

2022
A year in review



**This publication summarises the main results as gathered in the Annual Report 2022,
the full text of which can be found at <https://www.efca.europa.eu/en/content/annual-report-2022>**

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List of acronyms

AB	Administrative Board.	JAD	Joint Action Day.
AC	Advisory Council.	JDP	Joint Deployment Plan.
AR	Annual Report.	JISS	Joint Inspection and Surveillance Scheme.
CEG	Control Expert Group.	MCS	Monitoring, control and surveillance.
CFP	Common Fisheries Policy.	MS	Member States.
DG MARE	Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries.	NAFO	Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation.
EMSA	European Maritime Safety Agency.	NEAFC	Northeast Atlantic Fisheries Commission.
ERS	Electronic Reporting System.	NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation.
EUCG	European Union Coast Guard.	OPV	Offshore Patrol Vessel.
EUMSS	European Union Maritime Security Strategy.	PACT	Partnership, Accountability, Cooperation and Transparency.
FCWC	Fisheries Committee for the Western Central Gulf of Guinea.	RA	Regulatory Area.
FISHNET	Fisheries Information System.	REM	Remote Electronic Monitoring.
FRONTEX	European Border and Coast Guard Agency.	RFMO	Regional Fisheries Management Organisation.
GFCM	General Fisheries Commission for Mediterranean.	RPAS	Remotely Piloted Aircraft System.
ICAAT	International Commission for the Conservation of the Atlantic Tuna.	SCIP	Specific Control and Inspection Programme.
ICT (also IT)	Information and Communication Technologies.	SG	Steering Group.
IMS	Integrated Maritime System.	SRFC	Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission.
IUU	Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (Fishing).	TWA	Tripartite Working Agreement.
		WW	Western Waters.



Foreword



Susan Steele

Executive Director

This sixth issue of A Year in Review provides a summarised version of the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) Annual Report 2022 and reflects the achievements of EFCA as set out in the Multiannual work programme 2022-2026, presenting the main activities undertaken.

In 2022, the European Fisheries Control Agency implemented 95.4% of the Annual Work Programme (AWP) adopted by the Administrative Board in the framework of the Single Programming Document, despite the challenges still caused by COVID-19. This implementation was aligned with a coherent budget execution of 99.4%.

In general terms and following its primary mandate, the agency continued to support the Member States and the Commission in the effective and harmonised implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy through the coordination of the Joint Deployments Plans and the capacity building activities in the framework of the international dimension.

The European cooperation on coast guard functions under the Tripartite Working Arrangement with Frontex (European Border and Coast Guard Agency) and EMSA (European Maritime Safety Agency) also enhanced EFCA's capacity of contributing to fisheries control. This cooperative effort to support national authorities in Coast Guard functions focused on areas such as capacity building and risk assessment, with EFCA taking a lead role in the development and implementation of the Practical Handbook on the European Coast Guard Cooperation.

During 2022, additional resources were granted to EFCA providing the Agency with the necessary operational capacity for assisting the Member States and the European Commission in the monitoring, control and surveillance regime, including the measures entailed by the Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) with the UK. In addition, in 2022 three new projects subsidised by grants in the framework of the upcoming European Maritime Fisheries and aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) were included. These projects encompassed a study on the weighing process of fisheries products across the Union, a virtual regional training academy in the Western Mediterranean Sea for fisheries control and inspection, and the maintenance of the Handbook and online sectorial qualification framework (SQF) for the European cooperation on Coast Guard functions. The Agency welcomed these new assignments also as a recognition of the work done by EFCA in fulfilling the objectives of its mandate.

All in all, EFCA has become a centre of excellence for fisheries control, not only for the EU, but globally. Through its activities, EFCA is making a major contribution to fisheries sustainability and level playing field.

Getting to know the EFCA

What is the Agency's history?

EU governments agreed to establish the Agency in the 2002 reform of the CFP as part of the drive to instill a culture of compliance within the fisheries sector across Europe. In April 2005, they adopted the necessary legislation¹.

In 2016 EFCA's mandate was extended by Regulation (EU) 2016/1626, strengthening the cooperation on coast guard functions with the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) and the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA). Therefore, in cooperation with Frontex and EMSA, each within its mandate, EFCA supports the national authorities carrying out coast guard functions by providing them with services, information, equipment and training, as well as by coordinating multipurpose operations.

In the interests of clarity and rationality, the Agency's Founding Regulation was codified in 2019 by Regulation (EU) 2019/473 of the European Parliament and of the Council, in force since 14 April 2019.

EFCA has its official seat in Vigo, Spain.

Mission

The objective of the Agency 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, helping to ensure its effective and uniform application.

Vision and values

EFCA will function at the highest level of excellence and transparency with a view to developing the necessary confidence and cooperation of all parties involved and, in so doing, to ensure effectiveness and efficiency of its operations.

The added value of the work of the agency lies in its contribution to a European-wide level playing field for the fishing industry so that European obligations are observed by everyone and everyone in the sector is treated equally, wherever they might be operating.

Secondly, it contributes towards sustainable fisheries by enhancing compliance with existing conservation and management measures to the benefit of present and future generations.

¹ www.efca.europa.eu/en/content/legal-basis



How does EFCA coordinate the EU Member States?

The Joint Deployment Plans

JDPs are the main instrument for EFCA to assist Member States in the implementation of the control measures linked with the Common Fisheries Policy, through the coordination of their efforts and promotion of co-operation.

JDPs are established for fisheries 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.

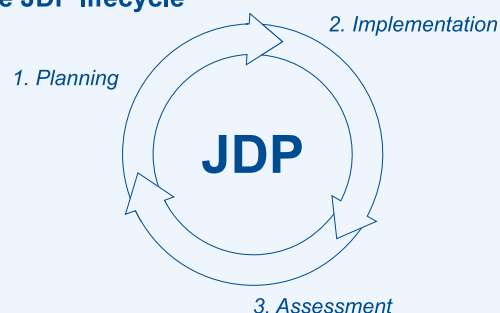
What is a SCIP?

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. 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 2022 applied to:

- Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean²
- Black Sea
- Baltic Sea
- North Sea
- Western Waters of the Eastern Atlantic

² Only Bluefin tuna fisheries (BFT) in the Eastern Atlantic

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

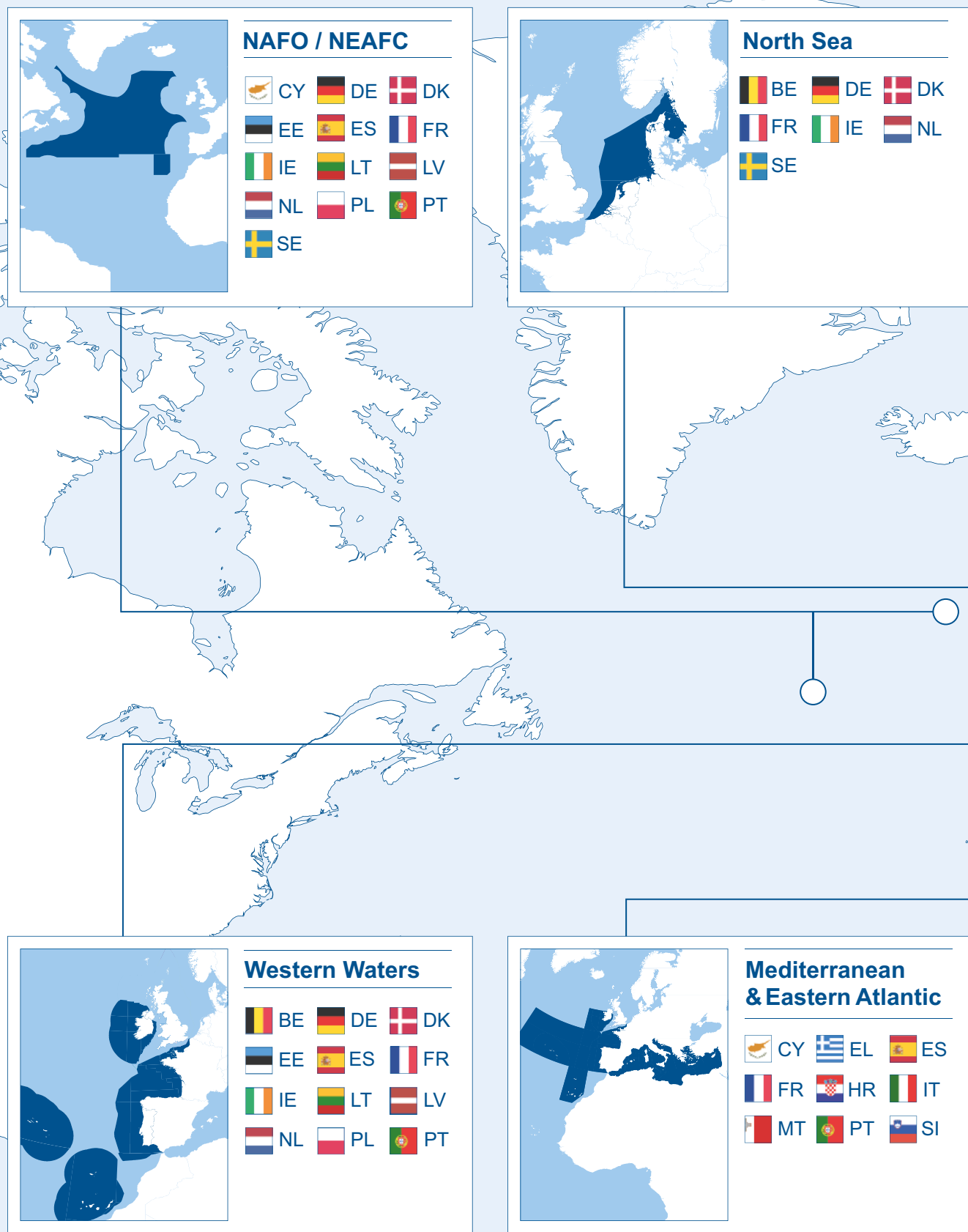
The JDP is implemented through a year-round continuous campaign. EFCA coordinates the deployment of control means in operational areas and the implementation of joint control operations through a Technical Joint Deployment Group. The coordination covers the implementation of specific actions and specific 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, either physical or virtually.

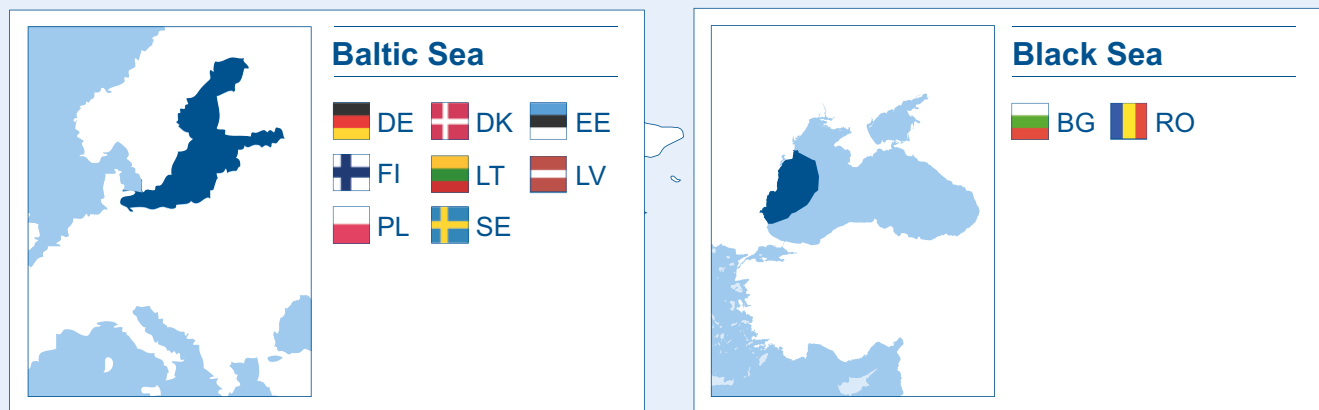
3. Assessment

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.



Implementation of JDP in EU Waters and International Waters in 2022





Country codes

DE Germany	BE Belgium	CY Cyprus	DK Denmark	EE Estonia	EL Greece	ES Spain
FI Finland	HR Croatia	IE Ireland	IT Italy	LT Lithuania	LV Latvia	MT Malta
FR France	NL Netherlands	PL Poland	PT Portugal	SE Sweden	SI Slovenia	

How have JDPs evolved over the years?

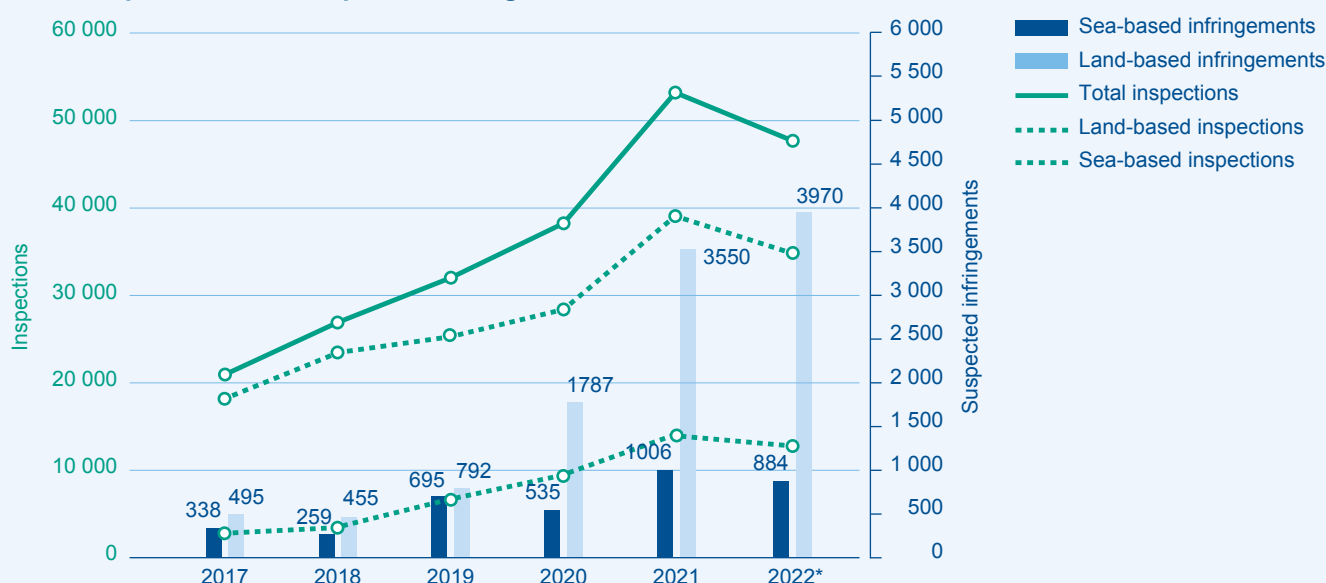
Currently, all JDPs are multiannual operations following the time framework defined in the SCIPs with control activities planned for each year on the basis of the results of regional risk assessment: Member States assess the existing risks with regard to fish stocks, areas, periods and fleet segments exploiting these stocks, in accordance with the methodology established in cooperation with EFCA.

The JDP strategic planning for 2021 addressed all the prominent risks identified through a set of risk treatment measures in the form of specific actions and campaigns. Additionally, the JDP framework ensured that the Member States concerned kept collaborating closely with each other.

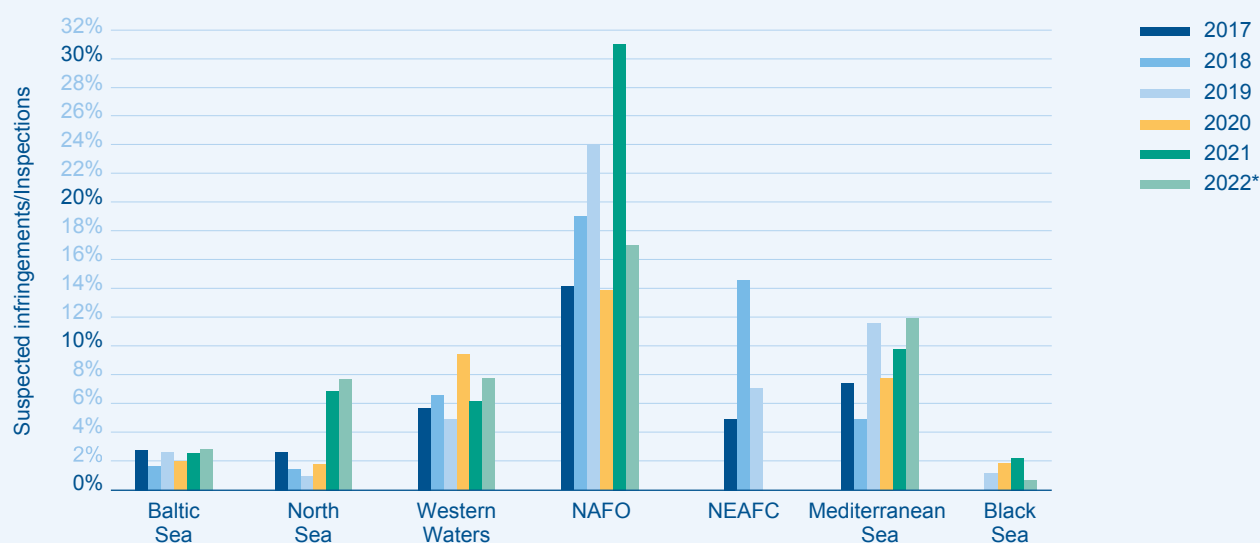
There was a decrease on the number of inspections conducted in the North Sea (67%) and in the Black Sea (1%). Nevertheless, an increase of suspected infringement ratio in the North Sea, NAFO, and Mediterranean Sea JDPs, compared with the previous year can be noted.

JDP Evolution

JDPs inspections and suspected infringements evolution



Ratio of suspected infringements by inspection in the different JDP areas



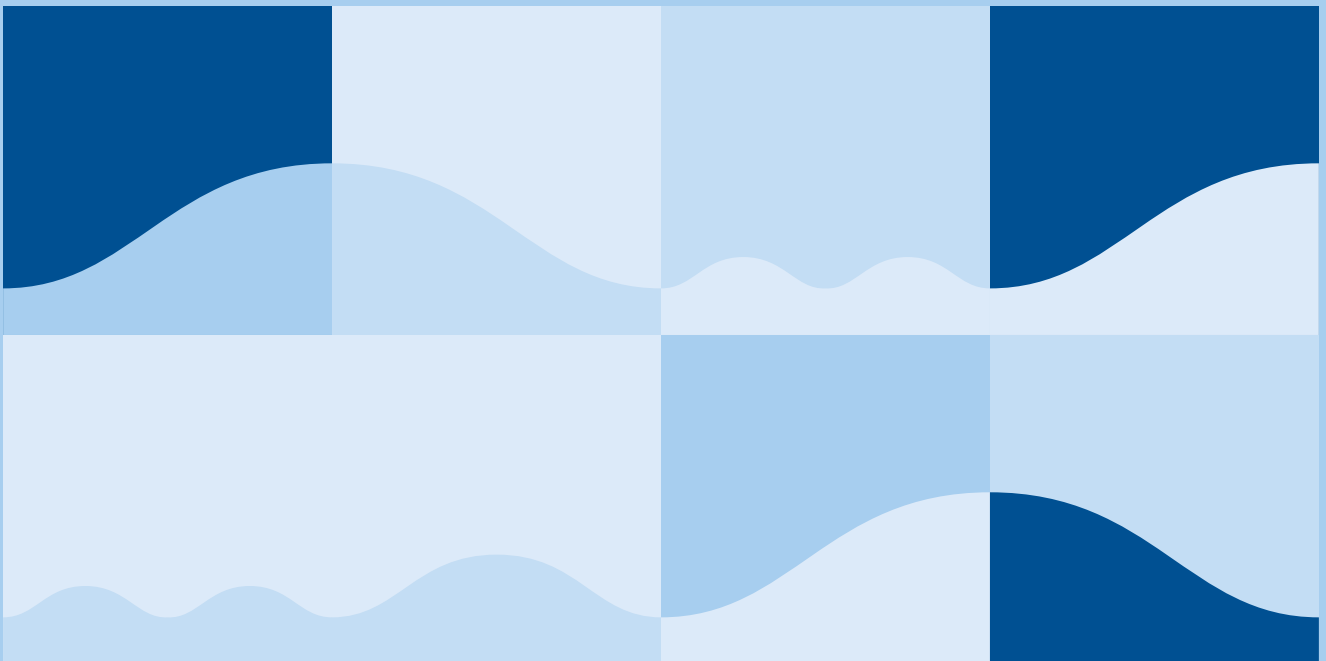
*2022 data available on 15th February 2023. Additional data may be received later from Member States.



Part I

Achievements of the year

Main results 2022



JDP main results in 2022

Through the use of Joint Deployment Plans (JDPs) co-ordination EFCA has 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 2022 all six JDPs (NAFO/NEAFC, North Sea, Baltic Sea, Black Sea, Western Waters, Mediterranean & Eastern Atlantic) were implemented as planned, keeping the measures and protocols set 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 2022, the cooperative efforts resulted in 47 592 coordinated inspections reported within the JDPs framework, 5 167 of which led to the identification of inspections with at least one suspected infringement.

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 27 specific actions proposed in the framework of Baltic, North Sea and Western waters and eight specific campaigns implemented in the framework of the Mediterranean Sea and Black Sea.

EFCA used the framework of the JDPs to enhance the standardisation of inspections, in particular to increase the application of the 'last haul' observation procedures during inspections at sea in all EU JDP areas.

EFCA's chartered Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs), the Lundy Sentinel, Aegis and (since December 2022 only) the Ocean Sentinel, were operational and provided a robust platform for fisheries inspections leading to a total of 148 inspections and the detection of 58 suspected infringements.

The EFCA chartered OPVs contributed to the implementation of JDPs in the EU sea basins by adding

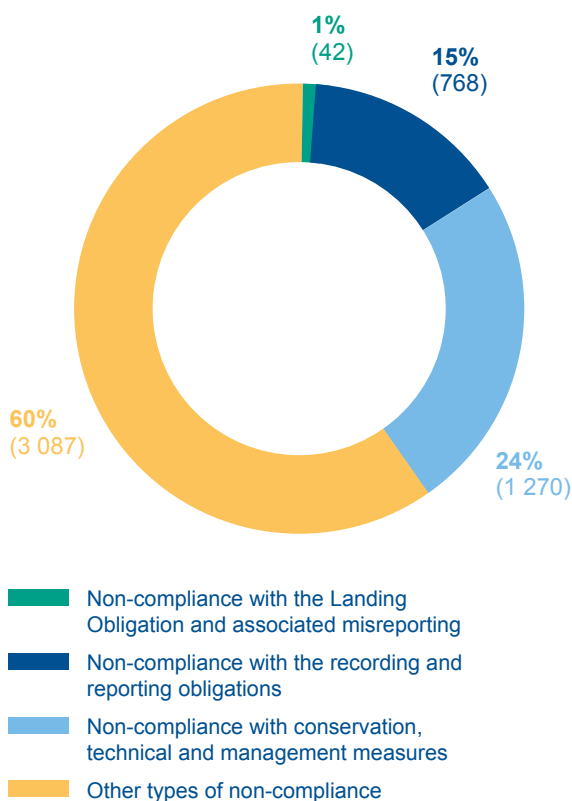
capacity to fisheries control operations outside the territorial waters of MS and providing a platform to deploy multinational Member State inspection teams, including inspectors from Third Countries. This promoted transparency and a level playing field and fostered a good exchange of knowledge and expertise. 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 OPVs were made available for other operations in the framework of European cooperation on coast guard functions, such as pollution response operations, in cooperation with Member State authorities, Frontex and EMSA. A light Remotely Piloted Aircraft System was also deployed aboard the Lundy Sentinel and Aegis.

Suspected infringements by type and by JDP

In 2022 misreporting of catches and technical measures remained the most common non-compliance issues.

Suspected infringements by type and by Joint Deployment Plan (JDP)*



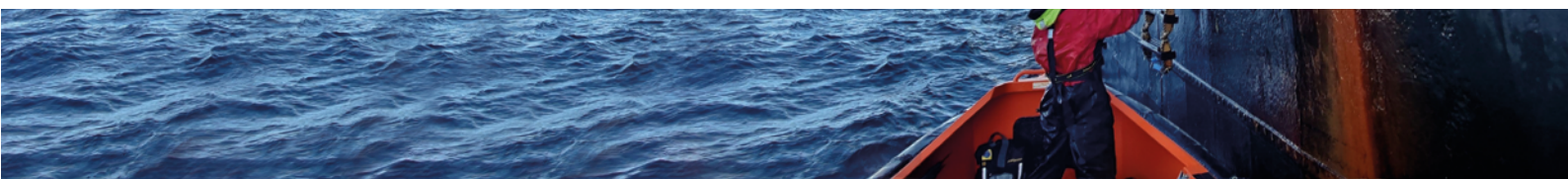
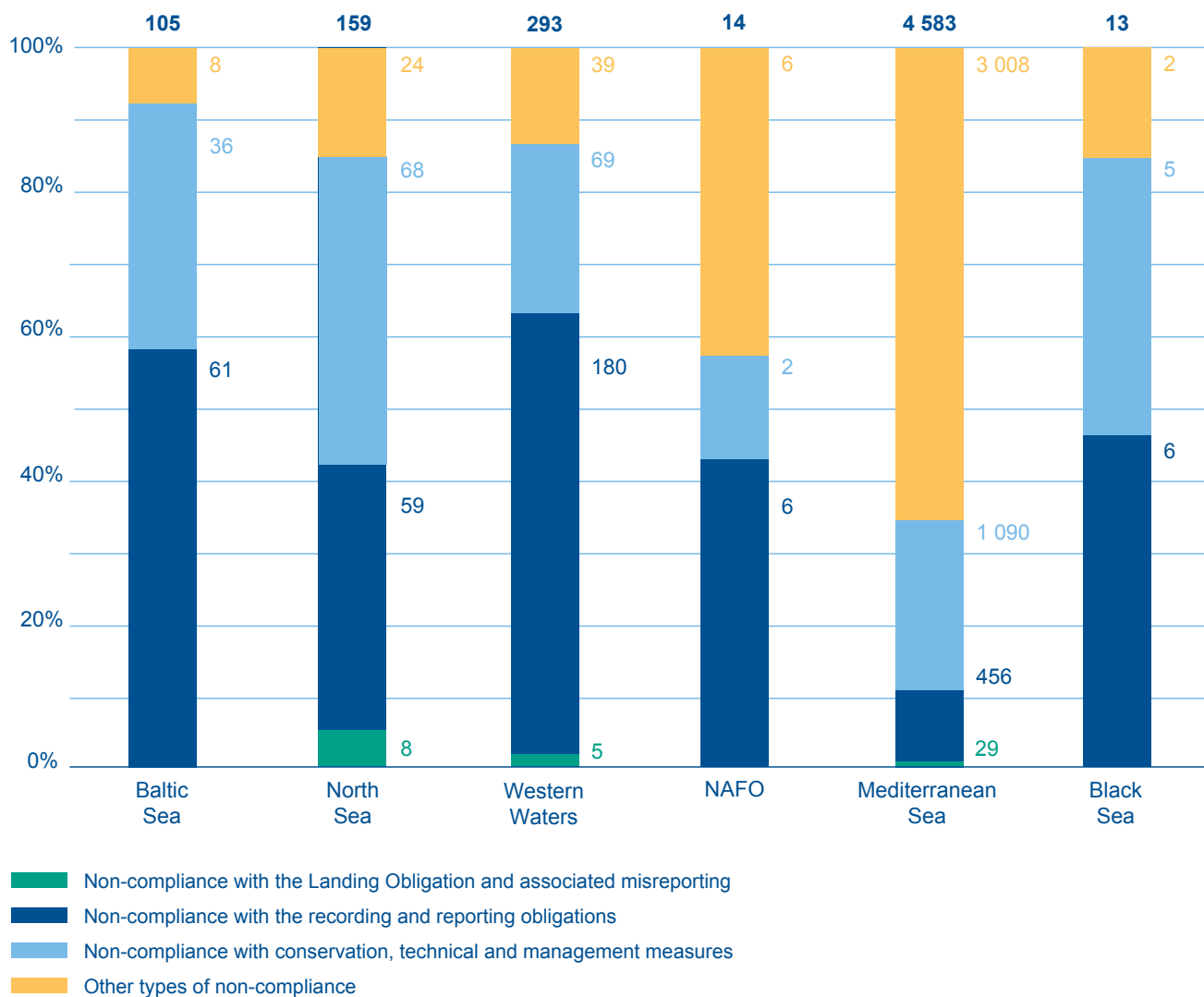
³ OJ L 317, 14.12.2018, p. 29–46

*Data available on 15th February 2023. Additional data may be received later from Member States.



Overall classification of the suspected infringements

For all JDPs, except the Mediterranean and NAFO, these two types of infringement consisted of more than 80% of the suspected infringement detected in 2022.



2022 in numbers



47 592

EFCA-coordinated
inspections



5 167

Suspected
infringements



2 967

Officials
in the EFCA
e-learning platform



30.9 M

Budget (EUR)



104

EFCA staff
members

Firsthand



Fabrizio Donatella

Chair of the Administrative Board

“ In ensuring compliance with the CFP, EFCA received an increase in resources in 2022 and EFCA reinforced its vital role in the operational coordination and control of fisheries across the EU. ”

“ EFCA’s efforts are only possible with the critical commitment of Member States and their pooling of national inspectors through the Joint Deployment Plans. ”

“ I would like to express my deepest gratitude to all the institutions and partners who have contributed to the success achieved in delivering the objectives set in the EFCA’s work programme for 2022. Our collective work has contributed to a more uniform and effective application of the CFP, promoting a level playing field, safeguarding biodiversity, and providing a future to the sector. ”



Objective 1

Enhanced coordination of fisheries monitoring control and surveillance.

Expected results

1. Improved compliance, level playing field and cost-effectiveness in the North Sea, Baltic Sea, Western Waters, Mediterranean, Black Sea and NAFO / NEAFC areas.
2. Increased synergies and transparency between the participating Member States.

In 2022, EFCA continued coordinating the six Joint Deployment Plans. The 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 joint SG meetings, to address respectively regional or common aspects of several regions.

The main aspects discussed at the Steering Group level were related with the EFCA chartered means deployment. The additional funds allocated to EFCA were dedicated to provide adequate means for the fishing control activities at sea by EFCA, as regards the fulfilment with the international obligations of the EU vis-à-vis third countries which were translated, among other measures, in the two patrol vessels deployed during 2022. To address this increase, EFCA continued to use a pool of Member States Union inspectors that would be deployed at the patrol vessels.

The implementation of JDPs follows a risk-based approach. A total of 27 'specific actions' were implemented in the framework of the North Sea, Baltic Sea and Western Waters JDPs. For the North Sea, Baltic Sea, Western Waters, Mediterranean and Black Sea JDPs, the percentage of sea inspections conducted in 2022 on the fleet segments of higher risk levels was in accordance with the established KPI. The compliance evaluations were conducted for the Baltic Sea (LO and unsorted landings of herring and sprat, North Sea and Western Waters (both LO).

The collaboration between Member States continued to be enhanced in 2022 in the framework of relevant JDPs. Regularly organized meetings and sharing of information through different electronic tools ensured a satisfactory level of understanding of the

state of play as regard the planning, implementation and evaluation of executed joint control operation. MS experts and inspectors efficiently supported the coordination of JDP activities at operational level.

EFCA provided a valuable link between the Virtual Coordination Network and the European Commission, highlighting control challenges as they evolved. In 2022, the non-compliance threats related with the Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) between the EU and UK were assessed in the regional workshops of the North Sea and Western Waters. Non-compliance with the same main threats identified for the EU fleet was qualitatively assessed for UK fleet and mitigation measures were put forward as recommendations to the JDP Decisions.

EFCA organised regional workshops trainings and best practice meetings for Union inspectors, inspectors and Member States staff involved in the implementation of joint campaigns. It should be underlined that the webinar format has more than doubled the participation to these trainings by Member States' inspectors in comparison to the years where all trainings were presential.

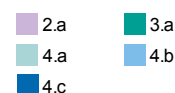
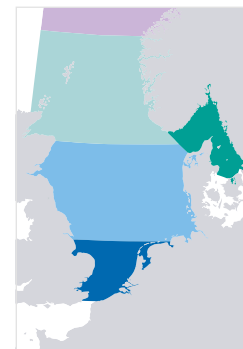
The Agency also provided technical support to the European Commission on NAFO and NEAFC matters. The role of EFCA was to participate and support the European Commission and Member States with regards to formulating and analysing proposals.

Results of risk assessment of non-compliance

North Sea - Pelagic fisheries with the highest risk of non-compliance

Blue whiting

Gear	Area	Non-compliance with the LO	Misreporting	Use of illegal gear
Freezer trawlers - Mid water and mid water pair trawls	2.a	Medium	Medium	Medium
	4	Medium	Medium	Medium
RSW tank vessels and polyvalents - Mid water and mid water pair trawls	3.a	Medium	Medium	Medium



Mackerel

Gear	Area	Non-compliance with the LO
Freezer trawlers - Mid water and mid water pair trawls	2.a	Medium
	4	Medium
RSW tank vessels and polyvalents - Mid water and mid water pair trawls	2.a	High
	4	High

Herring

Gear	Area	Non-compliance with the LO	Misreporting	Use of illegal gear
Freezer trawlers - Mid water and mid water pair trawls	2.a	Medium	Medium	Medium
	4	Medium	Medium	Medium
RSW tank vessels and polyvalents - Mid water and mid water pair trawls	2.a	Medium	Medium	Medium
	3.a	Medium	Medium	Medium
	4	Medium	Medium	Medium

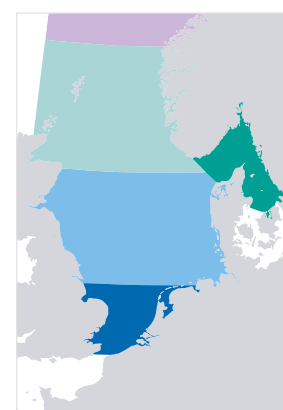
Industrial fisheries exploiting sandeel, sprat and Norway pout

Gear	Area	Non-compliance with the LO	Misreporting	Use of illegal gear
Industrial trawls 16-31 mm	3.a	Medium	Medium	Medium
	4	Medium	Medium	Medium
Industrial trawls < 16 mm	3.a	Medium	Medium	Medium
	4	Medium	Medium	Medium

Level of risk: Medium High

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

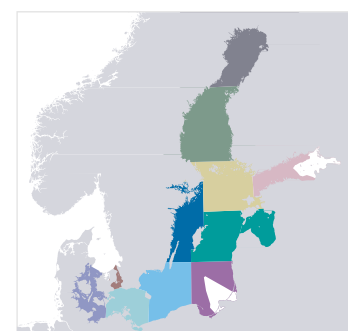
Gear – Mesh size – Fishery	Area	Main target species	Non-compliance with the LO	Mis-reporting	Use of illegal gear
Otter trawl / Seine ≥ 120 mm	4.a	Saithe, Hake	High	High	
Otter trawl / Seine ≥ 80 and < 100 mm	4.b	Plaice, Norway lobster	Very High		
Otter trawl / Seine ≥ 120 mm	3.a	Plaice, Haddock, Hake, Cod	Very High	High	
Otter trawl / Seine ≥ 90 and < 120 mm	3.a	Norway lobster, Plaice	Very High	High	High
Otter trawl / Seine ≥ 35 and < 70 mm	3.a	Northern prawn	Very High		
Beam trawl ≥ 80 and < 120 mm	4.b	Sole	High		High
	4.c		Very High	Very High	Very High



2.a 3.a 4.a
4.b 4.c

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

Gear – Mesh size – Fishery	Area	Main target species	Non-compliance with the LO	Mis-reporting	Use of illegal gear	Fishing closed season	Illegal selling	Unlicensed & use of illegal gear
Otter trawl ≥ 105 mm	22-24	Demersal species	High					
	25-27	Demersal species	Very High					
Otter and pair trawls ≥ 32 and < 90 mm	22-27	Herring		High				
Otter and pair trawls ≥ 16 and < 32 mm	22-27	Sprat		High				
Otter and pair trawls ≥ 16 and < 105 mm	28-32	Herring		Very High				
Gillnet ≥ 157 mm	22-32	Salmon		High				
Fixed gear	22-32	Salmon		High		High		
Gillnet (≥ 110 mm) and longline	22-24	Demersal species			High	High		
Recreational fishery	22-24	Demersal species					High	
Eel fishery	22-32	Eel		High				Very High



22 23 24
25 26 27
28 29 30
31 32

Level of risk: High Very High

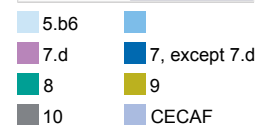
Western Waters - Pelagic fisheries with the highest risk of non-compliance

Anchovy

Gear	Area	Misreporting
Polyvalents-Purse seine	9	Very High

Herring

	Area	Misreporting
RSW tank vessels and polyvalentsMid water and mid water pair trawls	6	High
	7, except 7.d	High



Horse mackerel

Gear	Area	Non-compliance with the LO	Misreporting	Illegal gear
Freezer trawlers-Mid water trawls and mid water pair trawls	7.d	Medium	Medium	Medium
	7, except 7.d	Medium	Medium	Medium
RSW tank vessels and polyvalentsMid water and mid water pair trawls	6	Medium	Medium	
	7, except 7.d	Medium	Medium	
Polyvalents-Purse seine	8		Medium	
	CECAF	Medium	Medium	Medium

Blue whiting

Gear	Area	Non-compliance with the LO	Misreporting	Illegal gear
Freezer trawlers - Mid water and mid water pair trawls	5.b	Medium	Medium	Medium
	6	Medium	Medium	Medium
	7, except 7.d	Medium	Medium	Medium
	8	Medium	Medium	Medium
RSW tank vessels and polyvalent - Mid water and mid water pair trawls	6	Medium	High	Medium
	7, except 7.d	Medium	High	Medium

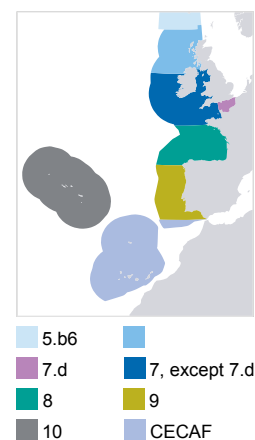
Level of risk: Medium High Very High



Western Waters - Pelagic fisheries with the highest risk of non-compliance

Mackerel

Gear	Area	Non-compliance with the LO	Misreporting	Illegal gear
Freezer trawlers- Md water and mid water pair trawls	6	Medium		
	7, except 7.d	Medium		
RSW tank vessels and polyvalents Md water and mid water pair trawls	6	High		
	7.d	Medium		
	7, except 7.d	High		
Polyvalents-Bottom and bottom pair trawls	7.d	Medium	Medium	
	7, except 7.d	Medium		
Polyvalents-Purse seine	8		Medium	
	CECAF	Medium	Medium	Medium
Polyvalents-Line	8		Medium	



Sardine

	Area	Misreporting	Illegal gear
RSW tank vessels and polyvalents Mid water and mid water pair trawls	8	Medium	Medium
Polyvalents-Purse seine	8	Very High	Medium
	9	Medium	
	CECAF	Medium	

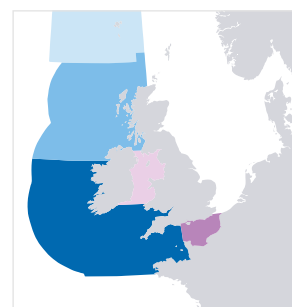
Albacore

Gear	Area	Non-compliance with the LO	Misreporting	Illegal gear
Midwater trawl targeting albacore	7	Medium	Medium	Medium
	8	Medium	Medium	Medium
Bait boat, pelagic trolling and pole and line targeting albacore	7		Medium	
	8		Medium	
	9		Medium	
	10		Medium	
	CECAF		Medium	

Level of risk: Medium High Very High

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

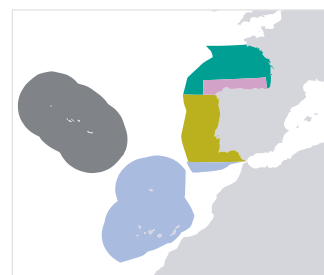
Gear – Mesh size – Fishery	Area	Main target species	Non-compliance with the LO	Mis-reporting	Use of illegal gear	Fishing without quota
Trawl ≥120 mm	6	Anglerfish, Cod Haddock, Hake Saithe, Whiting	■	■		
	7.a		■	■		
	7, except 7.ad		■	■		
Trawl <120 mm	6	Anglerfish, Haddock, Hake, Norway lobster Plaice, Sole, Whiting	■	■		
	7.a		■	■		
	7.d		■	■		
	7, except 7.ad		■	■	■	■
Beam trawl <120 mm	7.a	Plaice, Sole	■	■	■	
	7.d		■	■	■	
	7, except 7.ad		■	■	■	
Seine	7, except 7.ad	Hake, Haddock, Whiting	■	■		
Gillnet	7, except 7.ad	Anglerfish, Hake Saithe		■	■	
Trammel net	7.d	Sole, Plaice	■			
	7, except 7.ad		■			
Eel fishery	6, 7	Eel		■		



5.b 6 7.a
7.d 7, except 7.a,d

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-reporting	Use of illegal gear
Bottom trawl ≥ 70 and < 100 mm	8, except 8c	Anglerfish, Hake, Norway lobster, Sole	■		
	8.c		■		
Bottom trawl targeting mixed pelagic / demersal ≥ 55 and < 70 mm	8, except 8c	Hake, Norway lobster Blue whiting, Mackerel		■	
	8.c		■	■	
	9		■	■	■
Gill and trammel net ≥ 100 and < 169 mm	9	Anglerfish, Hake		■	
Eel fishery	All	Eel		■	



10 CECAF 9
8c 8, except 8c

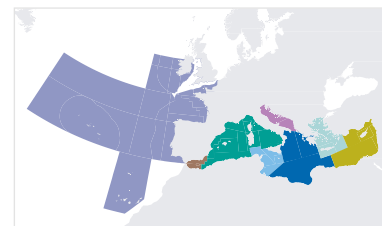
Level of risk: ■ High ■ Very High



Eastern Atlantic* and Mediterranean Sea

fisheries with the highest risk
of non-compliance

Eastern Atlantic
Alboran Sea
Western Mediterranean
Strait of Sicily
Adriatic Sea
Ionian Sea
Levant Sea
Rest of Mediterranean



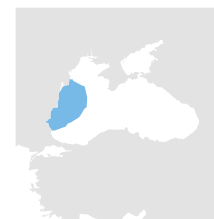
Gear	Area	Main target species	Non-compliance with the LO	Misreporting	Non-compliance with quota, bycatch and effort limit	Non-compliance with temporal/spatial closures	Non-compliance with general technical and management rules
Trawl	Strait of Sicily	Deep-water rose shrimp, Hake, Blue and Red Shrimp	■	■		■	■
	Ionian Sea	Deep-water rose shrimp, Hake, Blue and Red Shrimp	■	■			■
	Aegean Sea	Deep-water rose shrimp, Hake, <i>Mullus spp.</i>	■				
	Western Mediterranean	Deep-water rose shrimp, Hake, <i>Mullus spp.</i>	■	■	■	■	■
	Adriatic Sea	Deep-water rose shrimp, Hake, <i>Mullus spp.</i> , Norway lobster, Sole	■	■		■	■
	Levant Sea	Hake, <i>Mullus spp.</i>	■				■
Purse seine	Mediterranean 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		■			
Longline	Alboran Sea	Red seabream, Hake		■	■		■
Longline, hand-line	Mediterranean Sea	Albacore, Bluefin tuna, Swordfish	■	■	■	■	■
Trammelnet, gillnet	Western Mediterranean Sea	Hake, <i>Mullus spp.</i> , Seabreams		■			
	Adriatic Sea	Pandora, Seabreams, Sole		■			
	Strait of Sicily and Ionian Sea	Hake, <i>Mullus spp.</i> , Seabreams		■			
Sport and Recreational fishery	Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea	Albacore, Bluefin tuna		■	■	■	■
Lampara	Mediterranean Sea	Dolphinfish					■
Diving	Mediterranean Sea	Red coral					■

* Covers only bluefin tuna

Level of risk: ■ High ■ Very High

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

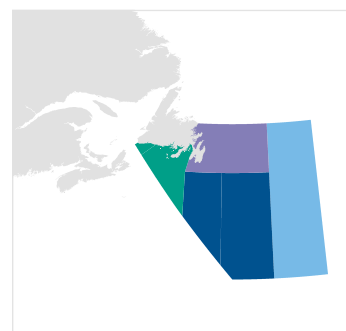
GearM	Gear Code	Main target species	Non-compliance with the LO	Mis-reporting	Non-compliance with spatial / temporal closures	Fishing without license and authorisation	Use of illegal gears	IUU fishing activities
Midwater otter trawl	OTM	Sprat	Medium	Medium			Medium	
Bottom set gillnet	GNS	Turbot	Very High	Very High	Very High	Very High	Very High	Very High



EU Waters of the Black Sea

NAFO - Fisheries with the highest risk of non-compliance

Gear	Main Target Species	Area	Species misreporting	Area misreporting
Otter bottom trawls	Redfish, Greenland halibut	3L	Very High	High
	Cod, Redfish, Greenland halibut	3M	Very High	Very High
	Cod, White hake, Redfish, Greenland halibut	3N	High	High
	Redfish, Greenland halibut	3O	High	Very High
Longliners	Cod, White hake	LL	High	



3L 3O 3M 3N

Level of risk: Medium High Very High



Objective 2

Development of methodologies and fisheries information systems in support of Monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) activities

Expected results

1. Assistance to Member States, Regional Bodies, and the European Commission in the implementation of the CFP, including the landing obligation.
2. Development of standard methodologies applicable to risk management and compliance evaluation.
3. Improvement of data management and fisheries information systems in support of fisheries MCS.

The main areas of activities with the support of EFCA are the common understanding on the application of fisheries related regulations from the perspective of control and inspection. EFCA's activities in all these areas contribute to the CFP implementation and are, consequently, also relevant to the Green Deal, more concretely to halting biodiversity loss.

In 2022 EFCA continued to support the Member States regional Control Expert Groups (CEGs). EFCA cooperated with the CEGs, which are regional bodies created in the framework of regionalisation, such as BALTFISH, Scheveningen, NWW and SWW CEGs; the work focused in the regional indicators for non-compliance with the landing obligation and with the recording and reporting obligation. The Agency also aimed to address the requests for assistance in the preparation of Remote Electronic Monitoring (REM) operational plans for pilot projects at regional and national level.

Strategic risk assessments were carried out in preparation of the JDPs for 2023 for all JDP areas except NEAFC, for which a preparatory meeting took place aiming to conduct the assessment in 2023. The two main outcomes of the regional meetings were the identification of those fleet segments with the estimated highest risk of non-compliance with the current regulations, and a set of possible risk treatment measures to address each of the main threats identified.

EFCA is collaborating with EMSA in the provision of services through a web-based application, which integrates maritime data from several sources (EFCA IMS). 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). 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:

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

By the end of 2022, more than 1200 credentials were valid for users of the fisheries control authorities in Member States, the European Commission and the Agency.

In addition, the EFCA working group to facilitate the implementation of a system for the electronic exchange of Inspection and Surveillance reports (e-ISR) between EU Member States, Commission and EFCA met five times in 2022, with one physical meeting in Paris on 22 October 2022. As in previous year, priority was given to the most common types of inspections: fishing vessels at sea and in port.

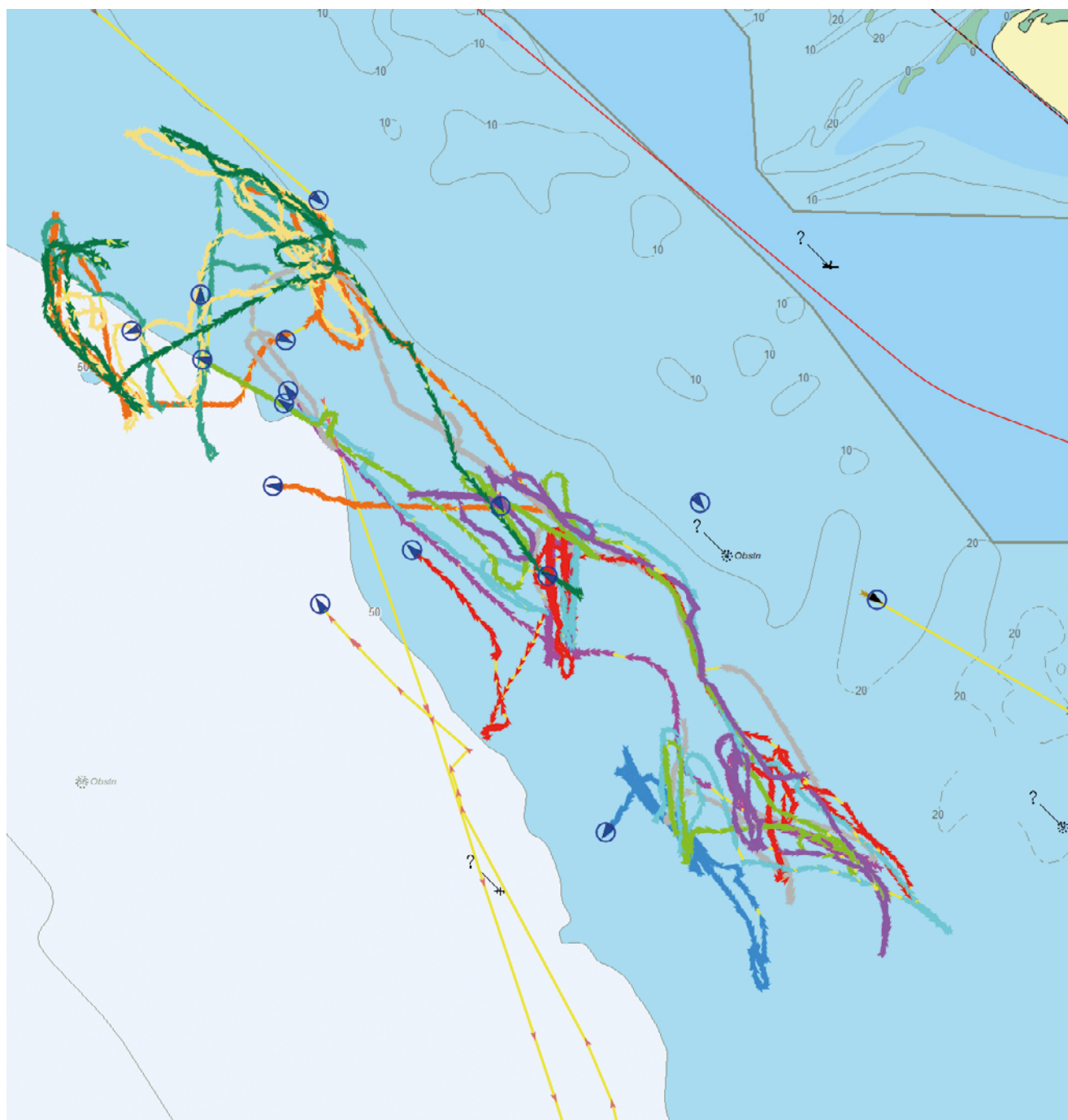
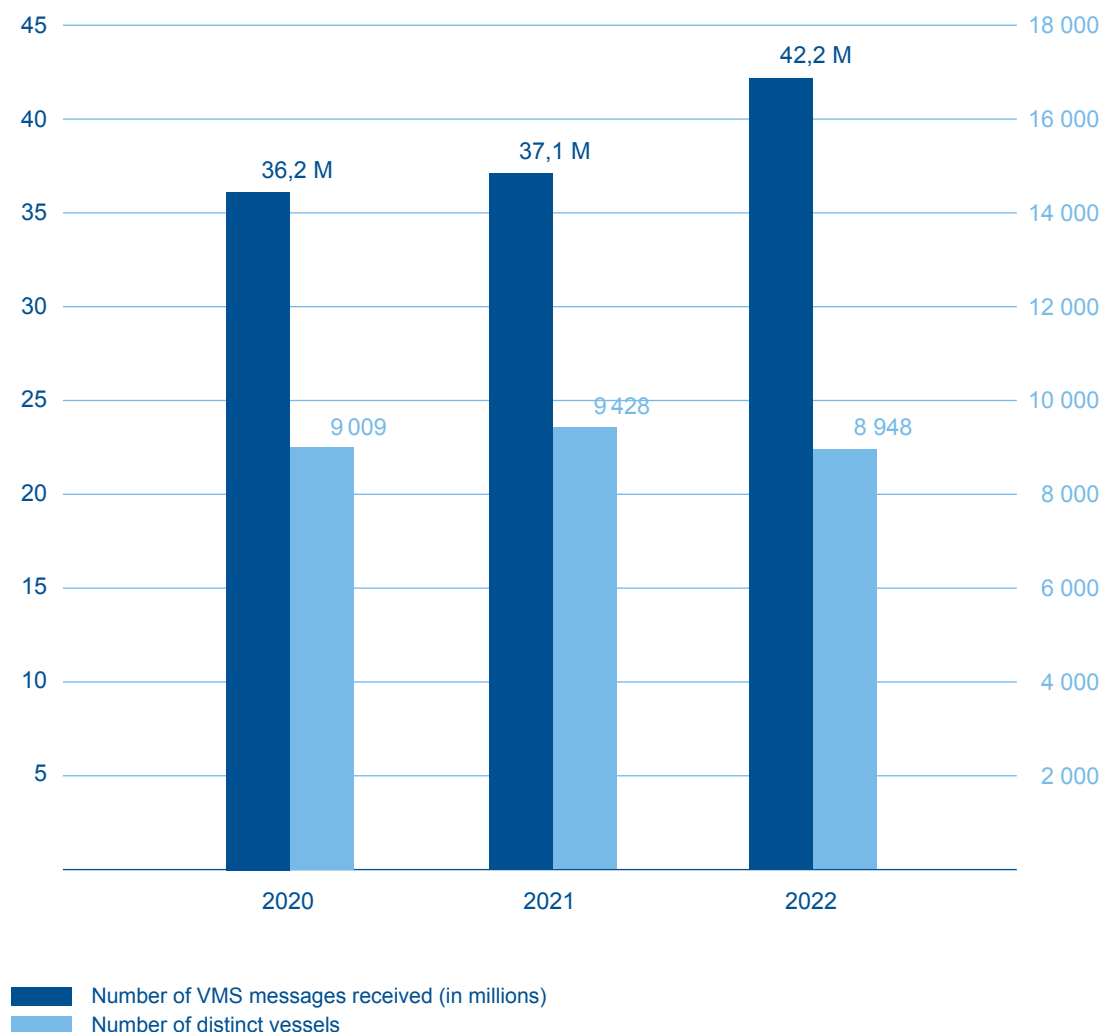






Image provided through the Copernicus Maritime Surveillance (CMS) Service

EFCA Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)



EFCA ERS data 2022

Messages	Vessels	Member States	JDP
 2 103 052 Total number of messages pulled from Member States	 6 109 Total number of vessels pulled from Member States	 12 Total number of Member States connected	 5 Number of JDPs configured

Objective 3

Development of training on MCS activities.

Expected results

1. Updated training material available.
2. Use of the EFCA e-learning platform.
3. MS national training activities supported.
4. Provision of coast guard cross-functional training

Training activities in support of the effective and uniform application of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) are crucial to guarantee a fair and equitable treatment to the Union operators. In 2022 EFCA organised and contributed to 53 training events, including by e-learning; a total of 2967 officials from the EU Member States, EU bodies and third countries, were trained;

EFCA supports Member States in designing training programmes on fisheries control and inspection. 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. In 2022, a revised version was prepared. A priority in the development of such training programmes is the production of reference materials for the “training of the trainers”.

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. Training events covered the tasks carried out by Union inspectors deployed in the framework of JDPs, as well as specific training in relation to the IUU Regulation.

In 2022, 1188 staff from EU and non-EU countries were registered as active users of the EFCA e-learning platform. In order to promote and proliferate the use of its e-learning platform by Member States’ inspectors, EFCA finalised the translation of several video tutorials into more EU languages. For non-EU countries, a training manual for FMC operators (non-EU) on vessels’ tracking systems is already available in English, French and Portuguese.





Objective 4

Analysis for the weighing process of fisheries products in the Member States and strategy.

Expected results

1. Description and analysis of weighing practices of fisheries product.
2. Evaluation of existing sampling plans, control plans and common control programmes and relevant methodologies.
3. Recommendations and guidelines to ensure efficient and effective weighing of fisheries products.

The initial analysis of the weighing methodologies commenced with a meeting with the Member States to discuss the project and to request assistance in arrangements. These related to bilateral discussions with Member States to examine methodologies and practices in use, and to missions to Member States to see current practices. This process will continue in 2023.

EFCA carried out an evaluation of the documented practices in the Member States. Initial progress on this task was reported in the scheduled progress report to the Commission in the fourth quarter of 2022. Final outcomes will be provided in future progress reports.



Objective 5

Support the EU in the implementation of the external dimension of the CFP.

Expected results

1. Support to the EU delegation in RFMOs meetings.
2. Support in implementation of international inspection schemes, pilot projects and specific campaigns.
3. Support as regards training and assistance to Third Countries in relation to MCS activities.
4. Assistance to the European Commission on analysis and evaluation mission to third countries as regards the implementation of the IUU Regulation.
5. 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 .

At the request of the European Commission, the EFCA assisted the Union to cooperate with third countries and international organisations dealing with fisheries in order to strengthen operational coordination and compliance. Throughout 2022 EFCA closely supported the Commission in the preparation, participation and follow-up of the EU representation in the relevant Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs), namely GFCM, ICCAT, NAFO and NEAFC, providing technical advice and contributions to EU proposals, reporting and general support to the EU engagement during the intersessional and annual meeting proceedings.

EFCA continued to provide general support to DG MARE as regards control issues following specific requests from the Commission, as well as implementing specific projects in cooperation with third countries. This included implementing a Pilot Project in the Adriatic Sea on demersal and pelagic fisheries in association with Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro and a Pilot Project for common dolphin fish in association with Tunisia and Malta.

During 2022, within the EFCA sphere of competence and drawing on professional experience, EFCA provided technical support to the Commission on NAFO matters and participated in several meetings, both online and in-person. EFCA also provided technical support to the Commission also on NEAFC matters and participated in relevant meetings.

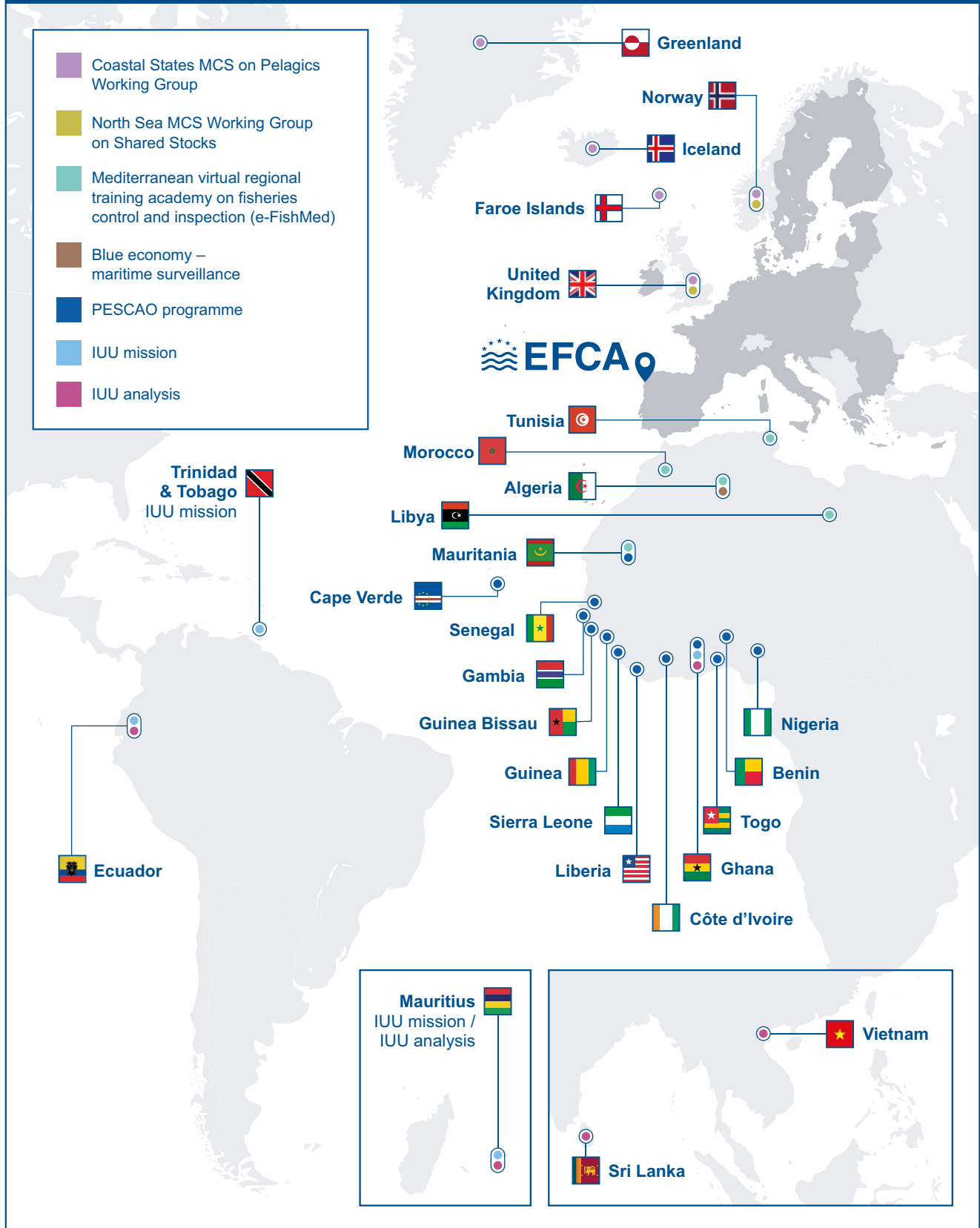
The Agency assisted the Commission in the trilateral meetings of the MCS Working Group (MCSWG) with Norway and the UK on the Shared stocks in the North Sea, particularly regarding surveillance and control issues of these stocks, which concern cod, haddock, saithe, whiting, plaice and herring.

In the fight against IUU activities, EFCA assisted the European Commission with the analysis of 773 catch certificates and processing statements from six third countries.



EFCA International Dimension

2022



Objective 6

To strengthen compliance through the implementation of EU international projects as regards fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance.

Expected results

1. Implementation of the Annual work Programme of the projects.
2. Harmonisation of third countries legal framework in accordance with international standards.
3. Increased capacity of third countries fisheries inspectors and other officials.

PESCAO project

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. The specific objective of PESCAO is to improve regional fisheries governance in Western Africa through better coordination of national fisheries policies.

e-FishMed project

EFCA is part of the Project “Mediterranean virtual regional training academy on fisheries control and inspection (eFish-Med)”, which promotes cooperation in the fight against IUU fishing, and the implementation of GCFM and ICCAT conservation and management measures.

The e-FishMed kick-off meeting took place on 26 May 2022, initiating discussions between EFCA, the Beneficiary Countries (Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia) and the Project Partners (France, Italy, Malta, Portugal and Spain). From 1 August 2022, the Project started its implementation phase, including the performance of a technical and functional study to match the design of the e-learning platform to the needs of the Beneficiary Countries.

Algeria project

In the framework of the Blue Economy programme of the European Commission, EFCA provided assistance to Algeria for the establishment of a national VMS, including technical support for the evaluation of offers by Expertise France), involving the setting-up of a national FMC and legal assistance to Algerian authorities, as well as technical support on VMS equipment and training of FMC operators. The first plenary meeting with the competent authorities was held online on 18 May 2022.





Objective 7

Support to fisheries control and other national authorities working in the field of Coast Guard functions.

Expected results

1. Higher level of fisheries control ensured by making available services/means
2. Antipollution equipment and supplies installed on board of the Charter OPVs
3. Enhanced interagency operational cooperation and cost-effective use of means
4. Ensure the involvement of the fisheries community in initiatives of other Agencies
5. Cooperation with EMSA and Frontex in the EUCG initiative implemented
6. Cooperation with other EU Agencies (i.e., EU SATCEN, ESA, EUSPA) in projects related with control technologies
7. Further promotion of the use of new technologies for fisheries purposes, including in cooperation with other EU agencies

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, was significant. The deployment of EFCA's chartered vessels, Lundy Sentinel, Aegis and Ocean Sentinel, provided robust platforms for fisheries inspections, leading to 148 inspections and 58 suspected infringements detected, fostering transparency, exchange of knowledge and expertise, and first-hand understanding of fisheries compliance.

EFCA's fleet consisted of three OPVs chartered in 2022: Lundy Sentinel until mid-December (with 302 operational days at sea, performed 239 fisheries sightings and 138 inspections leading to 55 detected suspected infringements), Aegis until March and a first patrol with Ocean Sentinel in December 2022. Operations started the year under strict COVID-19 protocol, until it downscaled some measures in June and was suspended in September, after considering the overall situation in the EU.

There were 42 Member State Union inspectors hosted onboard the Lundy Sentinel in the framework of the JDP and 5 third country inspectors as observers. Lundy Sentinel continued to operate a light RPAS quadcopter to support fisheries control, in cooperation with EMSA.

Besides fisheries control tasks, two of the EFCA's OPV's were made available to multipurpose tasks in the framework of European cooperation on coast-guard functions, such as assistance and pollution response operations, in cooperation with Member State authorities, Frontex and EMSA. In that respect, Lundy Sentinel and Aegis had on board equipment for pollution response, and dedicated supplies were placed on board all three OPVs.

In 2022, EFCA launched a Specific Contract for aerial surveillance services for fisheries control in the context of JDPs. A fixed wing aircraft (FWA) deployment took place between November and December from Cork (Ireland), with a total of 84 flight hours and 53 sightings performed, in the scope of the Western Waters JDP. Flights were coordinated by EFCA from the coordination centre in cooperation with the Irish authorities.

The Annual Strategic Plan agreed between EFCA, EMSA and Frontex under the Tripartite Working Arrangement (TWA) covered the five coast guard cooperation areas, with EFCA coordinating the Capacity Building and Risk Assessment areas.

When it comes to bilateral cooperation, EFCA and EMSA EDs signed their updated SLA in December 2022.

Besides, as agreed by the EFCA Administrative Board in January 2022, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between EFCA and the EUSPA was successfully concluded and signed by both Executive Directors during their meeting on 3 May in Prague. EFCA also established dialogue with the European Space Agency for the preparation of a MoU that would be presented to the Administrative Board in 2023.

In 2022 EFCA further intensified the use of earth observation (EO) technologies in support of fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance.

EFCA operational capacity

is available for **Multipurpose Operations in cooperation with FRONTEX, EMSA and Member States** relevant authorities in its support to coast guard functions

Primary

Fisheries inspection and control

Support role

- Search and rescue
- Border Control and Customs control
- Law enforcement
- Maritime environmental protection and response
- Maritime monitoring and surveillance
- Maritime safety
- Maritime accident and disaster response



Multipurpose Maritime Operation (MMO) in the Black Sea

10 August to 30 November 2022

Main results



50 joint patrols with coast guard officers and fisheries inspectors



47 fisheries inspections leading to 1 suspected infringement



17 flights



164 fisheries sightings

Interagency cooperation
Capacity sharing
Information exchange
Enhanced synergies
Coast Guard functions
Support to Member States
Economies of scale



Romania

Border Police / Coast Guard
National Agency for Fishing and Aquacultures (NAFA)
Romanian Naval Authority (RNA)



Bulgaria

Border Police
Executive Agency for Fisheries and Aquacultures (EAFA)
Bulgarian Maritime Administration (MA)

Coordinated by: **EFCA** | **EMSA** | **FRONTEx**



MEDEVAC drill in cooperation with Italian CG (Mediterranean JDP 2022)



Objective 8

Implementation of the Project on the Coast Guard handbook and the results of the Coast Guard qualifications Network.

Expected results

1. Keeping the coast guard handbook updated and available on-line as a valuable document for Member States authorities.
2. Enhancing cooperation on coast guard capacity building and training.
3. Manage an online platform to host the coast guard handbook and coast guard capacity building and training network.

With the aim of 'Enhancing cooperation on coast guard capacity building and training', in 2022 EFCA worked to achieve a network of academies and bodies dedicated to training of CG functions. During the first year of the project a total of 61 Points of Contact from 19 different countries were gathered. A draft Exchange Programme Terms of Reference was prepared to be discussed with Member States Points of Contact. EFCA developed, in co-operation with EMSA and Frontex, a draft plan for the activities in the area of the Sectoral Qualification Framework (SQF).

In 2022, EFCA worked in a beta version of the on-line platform to host the coast guard handbook and the capacity building and training network, which shall be useful for MS national authorities implementing coast guard functions.

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



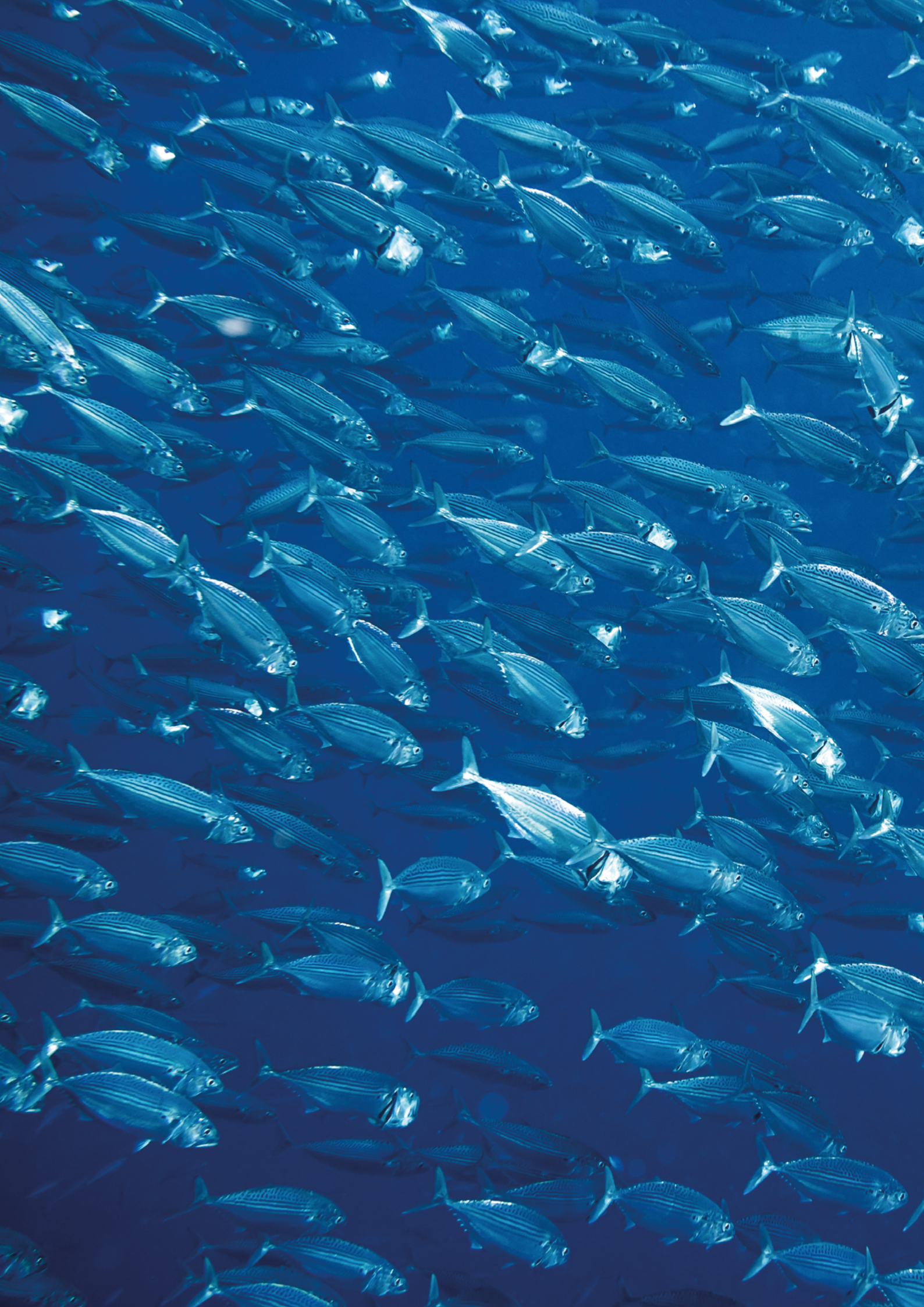
Cooperation on risk analysis

Cross-sector risk analysis
Risk Analysis products



Capacity Sharing

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

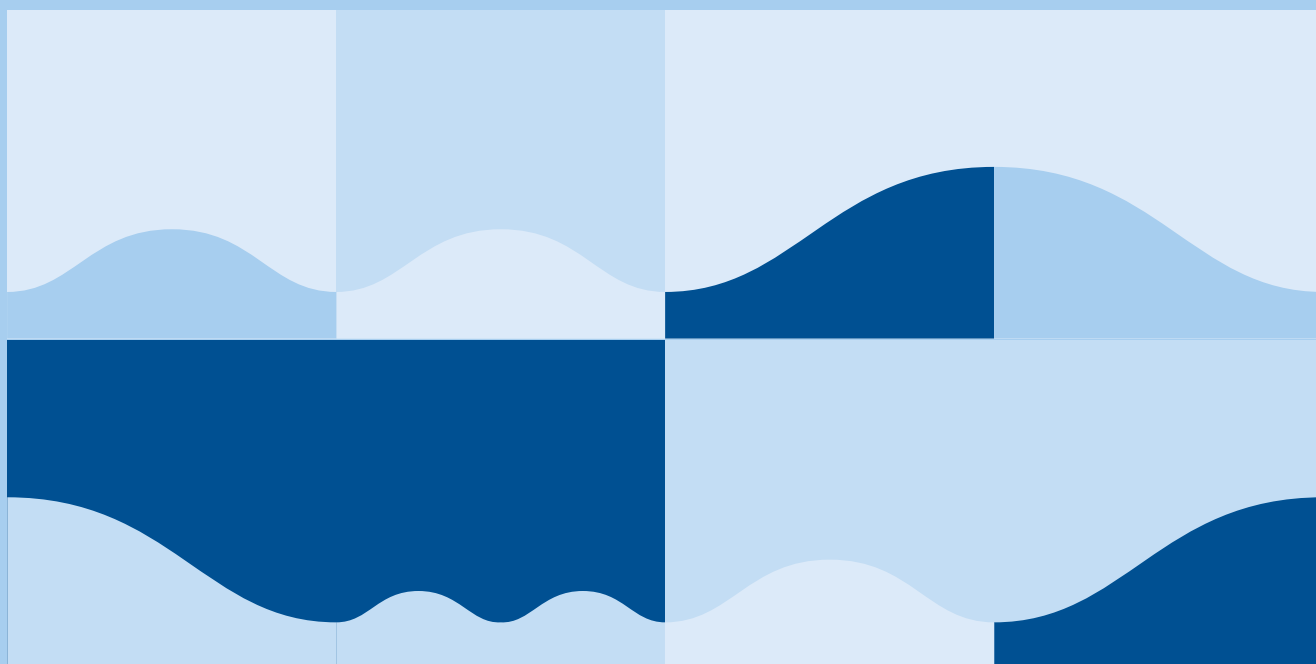




Part II

Horizontal Support

Main results 2022



Objective 9

Promote a culture of compliance of the Common Fisheries Policy and foster the European Union values.

Expected results

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 international project.
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 international projects.
3. Local public is familiar with the general values of the European Union.
4. Institutional partners are well-informed about the Agency's work and mission.
5. EFCA staff is informed and involved in EFCA's work.

The Communication Strategy Plan ensures that EFCA activities are well known for the target audiences and stakeholders. In view of supporting the strategy defined by the European Commission, EFCA has worked hand in hand with the Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE) along the year, exchanging views on different communication material, such as videos and texts, and disseminating each other information, such as press releases or social media posts.

EFCA encouraged local public to be familiar with the general values of the European Union through events like the celebration of the Europe Day, held in the presence of representatives of the main Spanish authorities. Besides, several institutional partners were received in the Agency.

A new corporate video was produced on the importance of the EFCA risk assessments. A short ver-

sion of the Annual Report 2021 was designed and printed as well as the Single Programming Document 2022 and a general leaflet on EFCA's work that was translated into all EU languages.

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.

During 2022 EFCA was present in the meetings of the Advisory Councils relevant to EFCA work, attending both their general assemblies, executive committee meetings and dedicated workshops. 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).

Objective 10

Ensure the smooth and secure functioning and availability of administrative and operational applications.

Expected results

1. Highly available ICT services to support the EFCA business processes
2. Mitigate the identified IT security risks with the appropriate controls
3. Constant monitoring of IT incidents and threats to promptly identify, tackle and prevent vulnerabilities
4. Ensure the confidentiality, integrity and availability of the information and make sure that information is not compromised in any way
5. Demonstrate compliance with the requirements of the EU data protection regulation (EU DP Regulation 2018/1725) by maintaining updated records of categories of processing activities of the Agency

The development of new EFCA applications supporting the business processes continued, based on a high availability architecture.

A first version of the Data Exchange module supporting the Fishing activity data domain was developed and tested in the course of 2022. At the

same time, the European Coastguard Handbook portal was successfully developed and tested.

Regarding data protection, activities undertaken in the course of 2022 were in line with the principles of transparency and accountability, highlighting the status of data protection compliance in EFCA.



Objective 11

Ensure sound management and efficiency in key governance and administrative processes.

Expected results

1. Provide the EFCA Administrative Board with the capacity for achieving its responsibilities by keeping it well informed.
2. Increase AB involvement and output legitimacy.
3. 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.
4. Ensure the rationalisation, simplification, scalability and streamlining of EFCA's administrative and support processes.
5. Ensure an effective dialogue with the Advisory Board while facilitating the interaction between the Administrative Board and the Advisory Board.

EFCA has placed emphasis on developing a culture of integrity, loyalty and trust 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. 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.

EFCA continues to strive for an efficient use of its resources. EFCA adopts a risk-based approach to controls and the definition of its administrative and support processes. The collaboration and sharing lessons learned with other agencies contributed to achieve this objective. Synergies with other Institutions and bodies were enhanced and EU institutions and bodies and general stakeholders were informed on EFCA activities. In this sense, the Executive Director and the Head of Unit Resources attended the various meetings held at managerial level within the inter-agency cooperation network, which coordinates the relations between agencies, the Commission and the European Parliament. Likewise, Agency staff met their counterparts through specific technical networks.

EFCA Administrative Board was regularly and effectively informed of the EFCA's work and developments, and it ensured the matching of tasks foreseen for the Agency in the programming document and re-

sources available to the Agency. Also, it was appreciated an increased Administrative Board involvement and output legitimacy. Moreover, in October the Administrative Board issued recommendations for the five year independent external evaluation of EFCA.

Close cooperation with the Advisory Councils (AC) was ensured: the Advisory Board met twice in 2022 and throughout this year, EFCA participated in meetings of the Executive Committees and Working Groups of the Advisory Councils, especially in those affected by the Joint Deployment Plans adopted by EFCA, and when items related to EFCA competences were included in the agendas.

Administrative Board members were invited to the online meetings of the Advisory Board to boost interaction among the two bodies.

On 31 December 2022, the establishment plan was 96% filled, with 74 temporary agents (TA), 11 Contract agents (CA), and 93 Seconded National Experts, plus 13 CA covered by ad hoc grants, under the different ongoing projects assigned to the Agency.

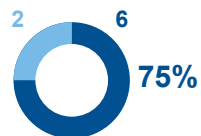
EFCA promotes a policy of equal treatment aiming to have an optimal gender balance among its staff. On 31 December 2022, the percentage of female staff grade AD8 (administrator's function group, grade 8) or higher was 38%. As in the previous years, there was a wide composition of staff in regard to nationalities with staff members from 18 different EU Member States.



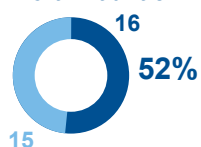
Gender and nationalities of EFCA staff members (31/12/2022)



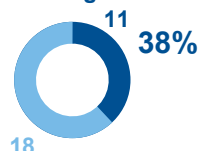
Executive Director



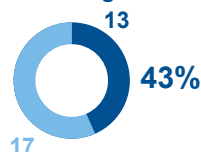
EU Waters and North Atlantic



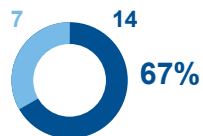
Staff of grade AD8 and higher



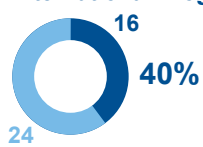
Staff of grade AST



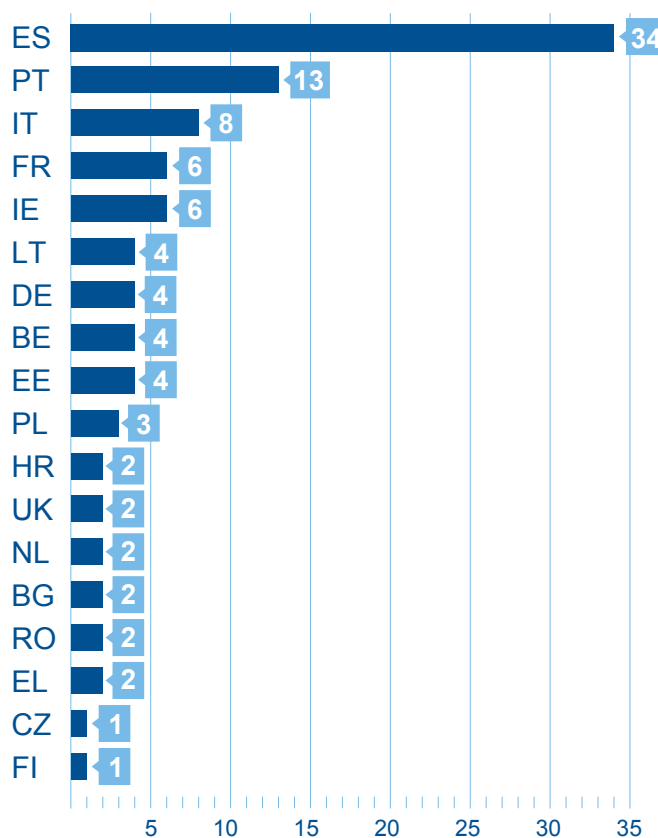
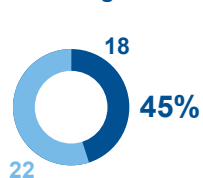
Resources & IT



Coast Guard and International Programmes



Staff of grade AD



Europe Day 2021 and farewell event for outgoing Executive Director Pascal Savouret



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