to participate in the new regional deployments, such as in the Baltic where access to the flight information has been provided as agreed with the MS authorities in command of the surveillance service.</p>

Objectives	Outcome
	<p>The cooperation between EMSA and EFCA to support enhanced fisheries control by providing additional surveillance capacity from an RPAS has been very close. EMSA has made a quadcopter available for flights taking off from EFCA's chartered offshore patrol vessel, the Lundy Sentinel. In parallel, EMSA provides satellite communication services to EFCA to support all yearlong the Lundy Sentinel fisheries inspections patrols.</p> <p>Cooperation regarding maritime air surveillance continued between EFCA and Frontex through the specific SLA and the dedicated inter-institutional framework contract.</p>
For EMSA to continue to offer RPAS services to Frontex and EFCA communities in support of coast guard functions.	A written communication from EMSA to the Executive Directors of EFCA and Frontex, reaffirmed the Agency's commitment and availability to support activities coordinated under their respective Coast Guard Functions.
Where possible, data should be exchanged between the agencies generated by RPAS deployments.	Exchange of data is taking place systematically via the EMSA RPAS Data Centre.
<b>Capacity building</b>	
To finalise and keep updated the Handbook on European Cooperation on Coastguard Functions.	<p>The first version of the handbook was submitted to the European Commission in June 2020. The Commission provided feedback that the agencies incorporated in the final document. Experts from all the 22 Member States with a sea border contributed to the drafting process, together with Iceland and Norway as part of the Governing Boards of EMSA and Frontex. The handbook has 7 sections, with an introductory part explaining the scope and objectives, the inter-agency cooperation framework and 5 sections with appendixes consisting of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a service catalogue of the agencies (with indication on who and how to request the service),</li> <li>• a training catalogue with all training and e-training of the three agencies,</li> <li>• a best practices guidelines and manuals catalogue,</li> <li>• a regional, bilateral, multilateral and international cooperation mechanisms catalogue and</li> <li>• country factsheets with information about the entities and authorities in Member States with coast guard responsibilities.</li> </ul> <p>An important next step is the implementation of the handbook through an online portal, which has been discussed with Member States and the European Commission in 2020.</p>

Objectives	Outcome
<p>To ensure an appropriate follow-up by the agencies of the outcome of the relevant components of the ECGFA Network Project (including SQF).</p>	<p>The aim of the project follow-up by the agencies of the relevant components of the European Coast Guard Academies Network project is related to the coast guard exchange programme and to the Coast Guard Sectoral Qualifications Framework (SQF). The agencies have informed their stakeholder communities in the context of their specific network meetings and steering groups and have also sent a letter to the agencies training focal points, to request the nomination of contact points to follow-up with the project outcomes. To note that the COVID-19 pandemic has not permitted to progress on the above-mentioned exchange programme and there might be the need to look for other alternatives (such as electronic platforms).</p> <p>EFCA is now hosting the portal that resulted from the project (<a href="https://ecgf.efca.europa.eu/">https://ecgf.efca.europa.eu/</a>). Also, on SQF, EFCA launched at the end of 2020 a mapping/study to be carried by an external expert.</p>
<p>To offer the following joint cross-sectoral training to Member State national authorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Search and Rescue (MRCC personnel)</li> <li>- Maritime surveillance</li> <li>- Fishing vessels safety/Fisheries control</li> </ul>	<p>In March and April 2020, a survey was launched by the three agencies on the follow up on cross-sector Search and Rescue training, to have feedback on the views of Member States. The agencies have been working on the content of these possible cross-sectoral training activities. The cross-sectoral training on maritime safety and fisheries control was canceled in 2020 since an important component of the training consisting of a site visit and practical exercise in port and in a fishing vessel was not possible to be implemented.</p>
<p>To jointly develop future EU capacity building cooperation programmes with third countries in coast guard functions, where relevant.</p>	<p>The agencies have been exchanging information and have been mapping the training activities they provide to third countries. Specifically, for Libya, the three agencies have been in contact with EU BAM Libya on the Maritime Strategy and have also liaised with EUNAVFOR MED IRINI on capacity building activities.</p>
<p><b>Risk analysis</b></p>	
<p>To further enhance cooperation on cross-sector risk management between the EU agencies and Member States authorities by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Providing procedures/methods to perform a combined (where possible) risk assessment at strategic level covering the areas of competence of each Agency (safety, security, environment, fishery, border, etc);</li> <li>- Providing options to share the outcomes of risk assessments;</li> <li>- Providing options for the establishment of a multi-risk sea picture, at a sea basin level with integrated analytical outcome.</li> </ul>	<p>The three agencies have been working on how risk analysis products or data from the three agencies could be joined to inform national authorities. Examples have been presented regarding mapping.</p> <p>The aim is to support Member States authorities on their cross-sectoral risk analysis needs. In order to have more specific information, it is foreseen to launch a consultation or a dedicated survey. This is in preparation and is planned to be launched early 2021.</p> <p>Also, in order to support interoperability and cross-sectoral cooperation, a glossary of terms has been developed by the three agencies.</p>

Objectives	Outcome
<b>Capacity sharing</b>	
<p>To further identify opportunities between EU agencies on capacity sharing for assets to support different coast guard functions, such as the operation of the EFCA vessel which has been equipped and trained by EMSA for antipollution purposes.</p>	<p>The agencies have been exchanging information about the technical requirements and capabilities of sea and airborne assets to perform CG functions. In addition, the agencies have conducted the mapping of the assets, owned, leased, or otherwise available from the agencies which could be considered for capacity sharing. The mapping of the technical and operational indicators for assets to perform Coast Guard Functions missions has been also completed. As a result, a matrix has been released providing these indicators as well as the assets owned or leased (chartered) by the agencies able to perform those missions.</p>
<p>To develop a common understanding between EU Agencies of the concept for European Multipurpose Maritime Activities, including new identified elements, such as the capacity sharing with the use of multinational crews/experts and assets for the implementation of Multipurpose Maritime Operations (MMOs) in various basins of the European Union.</p>	<p>The concept for European Multipurpose Maritime Activities with integration of operational modules is under development. The agencies have been discussing on the need to harmonize the various terminologies used in the context of multipurpose maritime operations and/or activities, including the EMMA and MMO concepts.</p> <p>The agencies have agreed that, as a first step, the MMO concept should be defined because without MMO's definition, the agencies would not be able to define EMMA concept, which will be at strategical level.</p> <p>This first step has been completed in 2020 as the agencies have developed and agreed on the text of an MMO concept at technical level.</p> <p>During the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual European Coast Guard Event 2020 took place the official announcement of the common definition of the MMO concept.</p>
<p>To develop guidelines for multipurpose operations implemented by EU agencies based on the related existing regimes.</p>	<p>The agencies have agreed that before developing any guidelines the definition about the MMO had to be agreed and the feedback from MSs - received.</p> <p>The development of MMO Guidelines have been incorporated in the ASP 2021 and are being developed taking into consideration best practises available at EFCA, EMSA and Frontex and the relevant legal frameworks.</p>

## PERFORMANCE REPORT OPV LUNDY SENTINEL

The European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) is chartering an offshore patrol vessel (OPV) since 2017, primarily deployed for fisheries control but also available for multipurpose tasks in the framework of the European cooperation on coast guard functions, such as search and rescue, and pollution response (in cooperation with Member States authorities and/or Frontex and EMSA).

It is important to highlight that, according to Articles 9 and 10 of the EFCA founding regulation<sup>79</sup> the **Agency may acquire, rent or charter the equipment that is necessary for the implementation of the joint deployment plans**. According to Article 8 of the same regulation, the Agency shall support national authorities in carrying out Coast Guard functions by, among other things, sharing capacity by planning and implementing multipurpose operations and by sharing assets and other capabilities, to the extent that those activities are coordinated by those agencies and are agreed by the competent authorities of the Member States concerned.

The OPV started operations for EFCA in January 2018 and this report provides a summary of the performance of the OPV Lundy Sentinel, *inter alia* on the technical and operational related aspects in 2020. Operational information from previous years can be found in the EFCA Annual Report of 2019.

### 1. Technical specifications

#### 1.1. General overview

The EFCA chartered OPV, Lundy Sentinel, is a Portuguese flagged Multi-Role Field Support Emergency Response and Rescue Vessel (ERRV) providing a multipurpose platform for reconnaissance, surveillance and inspection missions at sea, meeting the majority of the operational requirements of various authorities performing Coast Guard functions in the EU. The main technical specifications of the vessel are the following:

- Type: ERRV
- Built: 2015
- L.O.A.: 61 m - Beam: 15 m - Max Draft: 5.014 m
- Gross Tonnage: 1944
- Autonomy: with full bunkers, approximately 60 days
- Cruising speed: 10 kn - Max Speed: 13 kn
- Crew: 12
- Boarding equipment: Fast Rescue Boats (FRB) Palfinger 7 m - DC Palfinger 10 m - RHIB
- Operational presence within various EU sea basins - 12 months

#### 1.2. Specific functionalities

##### State of the art navigation and communication equipment

The satellite communication (SatCom) allows permanent internet access to fisheries control surveillance systems on board (IMS, JaDE, FISHNET, Copernicus acquisitions, etc.). As such the OPV can be considered as a 'mobile office of EFCA'.

In addition, EFCA has provided a satellite phone in order to ensure that at any moment there is connectivity with the EFCA deployed personnel (EFCA officers and Member States inspectors) as well as ensuring there are means to communicate information via a secured and confidential channel.

##### Boarding crafts

The OPV Lundy Sentinel is equipped with three boarding crafts, which can perform boarding or surveillance operations in diverse weather conditions. One of the boarding crafts is a daughter craft

<sup>79</sup> Regulation (EU) No 2019/473 of the European Parliament and of the Council



that can reach a speed of 30 knots and has an authorised deployment range of 10 nm from the mother ship.

The three boarding crafts ensure that the majority of boarding scenarios required for fisheries control are covered.

#### Special winching area for helicopter and RPAS operations

The OPV Lundy Sentinel has a special winching area for helicopter operations (e.g. MEDEVAC or other), which has also proven to be suitable for Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems launching and operations. A winching area is paramount for performing long-range patrols and is advantageous in case of emergencies to carry out medical evacuation (MEDEVAC) injured or sick persons. In 2020 there were also several MEDEVAC drills arranged in cooperation with Galician Coast Guard (Gardacostas Galicia) when the OPV was in the vicinity of the port of Vigo.

Making significant progress, in the context of interagency cooperation, an RPAS and a pilot have been deployed on board of the OPV during 2020. EFCA is using the RPAS as a tool for enhancing fisheries surveillance and control as well as the safety and security of boarding. EMSA provides the RPAS service and associated SatCom free of charge. The deployment of the RPAS is possible due to the special winching area of the OPV.

#### Readiness for environmental protection and specific oil pollution response capacity - Vessel of opportunity.

Also, thanks to the interagency cooperation, the OPV is equipped with a trawl net system, installed in a container to be used (deployed) for heavy oil recovery and with dispersant (5 tons) to be used for situations of when there is light oil detected at the sea surface. It is worth mentioning that on 7 July 2020 the Lundy Sentinel, while being on patrol in the Mediterranean Sea and transiting to the Adriatic Sea, has received a radio call from Italian Coast Guard to check on potential pollution being present on the planned route. Thus, Lundy Sentinel was able to check the area and reported back to the Italian Coast Guard that there was no pollution spotted and continued its mission.

Besides the aforementioned capacity, the OPV is fit for towing and providing assistance to stricken or disabled vessels, as well as to provide support for Vessel Traffic Service (VTS) in specific sea areas.

#### Readiness for Search and Rescue

The OPV has specific equipment and capacity for Search and Rescue, including of mass-rescue operations, as follows:

- readiness for the role of On Scene Coordinator' (OSC) for SAR operations including other on standby or constant state of readiness duties.
- availability of a mechanical recovery device and a crane-operated rescue net for recovery of survivors or casualties directly from the sea in severe conditions.
- enhanced survivor reception and modern medical after-care facilities with the presence of one medical staff.
- Surplus medical supplies (e.g. 500 units of oral rehydration salts; pocket masks for cardiopulmonary resuscitation; burn wound dressings; cooling balm; defibrillators; body bags).
- Additional equipment related to SAR: 230 life vests; 4 inflatable light weight rafts; 200 foil rescue blankets; Portable Night Vision Goggles; Portable Thermo / Infra-Red (IR) Camera; extreme/heavy duty flashlights; Megaphone.
- Additional food and water supplies for 200 persons for two days as well as nutritional drinks for children.

The use of the OPV is consistently available to Member States in line with the international SAR obligations. It is important to mention that on 25 April 2020 Lundy Sentinel received a MAYDAY call from EU fishing vessel announcing that there was a fire onboard of one of EU flagged fishing vessel in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) regulatory area and they needed immediate assistance. Afterwards Canadian Coast Guard requested Lundy Sentinel to assist as being one of the closest assets to respond to the SAR case.

## 2. Assessment of performance

The current assessment covers the activities during 2020 and is presented also by Joint Deployment Plan areas: Baltic, North Sea, Western Waters, Mediterranean and NAFO/NEAFC.

### 2.1. Mission

Mission: fisheries MCS operations in a Multipurpose Maritime Operations framework (fisheries MCS, training (medical evacuation training exercise - MEDEVAC), inter MS, multipurpose capacity: search and rescue, assistance, environmental protection (VOO), medical assistance, test bed for new technologies such as EMSA RPAS, etc.).

### 2.2. Technical performance

The OPV fulfils the main purpose of providing a fisheries inspection platform to Member States all year around. Annual deployment is arranged as such for the OPV to maximise patrols at sea and a maximum of 48 hours in port for crew and inspector' exchange and for bunkering as required. Therefore, through patrols the OPV fulfilled close to 100% of the planned activities. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, adaptations had to be made in 2020 as described in the following section.

### 2.3. Coronavirus pandemic impact on EFCA OPV planning and operation

Following the coronavirus outbreak and pandemic in early 2020, the operational planning of the EFCA OPV had to be revised due to travel restrictions and the closure of certain ports. The following measures were introduced in the operational planning in order to respect safety related requirements:

- The port of Vigo was adopted for the start and end of patrols for EFCA staff to embark and disembark.
  - OPV crew changes were limited through an extension of the periods at sea and followed by quarantine stand-by periods of 14 days in order to minimise any potential risk of infection during EFCA patrols.
  - In order to increase efficiency, the duration of the fisheries control patrols at sea were increased from 12 days to four/five weeks.
  - Two PCR Covid-19 tests (both negative) required, the first 14 days before embarking and the second within three days before embarking. The Covid-19 test requirement is for all EFCA deployed staff on board, including the RPAS pilot.
- A coronavirus protocol was adopted by EFCA where inspections at sea had to follow a specific procedure, including a prior radio contact with the vessel to be inspected with a query on Covid-19 related situation on board and a related assessment. Also, only fishing vessels with more than 3 weeks at sea could be inspected. Boarding and inspections were undertaken only with mandatory use of Personal Protective Equipment and only open spaces were visited by the inspectors.
- Safe distribution of EFCA personnel and Lundy Sentinel crew on the Lundy Sentinel as far as possible to maintain distances to the crew and also the WHO guidance of basic personal protective measures applied.
- The initial planning was revised in order to place the chartered OPV in the areas (such as NAFO and NEAFC) where there is highest possibility to meet requirement of the protocol (e.g. fishing vessels more than 3 weeks at sea), also in line with the powers of the EFCA Union Inspectors.

The presence of the OPV in the Mediterranean Sea was limited due to the port restrictions in place and limited opportunities of inspection. Also, due to the travel restrictions and unavailability of Member States inspectors, EFCA staff were deployed mostly on board the EFCA chartered OPV as Union inspectors in international waters of the Northeast and Northwest Atlantic (NEAFC and NAFO) in order to fulfil commitments of the European Union within these fisheries' management organisations.



## 2.4. Operational performance

The OPV contributed to the implementation of the JDP's. Fisheries control operations provide an outstanding first-hand insight into the status of compliance in fisheries and offers the capacity to address them through the SG and TJDG, and also to facilitate a 'fine tuning' of the annual risk assessments.

Table 1 presents the overall number of days at sea, completed inspections and suspected infringements using the OPV. In 2020, the number of performed inspections was impacted by the COVID-19 related restrictions. EFCA adopted a specific protocol for the boarding and inspection of fishing vessels (see previous section). The number of inspections were therefore lower compared to previous years (see EFCA Annual Report 2019), but all possibilities to enhance the added value of the presence of Lundy Sentinel at sea were used.

Table 1 - Days at sea, number of inspections and number of suspected infringements (SI) in 2020 and by sea basin with related %.

	<b>Days on duty</b>	<b>Number of inspections</b>	<b>Number of SI</b>	<b>(%) of inspections per day</b>	<b>(%) of inspections with SI</b>
<b>2020</b>					
<b>Baltic Sea</b>	26	9	2	34 %	22 %
<b>North Sea</b>	7	1	0	14 %	-
<b>Western Waters</b>	28	6	0	21 %	-
<b>Mediterranean</b>	26	5	0	19 %	-
<b>NAFO</b>	91	19	3	21 %	15%
<b>NEAFC*</b>	63	0	0	0 %	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>12 %</b>	<b>13%</b>

\* Includes also surveillance and monitoring days in the ICCAT area (see explanation in the text)

It has to be noted that as quarantine measures following the COVID-19 outbreak in 2020 Lundy Sentinel had to spend 94 days on quarantine in addition to days on duty. These safeguard measures have allowed to minimize risk and guarantee safe working environment for EFCA and MS Union inspectors.

Regarding the experience of using the Remote Piloted Aircraft System on board the OPV, the Table 2 provides information about the number of flights performed, the indicated dates and the geographical area covered.

Table 2 - Number of RPAS flights by patrol dates and geographical area.

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Geographical Area</b>	<b>Number of RPAS flights</b>
<b>15 Jan. – 27 Jan. 2020</b>	Baltic Sea	4 Surveillance flights Total 4 flights
<b>29 Jan. – 10 Feb. 2020</b>	Baltic Sea	7 Surveillance flights Total 7 flights
<b>12 Feb. – 24 Feb. 2020</b>	North Sea	0 flights (poor weather conditions) Total 0 flights
<b>26 Feb. – 09 March</b>	Western Waters	5 Surveillance flights 1 training/test flight Total 6 flights

Dates	Geographical Area	Number of RPAS flights
<b>13 March – 20 March 2020</b>	Western Waters	1 Surveillance flight
<b>27 June – 22 July 2020</b>	Mediterranean Sea	19 Surveillance flights 2 training/test flight Total 21 flights
<b>10 Aug. – 14 Sep. 2020</b>	NAFO/NEAFC	16 Surveillance flights 3 training/test flight Total 19 flights
<b>06 Oct – 12 Nov 2020</b>	NAFO/NEAFC	7 Surveillance flights 0 training/test flight Total 7 flights
<b>14 Nov – 13 Dec 2020</b>	NAFO/NEAFC	5 Surveillance flights 2 training/test flight Total 7 flights

It should be noted that the deployment of a light quadcopter (weight of 2300g, battery powered) from on board the OPV is considered as a positive experience. The endurance of the RPAS is limited to around 35 minutes and the working range is 2,5 Nm (4,5 km) from the target. The RPAS sensors have proven to be able to provide good image and video footage quality. The use of the RPAS aims at improving the safety and the security of the boarding team and has been recognised as an added value.

The core task of the RPAS is to support pre-boarding phase, through enabling checks of the security and safety conditions for the inspection team before the actual boarding, during boarding and when leaving the inspected vessel. Other tasks are related to fisheries control e.g. observing behaviour on-board that might suggest potential infringements such as: discarding, use of illegal gear and identification of fishing activity in prohibited areas or during closure season. Furthermore, the RPAS video is also reviewed by the boarding team and the master of the vessel in order to perform a post boarding assessment to facilitate the continued improvement of procedures.

### 2.5. Exchange of inspectors

The OPV has also provided a platform for the exchange of inspectors between Member States. Table 3 indicates the number of inspectors deployed on board the OPV in 2020 by Member State. There were only exchanges until March.

Table 3 - Number of Member States inspectors on board the OPV in 2020.

#### **2020**

##### Member States

<b>BE</b>	1	<b>IR</b>	2	<b>FR</b>	2
<b>DE</b>	1	<b>LV</b>	1	<b>PT</b>	2
<b>DK</b>	2	<b>LT</b>	2		
<b>ES</b>	1	<b>PL</b>	1		

Due to the availability of the OPV for the deployment of various MS inspectors, it contributes to the standardisation of inspection methods, information sharing and the promotion of best practices (e.g. the use of check lists, the use of the electronic mesh gauges, performing the last haul inspections).

The EFCA is carefully following the performance of the OPV; following each patrol a performance report is produced by the EFCA Liaison Officer on board (LOB) which is submitted to EFCA and analysed. In addition, MS representatives have an opportunity to submit their observations on the performance of the OPV. No significant issues have been reported. Safety, security and other related elements are duly addressed by EFCA and discussed with the company Sentinel Marine Ltd and the flag state (Portugal).

## 2.6. Cooperation with other EU Agencies

The OPV is associated with other EU Agencies in the area of interagency cooperation. The EFCA is always ready to assist MS authorities in areas besides fisheries, in particular in other Coast Guard functions.

As mentioned in previous sections, during the COVID-19 crisis, some 2020 operational days were on stand-by as a quarantine period and preventive measure. However, during these periods the OPV was available to support multipurpose maritime operations under the framework of European cooperation on Coast Guard functions in support of MS competent authorities, if requested by specific EU MS and/or an EU Agency.

In 2020 EFCA chartered vessel during the mission in the Mediterranean Sea was associated with Frontex coordinated operations in line with SOP established for this purpose.



## 3. Overall assessment

Considering the above mentioned technical and operational performance elements, alongside the tender specifications upon which the contract was signed, it is concluded that the EFCA chartered OPV Lundy Sentinel is efficient, cost-effective and performing well.

The OPV has proven to be an important platform for the exchange of experience and is serving as a testbed for emerging technologies (such as the use of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems) for fisheries control. Also, the OPV provides permanent availability and access to fisheries control surveillance systems on board (such as the Integrated Maritime Service for fisheries and Copernicus acquisitions), an opportunity for MS inspectors to increase their experience in their use. All of which demonstrate the significant added value of the OPV.

Also, during the COVID-19 crisis and, in spite of the vast and numerous restrictions, in 2020 EFCA was still able to adjust operational model and develop an alternative plan in order to get the maximum out of the OPV operations in such challenging times for all actors at maritime domain. The OPV maintained its activity during the whole period of the crisis to perform fisheries control and inspection and to support other coast guard functions.

## ANNEX II: STATISTICS ON FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Description	Result/ Figures of the period	
	2020	2019
Budget implementation % of commitment appropriations (C1)	97.3%	99.9%
Budget implementation % of payment appropriations (C1)	81.2%	85.7%
Budget implementation % of commitment appropriations excluding salaries (chapters 11 and 12) (C1)	98.8%	100.9%
Implementation of carried over appropriations (C8)	93.5%	93.5%
Budget implementation % of PESCAO grant (R0 to implement in 2018-2022)	36%	73%
Budget implementation % of commitment appropriations (C1, R0, C4)	97.4%	98.8%
Budget implementation % of payment appropriations (C1, C8, R0, C4)	80.7%	85.8%
Payment delay	2%	0.6%

## Budget Implementation (C1)

STAFF EXPENDITURE				Commitments (€)			Payments (€)			Carried Forward	
Chapter	Description	Budget 2020	Transfers	CA (€)	Committed	%	PA (€)	Paid	%	€	%
1.1	Staff in active employment	8,240,000	-213,650	8,026,350	7,997,485	100%	8,026,350	7,977,835	99%	19,649	0.2%
1.2	Expenditure related to recruitment	140,000	-10,700	129,300	23,699	18%	129,300	23,699	18%	0	0.0%
1.3	Administrative missions and duty travel	70,000	0	70,000	3,091	4%	70,000	3,001	4%	90	0.1%
1.4	Socio-medical infrastructure, training	140,000	-11,000	129,000	99,213	77%	129,000	74,093	57%	25,119	19%
1.7	Reception and representation expenses	1,000	0	1,000	0	0%	1,000	0	0%	0	0.0%
	<b>TOTAL TITLE I</b>	<b>8,591,000</b>	<b>-235,350</b>	<b>8,355,650</b>	<b>8,123,488</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>8,355,650</b>	<b>8,078,628</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>44,859</b>	<b>0.5%</b>

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENDITURE				Commitments (€)			Payments (€)			Carried Forward	
Chapter	Description	Budget 2020	Transfers	CA (€)	Committed	%	PA (€)	Paid	%	€	%
2	Rental of building and associated costs	407,000	-27,490	379,510	379,365	100%	379,510	341,851	90%	37,514	10%
2.1	Data processing expenditure and associated costs	626,000	248,810	874,810	874,643	100%	874,810	527,092	60%	347,552	40%
2.2	Movable property and associated costs	77,000	64,400	141,400	140,536	99%	141,400	95,812	68%	44,724	32%
2.3	Current administrative expenditure	40,000	-6,350	33,650	33,348	99%	33,650	22,282	66%	11,066	33%
2.5	Meeting expenses	72,000	-65,000	7,000	7,000	100%	7,000	7,000	100%	0	0%
2.6	Supplementary Services	293,000	6,580	299,580	299,568	100%	299,580	242,021	81%	57,547	19%
2.7	General Info/Communications	55,000	14,400	69,400	69,356	100%	69,400	29,498	43%	39,857	57%
	<b>TOTAL TITLE II</b>	<b>1,570,000</b>	<b>235,350</b>	<b>1,805,350</b>	<b>1,803,815</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,805,350</b>	<b>1,265,555</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>538,260</b>	<b>30%</b>

OPERATIONAL EXPENDITURE				Commitments (€)			Payments (€)			Carried Forward	
Chapter	Description	Budget 2020	Transfers	CA (€)	Committed	%	PA (€)	Paid	%	€	%
31	JDP's, Operational plans and Pilot Projects	955,000	-570,000	385,000	250,433	65%	385,000	170,856	44%	79,578	21%
32	Risk assessment and Data Analysis	1,050,000	200,000	1,250,000	1,194,259	96%	1,250,000	520,664	42%	673,595	54%
33	International dimension: compliance with international provisions	250,000	-230,000	20,000	10,019	50%	20,000	10,019	50%	0	0%
34	Coast Guard and Capacity Building	4,484,000	600,000	5,084,000	5,057,121	99%	5,084,000	3,674,108	72%	1,383,013	27%
	<b>TOTAL TITLE III</b>	<b>6,739,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6,739,000</b>	<b>6,511,832</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>6,739,000</b>	<b>4,375,646</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>2,136,185</b>	<b>32%</b>

	Description	Budget 2020	Transfers	CA (€)	Committed	%	PA (€)	Paid	%	€	%
	<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>16,900,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>16,900,000</b>	<b>16,439,135</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>16,900,000</b>	<b>13,719,830</b>	<b>81%</b>	<b>2,719,305</b>	<b>16%</b>

## Budget Implementation (C8)

### STAFF EXPENDITURE

Chapter	Description	Carry forward 2019-2020	Paid	Cancelled	%
1.1	Staff in active employment	41,383	36,813	4,570	89%
1.3	Administrative missions and duty travel	5,221	3,787	1,434	73%
1.4	Socio-medical infrastructure, training	42,881	31,632	11,248	74%
	<b>TOTAL TITLE I</b>	<b>89,484</b>	<b>72,232</b>	<b>17,252</b>	<b>81%</b>

### ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENDITURE

Chapter	Description	Carry forward 2019-2020	Paid	Cancelled	%
2	Rental of building and associated costs	38,721	36,040	2,681	93%
2.1	Data processing expenditure and associated costs	205,679	204,362	1,317	99%
2.2	Movable property and associated costs	44,907	44,847	60	100%
2.3	Current administrative expenditure	7,141	6,968	172	98%
2.5	Meeting expenses	5,114	2,353	2,761	46%
2.6	Supplementary Services	50,472	37,103	13,369	74%
2.7	General Info/Communications	28,096	28,096	0	100%
	<b>TOTAL TITLE II</b>	<b>380,129</b>	<b>359,769</b>	<b>20,360</b>	<b>95%</b>

### OPERATIONAL EXPENDITURE

Chapter	Description	Budget 2020	Paid	Paid	%
31	JDP's, Operational plans and Pilot Projects	200,182	160,210	39,971	80%
32	Risk assessment and Data Analysis	327,825	297,920	29,905	91%
33	International dimension: compliance with international provisions	60,001	44,400	15,601	74%
34	Coast Guard and Capacity Building	1,319,238	1,287,693	31,545	98%
	<b>TOTAL TITLE III</b>	<b>1,907,246</b>	<b>1,790,223</b>	<b>117,023</b>	<b>94%</b>

	Description	Budget 2020	Paid	Paid	%
	<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>2,376,860</b>	<b>2,222,225</b>	<b>154,635</b>	<b>93%</b>

**Table Budget outturn and cancellation of appropriations**

<b>Budget outturn</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>Revenue actually received (+)</b>	17,403,665	17,279,871	17,696,710
<b>Payments made (-)</b>	-15,158,366	-14,818,472	-14,079,299
<b>Carry-over of appropriations (-)</b>	-2,398,126	-2,698,742	-3,283,568
<b>Cancellation of appropriations carried over (+)</b>	196,625	136,104	154,635
<b>Adjustment for carry over of assigned revenue appropriations from previous year (+)</b>	119,720	360,524	113,013
<b>Exchange rate differences (+/-)</b>	-573	-328	-361
<b>Adjustment for negative balance from previous year (-)</b>			
<b>Total</b>	<b>162,945</b>	<b>258,957</b>	<b>601,130</b>

**Budget outturn justification**

The budget outturn has increased in respect of 2019 outturn, mainly due to the lower budget implementation resulted from the restrictions applied in the framework of the COVID-19 pandemic situation.

The revenue and carry over figures in 2020 include the funds received for one ad-hoc grant for PESCAO with an implementation period 2018-2022 (R0 fund source).



**Cancellation of commitment appropriations**

The unused commitment appropriations in 2020 represent 2.6% of the total commitment appropriations of 2020. This includes all the fund sources with commitment appropriations (C1, C4 and R0).

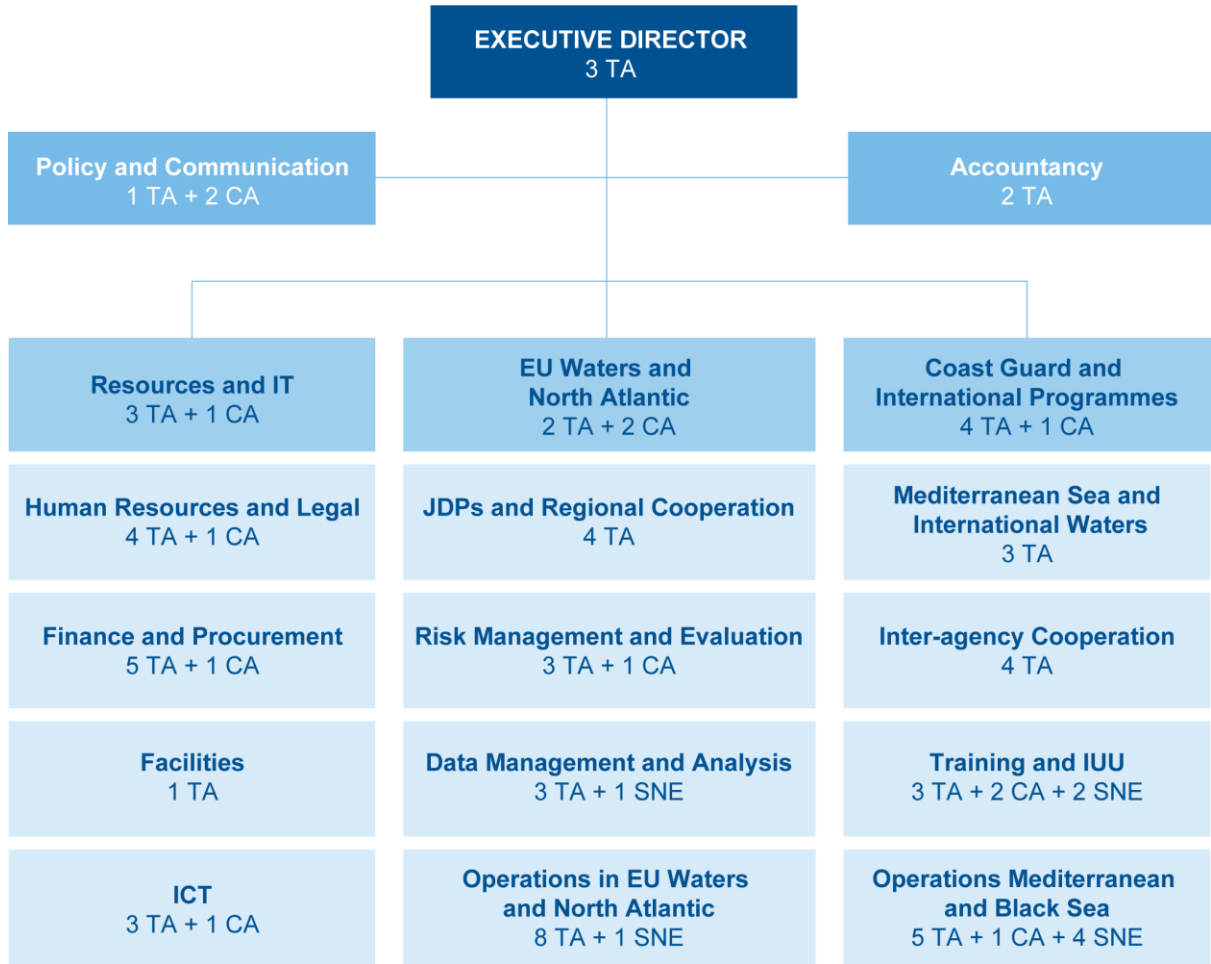
**Cancellation of payment appropriations and payment appropriations carried over**

The total cancellation of payment appropriations in 2020 was 3%. This includes the ad-hoc grants revenue and amounts carried forward from 2019.

In respect to cancellation of the C1 payment appropriations, in 2020 EFCA executed 97.3% of its budget, and did not consume 2.7% of the payment appropriations.

The appropriations entered as R0 and not used in 2020 have been automatically carried forward for its use in 2021.

ANNEX III: ORGANISATION CHART



## ANNEX IV: ESTABLISHMENT PLAN AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Category	2020			
	Authorised under the EU Budget		Filled as of 31/12/2020	
	Officials	TA	Officials	TA
AD 16				
AD 15		1		1
AD 14		2		2
AD 13		1		1
AD 12		2		2
AD 11				
AD 10		7		7
AD 9		5		5
AD 8		13		12
AD 7		1		1
AD 6				
AD 5				
<b>TOTAL AD</b>		<b>32</b>		<b>31</b>
AST 11				
AST 10		6		6
AST 9		3		3
AST 8		3		3
AST 7		8		8
AST 6		2		2
AST 5		7		7
AST 4				
AST 3				
AST 2				
AST 1				
<b>TOTAL AST</b>		<b>29</b>		<b>29</b>
<b>TOTAL AST/SC</b>				
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>61</b>		<b>60</b>

## Information on the entry levels for each type of post

Key functions (examples)	Type of contract (official, TA or CA)	Function group, grade of recruitment (or bottom of the brackets if published in brackets)	Indication whether the function is dedicated to administrative support or operational or neutral
<b>Operational</b>			
Head of Department, Deputy Director, etc.	Not applicable		
Head of Unit (level 2)	TA	AD9	Operational
Head of Sector (level 3)	TA	AD7	Operational
Senior Officer	TA	AD7	Operational
Officer, Specialist	TA	AD6	Operational
Officer	TA	AD5	Operational
Senior Assistant	TA, CA	AST10-11, FG III	Operational
Assistant	TA, CA	AST1, FG II	Operational
Assistant to the Director	TA	AST4	Operational
<b>Support</b>			
Head of Administration (level 2)	TA	AD11	Support
Head of Sector (level 3)	TA	AD7	Support
Senior Officer	TA	AD7	Support
Officer, Specialist	TA	AD6	Support
Officer	TA	AD5	Support
Senior Assistant	TA, CA	AST10-11, FG III	Support
Assistant	TA, CA	AST1, FG II	Support
Head of Human Resources	Not applicable		
Head of Finance	Not applicable		
Head of Communication	Not applicable		
Head of IT	Not applicable		
Webmaster- Editor	Not applicable		
Secretary	CA	FG II	Support
Mail Clerk	Not applicable		
Data Protection Officer	TA, CA	AD/ AST 6, FG IV	Support
Accounting Officer	TA	AD9	Neutral
Internal Auditor	Not applicable		

**Human resources by job type****Human resources by job type 2019 and 2020**

EFCA carried out a benchmarking exercise following the Methodology for agencies job screening. The analysis was made for the situation of 2019 and 2020. The results are displayed in the table below and allow a comparative view on the allocation of human resources (measured by working time) into predefined types of activities.

<b>Job Type (sub) category</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>Administrative support and Coordination</b>	<b>25.2%</b>	<b>25.4%</b>
Administrative Support	22.1%	22.4%
Coordination	3.1%	3%
<b>Operational</b>	<b>66.2%</b>	<b>65.2%</b>
Top level Operational Coordination	2.5%	2.4%
Programme management & Implementation	47.7%	48.3%
Evaluation & Impact assessment	4.4%	4.3%
General Operational	11.6%	10.2%
<b>Neutral</b>	<b>8.6%</b>	<b>9.4%</b>
Finance/Control	8.6%	9.4%
Linguistics	0%	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

## ANNEX V: HUMAN AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES BY ACTIVITY

STRATEGIC AREAS	2020			2021			2022			2023		
	TA	CA/SNE FTE	Budget executed	TA	CA/SNE FTE	Budget allocated	TA	CA/SNE FTE	Budget allocated	TA	CA/SNE FTE	Budget allocated
JDPs, Operational Plans and Pilot projects	17.5	8.0	4,251,156	17.8	6.2	5,306,076	18.0	6.0	5,400,000	18.0	3.0	5,500,000
Risk assessment and data analysis	8.4	3.7	3,370,271	8.9	3.9	3,385,352	8.0	4.0	3,400,000	8.0	3.0	3,500,000
International dimension: compliance with international provisions	7.0	0.5	1,362,199	7.8	0.2	1,881,308	8.0	0.0	1,900,000	8.0	0.0	2,000,000
Coast Guard and Capacity building	6.5	0.5	7,455,509	6.8	0.2	6,427,263	7.0	0.0	6,640,000	7.0	0.0	6,690,000
<i>Governance and Horizontal Support</i>	21.7	3.5		19.9	3.7		20.0	4.0		20.0	3.0	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>61.0</b>	<b>16.0</b>	<b>16,439,135</b>	<b>61.0</b>	<b>14.2</b>	<b>17,000,000</b>	<b>61.0</b>	<b>14.0</b>	<b>17,340,000</b>	<b>61.0</b>	<b>9.0</b>	<b>17,690,000</b>

## ANNEX VI: CONTRIBUTION, GRANT AND SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT. FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS

	Actual or expected date of signature	Total Amount	Duration	Counterpart	Short description		2019	2020
<b>Grant Agreements</b>								<b>680,000</b>
1. PESCAO	Commission Decision C(2017)2951 of 28.04.2017	2,585,000	5 years (2018-2022)	680,000 3.0	Improved regional fisheries governance in the region through better coordination of national fisheries policies Financed under 11th European Development Fund (EDF)	<b>Amount</b>		680,000
						<b>No CAs</b>		3.0
						<b>No SNEs</b>		2.0
<b>Contribution Agreements</b>								
						<b>Amount</b>		
						<b>No CAs</b>		
						<b>No SNEs</b>		
<b>Service level Agreements</b>								
1.EMSA	28/03/2018	No Financial limit. Used in 2020: IMS, antipollution, RPAS		EMSA	SLA between the EFCA and EMSA for the MARSURV service	<b>Amount</b>	-	
						<b>No CAs</b>	-	
						<b>No SNEs</b>	-	
2.EMSA/FRO NTEX/EFCA	17/03/2017	No financial Impact. Used for cooperation, SC , etc	4 years	EMSA/FRONT EX/EFCA	Tripartite Working Arrangement	<b>Amount</b>	-	
						<b>No CAs</b>	-	
						<b>No SNEs</b>	-	
3.FRONTEx	26/07/2018	EFCA has participated with 2,000,000 euros. Not used in 2020		FRONTEx	MoU for the Inter Institutional Procurement on Aerial Surveillance Services	<b>Amount</b>	-	
						<b>No CAs</b>	-	
						<b>No SNEs</b>	-	
4.FRONTEx	6/02/2017	No financial limit Used for flights, 400 000 euros in	1 year (automatically extended for	FRONTEx	SLA between EFCA and Frontex for the joint use of Frontex capability - Aerial and maritime	<b>Amount</b>		393,999

	Actual or expected date of signature	Total Amount	Duration	Counterpart	Short description		2019	2020
		2020 (393 999,11 euro)	additional consecutive annual periods)		surveillance in support of EFCA activities	<b>No CAs</b>	-	
						<b>No SNEs</b>	-	
5.SRFC, FCWC, ISMI	15/03/2019	No financial limit	31/12/2021 ( from 2021 onwards tacit renewal every year)	SRFC, FCWC, ISMI	MoU between EFCA, SRFC, FCWC and the Regional Academy of Science and Technology of the Sea for optimising the training in the scope of Pescao	<b>Amount</b>	-	
						<b>No CAs</b>	-	
						<b>No SNEs</b>	-	
6.French Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Directorate	24/09/2010	No financial Impact. Not used	1 year (from 2012 onwards tacit renewal every year)	French Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Directorate	Cooperation in Capacity building activities	<b>Amount</b>	-	
						<b>No CAs</b>	-	
						<b>No SNEs</b>	-	
<b>TOTALS</b>								
						<b>Amount</b>		<b>1,073,999</b>
						<b>No CAs</b>		<b>3</b>
						<b>No SNEs</b>		<b>2</b>



## ANNEX VII: ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT

## 1. EFCA environmental management strategy

In 2019, EFCA adopted its Environment Policy (ED Decision 2019/02) with the objective of:

- obtaining the EMAS certification
- decrease the EFCA impact on the environment
- Develop and implement an internal and external environmental communication strategy

while maintaining its overall core business efficiency.

## 2. Agency's project for an environmental management system

EFCA is currently working towards the obtention of the EMAS (Eco-Management and Audit Scheme) Certification that will be the cornerstone for all improvement actions.

## 3. Environmental aspects, indicators, actions, and targets

EFCA activities have both direct and indirect impacts on the environment. Under the future EMS and in the scope of the EMAS certification, EFCA will monitor the following indicators:

- use of electricity
- water consumption
- paper consumption
- use of toner
- generation of waste
- CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from business travel
- CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from Fisheries Inspection Operations
- commuting

EFCA is already taking actions in order to reduce its environmental impact:

- Green procurement: in most of the procurement procedures launched, at least one criterion is focusing on the efficient environmental behaviour of the potential tenderers. Furthermore, all Open Call for Tender procedures are launched via the e-tendering system of the EU institutions, permitting the reception of electronic offers and saving thousands of printed pages each year.
- Electricity consumption: Led Lighting has been fitted in 80% of the EFCA premises with an expected reduction of the electricity consumption of 60% on these areas. In addition, the terms of the energy management contract state that the electricity supply is issued from 100% carbon free sources.
- Paper and toner consumption VS electronic circulation and digital signature: EFCA has established a series of electronic workflows for the circulation of documents, avoiding multiple copies. In the same way, the electronic signature has been generalized and around 90% of the documents are electronically signed.
- Systematic separation of residues: all "domestic" residues are separated and treated accordingly by the contractor in charge. The same applies to the electrical and electronic material and equipment that the Agency is decommissioning. A specialized contractor oversees the retirement, scrapping and separation of the materials proceeding from these residues, and, where possible, gives a second life to the declassified electrical and electronic equipment.

Each year will target on the improvement of one of the indicators listed (ex: 5% reduction of toner consumption)

#### 4. Communication

The Environmental results of the EFCA will be communicated internally via intranet and to the stakeholders via the Annual Report.

The communication will mainly focus on the following environmental aspects:

1. Electricity consumption
2. Paper consumption
3. Usage of printers and copiers
4. Sustainable resource use
5. Waste production
6. Greenhouse gas emissions
7. Procurement
8. Awareness raising activities
9. Internal environment

#### 5. Other Aspects

Offsetting of CO2 emissions: Emissions related to operational activities at sea (emissions of the EFCA chartered FPV/MPV) and to mission flights travel may be compensated by the adhesion to a carbon-offsetting scheme, still to be defined.

Collaboration with other Agencies and Institutions: EMAS, ISO 14001, Carbon Offsetting, environmental initiatives, are few of the various subjects on which the EFCA is collaborating with other Agencies and Institutions in the framework of the Greening Network and of the GIME.

ANNEX VIII: ANNUAL ACCOUNTS<sup>80</sup>

BALANCE SHEET @ 31 December 2020	31.12.2020 (provisional)	31.12.2019 (final)	Variation
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>NON- CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>268,071</b>	<b>358,702</b>	<b>-90,631</b>
Intangible assets	25,832	28,455	-2,623
Property, plant and equipment	242,239	330,247	-88,008
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>4,527,214</b>	<b>3,207,436</b>	<b>1,319,778</b>
Short-term pre-financing	97,593	80,000	17,593
Short-term receivables	530,994	370,098	160,896
Cash and cash equivalents	3,898,627	2,757,338	1,141,289
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>4,795,285</b>	<b>3,566,138</b>	<b>1,229,147</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			<b>0</b>
<b>NON- CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>1,928,989</b>	<b>940,232</b>	<b>988,757</b>
Provisions for risks and charges	2,644	2,644	0
Accounts payable	725,238	498,152	227,086
Other financial liabilities	599,689	180,479	419,210
Accounts payable with EC	601,418	258,957	342,461
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>1,928,989</b>	<b>940,232</b>	<b>988,757</b>
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>2,866,296</b>	<b>2,625,906</b>	<b>240,390</b>
Accumulated surplus/deficit	2,625,906	2,463,496	162,410
Result of the Year	240,390	162,410	77,980

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE (SFP)	2020 (provisional)	2019 (final)	Variation
<b>REVENUES</b>			
Revenues from EU subsidy	16,298,870	16,488,044	-189,174
Other non-exchange operating revenue	373,816	413,978	-40,162
<b>TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE</b>	<b>16,672,686</b>	<b>16,902,022</b>	<b>-229,336</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			<b>0</b>
<u>Operational expenses</u>	<u>-5,659,066</u>	<u>-6,198,312</u>	<u>539,246</u>
<u>Administrative expenses</u>	<u>-10,772,354</u>	<u>-10,541,655</u>	<u>-230,699</u>
All Staff expenses	-8,334,388	-7,969,435	-364,953
Fixed assets related expenses	-157,242	-260,197	102,955
Other administrative expenses	-2,280,363	-2,311,695	31,332
Net foreign exchange result	-361	-328	-33
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>-16,431,420</b>	<b>-16,739,967</b>	<b>308,547</b>
Interest Income	137	1,059	-922
Other Financial expenses	-1,013	-704	-309
<b>TOTAL FINANCIAL RESULT</b>	<b>-876</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>-1,231</b>
<b>SFP – Result of the Year</b>	<b>240,390</b>	<b>162,410</b>	<b>77,980</b>

<sup>80</sup> The information presented above is an extract of the EFCA 2020 Provisional Annual Accounts which are still subject to audit by the External auditors. It is thus possible that amounts included in these tables may have to be adjusted.

## ANNEX IX: MATERIALITY CRITERIA

According to current EC guidelines and reporting instructions as well as best practices, a reservation should be included in the annual declaration of assurance in the context of the annual activity reporting on the basis of the materiality criteria.

Even if no reservation has been issued, the Agency should explain the materiality criteria that are applicable in its operations.

On the basis of the materiality criteria, the Authorising Officer is enabled to determine significant deficiencies that would lead to a formal reservation in the declaration of assurance.

The types of possible weaknesses that are considered include:

- Significant occurrence of errors in the underlying transactions (legality and regularity) detected during the controls or supervision exercises;
- Significant control system weaknesses;
- Insufficient audit coverage and/or inadequate information from internal control systems;
- Critical issues outlined by the European Court of Auditors, the Internal Audit Service and the European Anti-Fraud Office (Office européen de lutte antifraude – OLAF);
- Significant reputational events.

Materiality includes qualitative and quantitative criteria.

From a qualitative point of view, significance of a weakness is judged on the basis of:

- Nature and scope of the weakness;
- Duration of the weakness;
- Existence of satisfactory compensatory measures (mitigating controls);
- Existence of probably effective corrective actions (action plans).

From a quantitative point of view, a weakness is considered material and could lead to reservation if the financial impact or risk of loss is greater than 1% of the total budget (excepting salaries) or if it implies a significant reputational risk.

The materiality level is subject to a yearly review.

## ANNEX X: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR KPI'S

<b>Executive Director KPI's</b>		
<b>KPIs in Relation to Operational Objectives</b>		
• <i>To provide evidence of the Agency performance</i>		
<b>Deliverable</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Achieved</b>
Timely submission of the draft AWP (SPD)	100%	100%
Percentage of completion of the activities of the AWP	> 80%	90%
Timely achievement of objectives of the AWP	> 80%	90%
<b>KPIs in Relation to Management of Financial and Human Resources</b>		
a) <i>To provide evidence of the swift, timely and full use of the financial resources allocated by the budgetary authorities</i>		
<b>Deliverable</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Achieved</b>
Rate (%) of implementation of Commitment Appropriations	>95%	97.3%
Rate (%) of cancellation of Payment Appropriations	<5%	3%
Rate (%) of outturn (Total payments in year N and carry-forwards to Year N+1, as a % of the total EU funding and fee income, where applicable, received in Year N)	>95% <sup>81</sup>	97%
Rate (%) of payments executed within the legal/contractual deadlines	> 98%	98%
b) <i>To provide evidence of timely improvements in the adequacy and effectiveness of internal control systems</i>		
<b>Deliverable</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Achieved</b>
Rate (%) of external and accepted internal audit recommendations implemented within agreed deadlines	100%	100%
c) <i>To provide evidence of the level of staff wellbeing</i>		
<b>Deliverable</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Achieved</b>
Average vacancy rate (% of authorised posts of the annual establishment plan which are vacant at the end of the year, including job offers sent before 31st December)	<5%	2%
Annual average number of days of short-term sick leave per staff member (excluding week ends and public holidays)	<6	2.2
Number of complaints under Article 90 (2) SR with a positive outcome per 100 staff members	≤ 5	0

<sup>81</sup> By error in the SPD the target was presented as <5%

## ANNEX XI: LIST OF THE MOST RELEVANT ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

<b>AAC</b>	Aquaculture Advisory Council
<b>AB</b>	Administrative Board
<b>ABAC</b>	Accrual Based Accounting
<b>ABB</b>	Activity Based Budgeting
<b>ABM</b>	Automatic Behaviour Monitoring
<b>ABMS</b>	Activity Based Management System
<b>AC</b>	Advisory Council
<b>ACTREP</b>	Activity Report
<b>AD</b>	Action Document
<b>AD</b>	Administrator (Staff)
<b>AENOR</b>	Spanish Association for Standardization and Certification
<b>AGM</b>	Advanced Gateway to your Meetings
<b>AIS</b>	Automatic Identification Systems
<b>AO</b>	Authorising Officer
<b>AOD</b>	Authorising Officer by Delegation
<b>ARES</b>	Advanced Records System
<b>ARSTM-ISMI</b>	Inter-regional Maritime Security Institute
<b>ARVI</b>	Cooperativa de Armadores de Pesca del Puerto de Vigo
<b>ASP</b>	Annual Strategic Plan
<b>AST</b>	Assistant (Staff)
<b>AWP</b>	Annual Work Programme
<b>BALTFISH</b>	Baltic Sea Control Expert Group
<b>BAPT</b>	Budget Programming and execution automation project
<b>BCP</b>	Business Continuity Plan
<b>BFT</b>	Bluefin Tuna
<b>BLS</b>	Black Sea
<b>BMS</b>	Below Minimum Size
<b>BS</b>	Baltic Sea
<b>BSAC</b>	Baltic Sea Advisory Council
<b>CA</b>	Contract Agent
<b>CC</b>	Coordination Centre
<b>CECAF</b>	Fisheries Ccommittee for the Eastern Central Atlantic
<b>CEG</b>	Control Expert Group
<b>CEOS</b>	Conditions of Employment of Other Servants
<b>CFP</b>	Common Fisheries Policy
<b>CG</b>	Coast Guard
<b>CISE</b>	Common Information Sharing Environment
<b>CMMI</b>	Capability Maturity Model Integration
<b>CMS</b>	Copernicus Maritime Surveillance Service
<b>COBIT</b>	Control Objectives for Information and Related Technologies
<b>COD</b>	Central Organisation Database
<b>COM</b>	European Commission
<b>CP</b>	Contracting Party
<b>CPC</b>	Cooperating Non-Contracting Party
<b>CS</b>	Coastal State
<b>EAFA</b>	Executive Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture
<b>DPO</b>	Data Protection Officer
<b>eBCD</b>	Electronic Bluefin Catch Document Programme
<b>eBCD TWG</b>	Technical Working Group for the Electronic Bluefin Catch Document Programme
<b>EC</b>	European Commission
<b>ECA</b>	European Court of Auditors
<b>ECGFA</b>	European Coast Guard Functions Academy Network Project
<b>ECGFF</b>	European Coast Guard Function Forum
<b>ECOWAS</b>	Economic Community of West African States
<b>ED</b>	Executive Director
<b>EDA</b>	European Defence Agency

<b>EDG</b>	Editorial Drafting Group
<b>EDPS</b>	European Data Protection Supervisor
<b>EEZ</b>	Exclusive Economic Zone
<b>EFCA</b>	European Fisheries Control Agency
<b>EFCA IMS</b>	EFCA Integrated Maritime Service
<b>EIR</b>	Electronic Inspection Report
<b>e-ISR</b>	Electronic Inspection & Surveillance Report
<b>EMAS</b>	EU Eco-Management and Audit Scheme
<b>IMPACT</b>	European multidisciplinary platform against criminal threats
<b>EMSA</b>	European Maritime Safety Agency
<b>EP</b>	European Parliament
<b>EPSO</b>	European Personnel Selection Office
<b>EO</b>	Earth Observation
<b>EOA</b>	Earth Observations Acquisitions
<b>ERRV</b>	Emergency Response and Rescue Vessel
<b>ERS</b>	Electronic Recording and Reporting System
<b>ESA</b>	European Space Agency
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>EUAN</b>	European Agencies' Network
<b>EUCG</b>	European Coast Guard
<b>EUDPR</b>	Data Protection Regulation applicable to Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies (OJ L 295, 21.11.2018)
<b>EUIPO</b>	European Union Intellectual Property Office
<b>EUNAVFOR</b>	European Union Naval Force
<b>EUMSS</b>	European Union Maritime Security Strategy
<b>EUROPOL</b>	European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
<b>FCWC</b>	Fisheries Committee of the West Central Gulf of Guinea
<b>FFR</b>	Framework Financial Regulation
<b>FIUUFRA</b>	Fighting Illegal Unreported and Unregulated Fisheries Fishing Regional Academy
<b>FLUX</b>	Fisheries Language for Universal Exchange
<b>FMC</b>	Fisheries Monitoring Centre
<b>FPV</b>	Fisheries Patrol Vessel
<b>FR</b>	Financial Regulation
<b>FRA</b>	Fisheries Restricted Area
<b>FRB</b>	Fast Rescue Boats
<b>FRONTEX/EBCGA</b>	European Border and Coast Guard Agency
<b>FTE</b>	Full-time equivalent
<b>FWA</b>	Fixed Wing Aircraft
<b>FWC</b>	Framework Contract
<b>GFCM</b>	General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean
<b>GIME</b>	Groupe Interinstitutionnel de Management Environnemental
<b>GIP</b>	General Implementation Provisions
<b>GOVSATCOM</b>	European Union Governmental Satellite Communications
<b>GSA/GNSS</b>	European Global Navigation Satellite Systems Agency
<b>HLG</b>	High-Level Group
<b>HR</b>	Human Resources
<b>IAS</b>	Internal Audit Service
<b>ICC</b>	Internal Control Coordinator
<b>ICCAT</b>	International Commission for the Conservation of the Atlantic Tuna
<b>ICES</b>	International Council for the Exploration of the Sea
<b>ICF</b>	Internal Control Framework
<b>ICT (also IT)</b>	Information and Communication Technology
<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organisation
<b>IMO</b>	International Maritime Organization
<b>IMP</b>	Integrated Maritime Policy
<b>IMS</b>	Integrated Maritime System (former MARSURV)
<b>IUU</b>	Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing
<b>IR</b>	Infra-Red

<b>ISMS</b>	Information Security Management System
<b>ISO</b>	International Organisation for Standardisation
<b>ITIL</b>	Information Technology Infrastructure Library
<b>ITSC</b>	Information Technology Steering Committee
<b>JaDE</b>	Joint deployment plan Activity Database
<b>JDP</b>	Joint Deployment Plan
<b>JRC</b>	Joint Research Centre
<b>KPI</b>	Key Performance Indicator
<b>LCK</b>	Legal Commitment Kernel
<b>LDAC</b>	Long Distance Advisory Council
<b>LH</b>	Last haul
<b>LO</b>	Landing Obligation
<b>L.O.A.</b>	Length overall
<b>LOB</b>	Liaison Officer on board
<b>LRIT</b>	Long-Range Identification and Tracking
<b>MA</b>	Maritime Administration
<b>MAP</b>	Multiannual Plan
<b>MCRS</b>	Minimum Conservation Reference Size
<b>MCS</b>	Monitoring, control and surveillance
<b>MED</b>	Mediterranean
<b>MedAC</b>	Mediterranean Advisory Council
<b>MEDEVAC</b>	Medical Evacuation
<b>MED-OSMoSIS</b>	Mediterranean Governance for Strategic Maritime Surveillance and Safety Issues
<b>MIPS</b>	Mission Processing System
<b>MFF</b>	Multiannual Financial Framework
<b>MMO</b>	Multipurpose Operation
<b>MoU</b>	Memorandum of Understanding
<b>MPA</b>	Marine Protected Area
<b>MPV</b>	Multipurpose Patrol Vessel
<b>MRCC</b>	Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre
<b>MS</b>	Member State
<b>MSS</b>	Maritime Security Strategy
<b>MWP</b>	Multiannual Work Programme
<b>NAFO</b>	Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Operation
<b>NAFO CEM</b>	NAFO Control and Enforcement Measures
<b>NEAFC</b>	Northeast Atlantic Fisheries Commission
<b>NPOA</b>	National Plan of Action
<b>NS</b>	North Sea
<b>NSAC</b>	North Sea Advisory Council
<b>NWWAC</b>	North Western Waters Advisory Council
<b>OA</b>	Operational Action
<b>OJ</b>	Official Journal
<b>OLAF</b>	European Anti-Fraud Office/Office européen de lutte antifraude
<b>OPV</b>	Offshore Patrol Vessel
<b>OSC</b>	On Scene Coordinator
<b>PAD</b>	Public Access to Documents
<b>PACT</b>	Partnership, Accountability, Cooperation and Transparency
<b>PARA</b>	Post-Activity Risk Assessment
<b>PECMAC</b>	Permanent Committee on Monitoring and Compliance
<b>PELAC</b>	Pelagic Advisory Council
<b>PDN</b>	Performance Development Network
<b>PMO</b>	Paymaster's Office
<b>PWG</b>	Permanent Working Group
<b>QES</b>	Qualified Electronic Signature
<b>Q&amp;A</b>	Questions and Answers
<b>RA</b>	Regulatory Area
<b>RCEG</b>	Regional Control Expert Groups
<b>REM</b>	Remote Electronic Monitoring
<b>RFMO</b>	Regional Fisheries Management Organization



<b>RPAS</b>	Remotely Piloted Aircraft System
<b>RSG</b>	Regional Steering Group
<b>RSW</b>	Refrigerated Sea Water
<b>RTC</b>	Real time closure
<b>SAP</b>	Systems Applications and Products
<b>SAR</b>	Search and Rescue
<b>SATCEN</b>	European Union Satellite Centre
<b>SatCom</b>	Satellite communication
<b>SCIP</b>	Specific Control and Inspection Programme
<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>SFPA</b>	Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement
<b>SG</b>	Steering Group
<b>SGTEE</b>	Steering Group on Training and Exchange of Experience
<b>SI</b>	Suspected infringements
<b>SITREP</b>	Situation Report
<b>SLA</b>	Service Level Agreement
<b>SNE</b>	Seconded National Expert
<b>SOP</b>	Standard operational procedures
<b>SoR</b>	Specification of Requirements
<b>SPD</b>	Single Programming Document
<b>SQF</b>	Sectoral Qualification Framework
<b>SR</b>	Staff Regulations
<b>SRFC</b>	Subregional Fisheries Commission
<b>SSP</b>	Structural Service Partners
<b>STACTIC</b>	Standing Committee on International Control
<b>SWO</b>	Swordfish
<b>SWW</b>	South West Waters
<b>TA</b>	Temporary Agent
<b>TC</b>	Third Country
<b>TBD</b>	To be determined
<b>TJDG</b>	Technical Joint Deployment Group
<b>TM</b>	Technical Measures
<b>ToR</b>	Terms of Reference
<b>TWA</b>	Tripartite Working Arrangement
<b>UN/CEFACT</b>	The United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business
<b>UNK</b>	Unknown
<b>VAT</b>	Value-Added Tax
<b>VC</b>	Video Conference
<b>VCC</b>	Virtual Coordination Centre
<b>VDS</b>	Vessel Detection Service
<b>VMS</b>	Vessel Monitoring System
<b>VOO</b>	Vessel of Opportunity
<b>VTC</b>	Video-conference meeting
<b>VTrack</b>	Vector-to-raster conversion software
<b>VTS</b>	Vessel Traffic Service
<b>WW</b>	Western Waters
<b>WWAC</b>	Western Waters Advisory Council

## ANNEX XII: LIST OF TERMS AND PROJECTS

### Capacity Building (operational activity)

Assistance to the Member States and the European Commission in the area of control, inspection and surveillance, with specific regard to activities enhancing the potential of national enforcement services to apply the rules of the CFP in a uniform and effective manner. These activities include reporting and exchange of data on fishing, control and inspection activities, developing and coordinating training programmes, fighting against IUU and the possible acquisition of equipment necessary for the implementation of JDPs or on the request of Member States.

### EFCA Corporate systems

They include EFCA website, intranet, e-mail services, file servers and any application developed or used internally in support to internal EFCA activities.

### EFCA Electronic Reporting System (ERS)

This system will allow EFCA to receive and parse ERS messages, exchange them with the stakeholders involved in JDP operations (CC), ensure data quality, integrity and reliability through validation operations, and to provide the user with a set of tools, accessible through a web user interface, to view, search, analyse and produce statistics and reports based on specific criteria.

### EFCA Electronic Inspection Report System (EIR)

This system will allow EFCA to receive and parse EIR messages, exchange them with the stakeholders involved in JDP operations (CC), ensure data quality, integrity and reliability through validation operations, and to provide the user with a set of tools, accessible through a web user interface, to view, search, analyse and produce statistics and reports based on specific criteria.

### EFCA E-Learning platform

The EFCA e-learning platform makes available interactive courses and modules, video tutorials and other training resources to EU and non-EU officials involved in fisheries control and inspection activities.

The “experts’ corner” in the platform supports the collaboration of external experts, Member States (MS), the European Commission and EFCA for the development of training materials. Authorised users are able to exchange, to track comments of the different versions of the documents, and to manage meetings, discussion groups, calendar, news or announcements.

### EFCA Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)

This system allows EFCA to receive and to exchange VMS data (identity, position and speed of fishing vessels larger than 12 m) to support JDP operations, hence providing a complete EU picture within the geographical areas covered by the relevant SCIPs.

### FISHNET

It is the portal to most of EFCA applications (ERS, VMS, EIR, DMS, E-learning, JADE) and the portal to provide EFCA stakeholders with collaboration tools (e.g. sharing data and documents, exchange information, teleconferencing). This system is designed to support decision making, planning, operational coordination, and assessment of joint control operations, and to promote remote collaboration in support to EFCA activities.

### **Governance and Representation** (functional activity)

For the purpose of the functioning of EFCA as an independent EU body, all activities deployed in support of the Administrative Board, the Advisory Board, inter-agency cooperation, representation and communication are considered as EU governance activities. The resources allocated to EFCA's functional activity are linked to the general objectives and are carried out in close connection with its operational activities.

### **Inspection**

EFCA understands as an "inspection" a critical appraisal of fishing vessels, in ports or at sea, by competent inspectors for the purpose of determining that the vessel carried out fishing activities in accordance with conservation and management measures. It should imply detailed examination, measurement, testing, gauging, and comparison of all the items identified as compulsory by the Annex XXVII of the Regulation (EU) 414/2011. The same applies to other types of inspections as markets, vehicles and premises.

### **JADE**

JADE is a web application internally used by the EFCA coordinators to record, manage and report activity on JDPs. JADE stands for Joint deployment plan Activity Database.

### **Last haul**

Last observed haul during a sea inspection where catch composition is recorded (sampled) by the inspector on board in the framework of the Landing Obligation.

### **Landing Obligation**

Obligation to land all catches of applicable species, according to Article 15 of the Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 and associated discard plans.

### **Maritime Surveillance Information Systems**

Information systems developed in cooperation with external stakeholders to integrate available information sources and data sets within the framework of Integrated Maritime Policy, inter-agency cooperation and the CISE (Common Information Sharing Environment).

### **Operational Coordination** (operational activity)

Organisation of the operational coordination of control activities by Member States for the implementation of specific control and inspection programmes, international control and inspection schemes adopted by Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs), and Operational Plans upon request of two or more Member States.

## ANNEX XIII: LIST OF ISO COUNTRY CODES

Albania	AL	Italy	IT
Algeria	DZ	Japan	JP
Belgium	BE	Latvia	LV
Benin	BJ	Lebanon	LB
Bosnia and Herzegovina	BA	Liberia	LR
Bulgaria	BG	Libya	LY
Cabo Verde	CV	Lithuania	LT
Canada	CA	Malta	MT
China	CN	Mauritania	MR
Côte d'Ivoire	CI	Montenegro	ME
Croatia	HR	Netherlands	NL
Cyprus	CY	Nigeria	NG
Czech Republic	CZ	Norway	NO
Denmark	DK	Panama	PA
Ecuador	EC	Poland	PL
Egypt	EG	Portugal	PT
Estonia	EE	Philippines (the)	PH
Faroe Islands	FO	Romania	RO
Finland	FI	Russian Federation	RU
France	FR	Senegal	SN
Gambia	GM	Sierra Leone	SL
Germany	DE	Slovenia	SI
Ghana	GH	Spain	ES
Greece	EL	Sweden	SE
Greenland	GL	Togo	TG
Guinea	GN	Tunisia	TN
Iceland	IS	Turkey	TR
Iran	IR	Ukraine	UA
Ireland	IE	United Kingdom	UK