



# PRESS RELEASE

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## **EFCA engaging EMSA's response vessel for fisheries control in the Mediterranean**

**Interagency cooperation between EFCA and the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) and was taken a step further following a request for an inspection vessel by EFCA. EMSA identified the Aegis I vessel as the most suitable option for EFCA's needs, given the vessel's characteristics and usual area of operation.**

The Aegis I is being deployed south of Sicily (Italy) for daily activities that include patrolling and at sea fisheries inspection, as well as maritime surveillance in the event of a potential search and rescue incident.

This cooperation was made possible thanks to the latest amendment to EFCA's founding regulation (Regulation (EU) 2016/1626) and EMSA's founding regulation (Regulation (EU) 2016/1625) which is designed to pave the way for increased synergies between Frontex, EFCA and EMSA on coast guard-related functions. The cooperation includes information sharing, development of surveillance services, and capacity building through the planning and implementing of multipurpose operations with shared resources.

Following the conclusion of various contractual arrangements, vessel preparations for fisheries control tasks and other coast guard function-related tasks such search and rescue, the Aegis I started the charter with EFCA on 4 August 2017 for a renewable short term contract.

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