

# ANNUAL REPORT 2011



## EFCA Annual Report 2011<sup>1</sup>

### Legal basis:

Articles 14 and 23(2)(b) of Council Regulation (EC) No 768/2005<sup>2</sup> as amended by Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009<sup>3</sup>, Art. 40 of the Financial Regulation of EFCA<sup>4</sup>. The Annual Report has been structured in accordance with the Activity-Based Management System approved by the Administrative Board on 19 October 2010.

This is the printed version of the EFCA Annual Report 2011 adopted by the Administrative Board. The full version of it can be found on the EFCA website at <http://www.efca.europa.eu>

More information on the European Union is available on the internet (<http://europa.eu>).

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<sup>1</sup> The Agency name changed from Community Fisheries Control Agency (CFCA) to European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) on 1 January 2012.

<sup>2</sup> OJ of the European Union L 128 of 21.05.2005, p.1.

<sup>3</sup> OJ of the European Union L 343 of 22.12.2009, p.1.

<sup>4</sup> AB Decision No 09-W-01 of 9 January 2009.





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## Executive Summary

This Annual Report marks the end of the first five year period since the Agency commenced its operation in 2007. During 2011, the performance of the Agency in its first five years has been evaluated by an external independent evaluator. The results of the evaluation will be reflected in recommendations issued by the Board in early 2012. The recommendations on the establishing Regulation, the Agency itself, and its working practices will certainly give direction in the future.

The present Annual Report has been structured in line with the Annual Work Programme 2011. This facilitates the follow up and development of the activities during 2011. You will find below a brief summary of key activities, operational coordination, capacity building and governance and representation.

Regarding **operational coordination**, the increase in JDPs during 2011 is noteworthy. Building on the success of ongoing JDPs in 2011, and following the adoption of a Specific Control and Inspection Programme, a new JDP for Pelagic stocks in Western Waters was implemented. This is the first Regional and multispecies JDP operating within EU waters.

Within the JDPs covering EU waters the use of regional risk analysis has been improved with a regional definition of the risks concerning the different fisheries involved, taking account of historical catch and effort data.

Many infringements detected during 2011 were related to reporting issues. It should be highlighted that the ratio of infringements at sea and ashore has been decreasing in recent years. This trend is certainly encouraging but must not induce complacency. Cooperation has continued with third countries within the JDPs framework.

During 2011 upon the request of the Commission the Agency cooperated with Canada, Russia and Turkey.

In the IUU domain the Agency has continued to support the Member States and the Commission in its

visits to third countries in the context of Article 20(4) of the IUU Regulation. The support by the EFCA has been organised in two key areas: Fulfillment of tasks transferred to EFCA by the Commission and, provision of training to national authorities. A meeting of the EFCA IUU Working Group took place.

Within the **capacity building** there has been good progress. In the field of training (Core Curricula) the priority was to create reference materials for the training of the trainers of Member States and for Union inspectors. To date 34 draft modules of a Sea Inspection manual have been developed, many of which have been reviewed and refined by Member States representatives.

EFCA also contributed to national training programmes in two Member States. The occasion to test the first developed draft training materials demonstrated high acceptance by trainers or by the participating fishing inspectors.

With reference to Data Monitoring and Networks, a study covering 20 EU Member States information systems supporting fisheries control was completed. The study found examples of good practice occurring in all data domains used for fisheries controls. The feasibility and security study for FISHNET was finalised. In the area of pooled capacities the contract for chartering a Fisheries Patrol Vessel (TYR) was successfully managed to support JDPs operations in international waters. During 2011 interagency cooperation with EMSA and Frontex continued.

Finally, **governance and representation**- apart from the aforementioned Five year Evaluation, of note is the fact that the Board appointed, at its Administrative Board meeting on 8 July 2011 the new EFCA Executive Director, Mr Pascal Savouret, who took up office on 1 September 2011 for a term of five years and, during its Administrative Board meeting, on 18 October 2011, the new EFCA Administrative Board Chairperson Mr Jörgen Holmquist for a term of 3 years.





## Foreword

### Jörgen Holmquist, Chairman of the Administrative Board

Coordination of fisheries control in the European Union is a crucial function. Effective control lies at the heart of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), and only with a rigorous implementation will the CFP be successful in attaining the objective of sustainable fisheries. This is the 5th Annual report of the Agency, and as such represents an important milestone. It is an appropriate moment to evaluate the results to date, and to plan the way ahead.



In 2011, the Agency has continued to demonstrate its European added value in the coordination of joint control activities by Member States. Whether this is in the blue fin tuna fishery in the Mediterranean, or the cod fisheries in the Baltic and North Sea, it contributes to a level playing field, ensuring equal treatment for operators, regardless of where they operate. It contributes towards sustainable fisheries by enhancing compliance, and increasing mutual confidence in the effectiveness of joint control, both for stakeholders and the relevant authorities.

The challenges ahead are significant. The Agency is moving towards a regional, multi-species approach. The JDP for pelagic stocks in Western Waters is a good example. This regional approach for JDPs should create synergy, increase effectiveness, and save on public expense.

In the context of the reform - regionalisation, ecosystem-based approaches, multi-species - the proposed seabasin approach should also improve cost-effectiveness, as well as enhancing the level playing field for the fishing industry. Regarding capacity building, solid foundations have been built in training of inspectors, establishing best practices, and developing the necessary data management systems.

This important work helps Member States to raise the quality of their inspection activity, and will continue.

In the context of the ongoing CFP reform, 2012 is a crucial year for the Agency. As facilitator, brokering operational cooperation and assisting Member States and the Commission, it is wellpositioned to make a substantial contribution towards the objectives of EU fisheries control policy: establishing and developing a culture of compliance and a level-playing field.

## Introductory statement

### Pascal Savouret, Executive Director of EFCA

Although it is only six months since I joined the agency I can already observe that our institutional partners recognize the added value of the cooperation work the agency brokers, with the ambitious objective of contributing to build a culture of compliance across the fisheries sector in Europe.



All tasks assigned to operational coordination during 2011 have been fulfilled in accordance with the work programme and the different JDPs decisions. The four JDPs implemented were the cod fisheries in the North Sea and Western Waters, cod fisheries in Baltic sea, regulated species in NAFO and

NEAFC, bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean Sea and Eastern Atlantic Ocean and as for the 5 September 2011, a JDP for Pelagic in Western Waters through the adoption of a Specific Control and Inspection programme by the Commission.

This JDP in particular has been the first regional and multispecies JDP operating in European Union waters. It is setup on a permanent basis, with continuous exchange of information and full communication of results and intelligence on the real-time basis of the TJDG.

As well as this regional approach, further steps were taken to enhance the quality and specific relevance of the activities developed. These included the promotion of a risk management approach, the organisation of and participation in regional workshops for improving JDP operations, improvements in the three phases of the JDP cycle (planning, implementation and assessment), the development of a pilot project using stereo video technology in the bluefin tuna JDP, and an analysis of the JDP evolution over five years of operation.

In this analysis, it can be observed that the ratio of infringements at sea and onshore has decreased in the past years. This decrease can be observed against the backdrop of an increased number of inspections, and the progressive introduction of a risk assessment approach, with an increased infringement detection rate for target vessels. While it is still difficult to conclude that compliance levels are increasing, (many other factors could be involved) the trend is certainly encouraging.

One of the key aspects in the promotion of a level playing field is the creation of joint teams of inspectors of different nationalities, and the training of inspectors. During 2011, approximately, 1600 man/days were deployed in joint teams

and a total of nearly 300 staff members from Member States received training for regional JDPs. Moreover, as requested by the Commission, the EFCA has assisted the European Union in its relations regarding control and inspection with Canada, Russia and Turkey.

In the area of Capacity Building, aiming to apply the rules of the Common Fisheries Policy by Member States in a uniform

way, the agency has worked in the areas of data monitoring and networks, training and pool capacities.

Under Data Monitoring and Networks, several activities were performed, mainly a study on EU Member States information system supporting fisheries control, which has found examples of good practice occurring in all data domains used for fisheries controls, data analysis services, an agency's VMS system and a feasibility study for the fishnet project aiming at being a collaboration tool for JDP stakeholders, and preparations for an Electronic Reporting System and Electronic Inspection Reports.

In the field of training, EFCA continued with the development and harmonisation of training activities and of training core curricula for fisheries inspectors. Finally, following an open call for tenders, the EU fisheries patrol vessel Tyr was deployed for a total of 174 days at sea.

Many challenges are now ahead of us. The regional approach must be strengthened and expanded to other areas. The core curricula have to be delivered. We are tasked to develop new data management systems, harnessing promising possibilities provided with the Maritime Surveillance initiatives.

We will continue to foster cooperation with third countries and assist the Member States and the European Commission in some technical aspects of the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy.

EFCA is still building its own capacity in order to reach the expected cruising speed level. It will continue to work with the same determination and even more ambition in the difficult context of financial and staffing constraints.

I am confident that together, in cooperation with the European Commission and the Member States, we will be able to deliver the best results and effective European added value.





## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Annual Report of the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) for 2011 is structured following the Activity-Based Management System (ABMS) approved by the Administrative Board on 19 October 2010.

The second and third chapters contain an overview of the EFCA mandate, resources and activities.

The operational activities, operational coordination and capacity building, are described in chapter four and the functional activity, governance and representation in chapter five.

More information, inter-alia, the assessment reports, the horizontal support activities, the budget execution, the budget outturn and the balance sheet, can be found in the annexes.

## 2. MISSION STATEMENT

“The Agency’s mission is to promote the highest common standards for control, inspection and surveillance under the Common Fisheries Policy”.

The 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.

Its 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.

Against this background, EFCA develops its activities along two main strategic axes:

a) Organisation of the operational coordination of pooled national means in the fisheries identified by the Commission and accepted by the Administrative Board.

b) Building of the necessary capacity to apply the rules of the CFP by Member States in a uniform way.

EFCA promotes a culture of compliance among stakeholders and contributes to a level playing field at the level of the European Union. In this way the Agency is contributing to long term, biologically and ecologically sustainable exploitation of marine living resources for the common good.

## 3. RESOURCES AND ACTIVITIES

In accordance with the ABMS approved by the Administrative Board on 19 October 2010, the Annual Report 2011 is the second report implementing ABMS in its reporting, adding the total estimated direct and indirect costs for each activity.

The EFCA accomplishes its mission through its two operational activities and one functional activity integral to its operation as an independent EU body:

### • Operational activities

#### - Operational Coordination<sup>5</sup>

Organisation of the operational coordination of control activities by Member States for the implementation of specific control and inspection programmes, control programmes related to IUU fishing and international control and inspection schemes adopted by Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs), as well as related activities.

<sup>5</sup> Activity code: 1 (ABMS).

## - Capacity Building<sup>6</sup>

Assistance to the Commission and the Member States 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, the development and coordination of training programmes and the possible acquisition of equipment necessary for the implementation of JDPs or on the request of Member States.

## • Functional activity

### Governance and Representation<sup>7</sup>

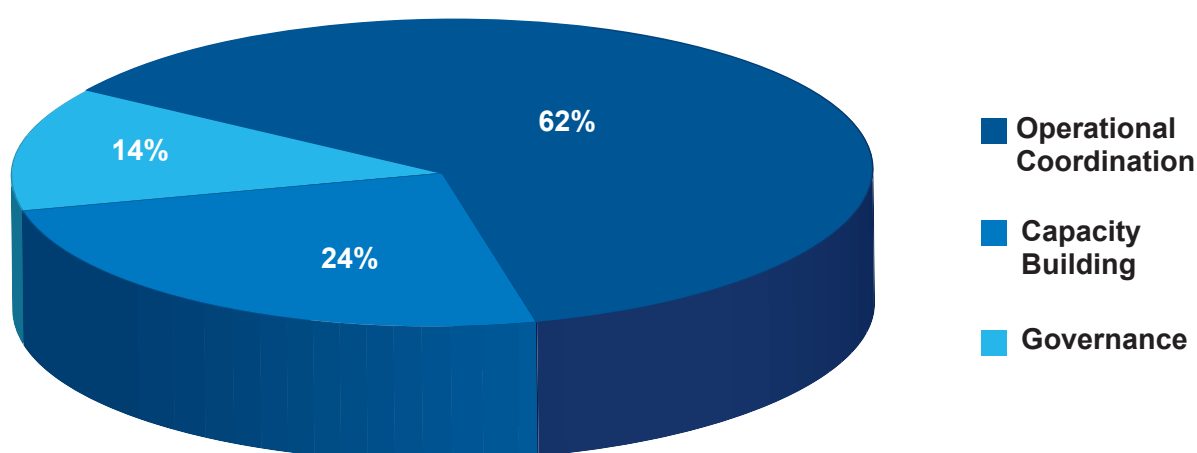
For the purpose of the functioning of the EFCA as an independent EU body, all activities deployed in support of the Administrative Board, the Advisory Board, inter-agency cooperation (including in the maritime policy



domain), representation and communication are considered as EU governance activities. The resources allocated to the EFCA's functional activity are linked to the general objectives and are carried out in close connection with its operational activities.

By December 2011 the Agency had 56 staff members (TAs and CAs) representing 17 nationalities. In accordance with the ABMS the pie chart below shows the distribution of the staff classified by activity:

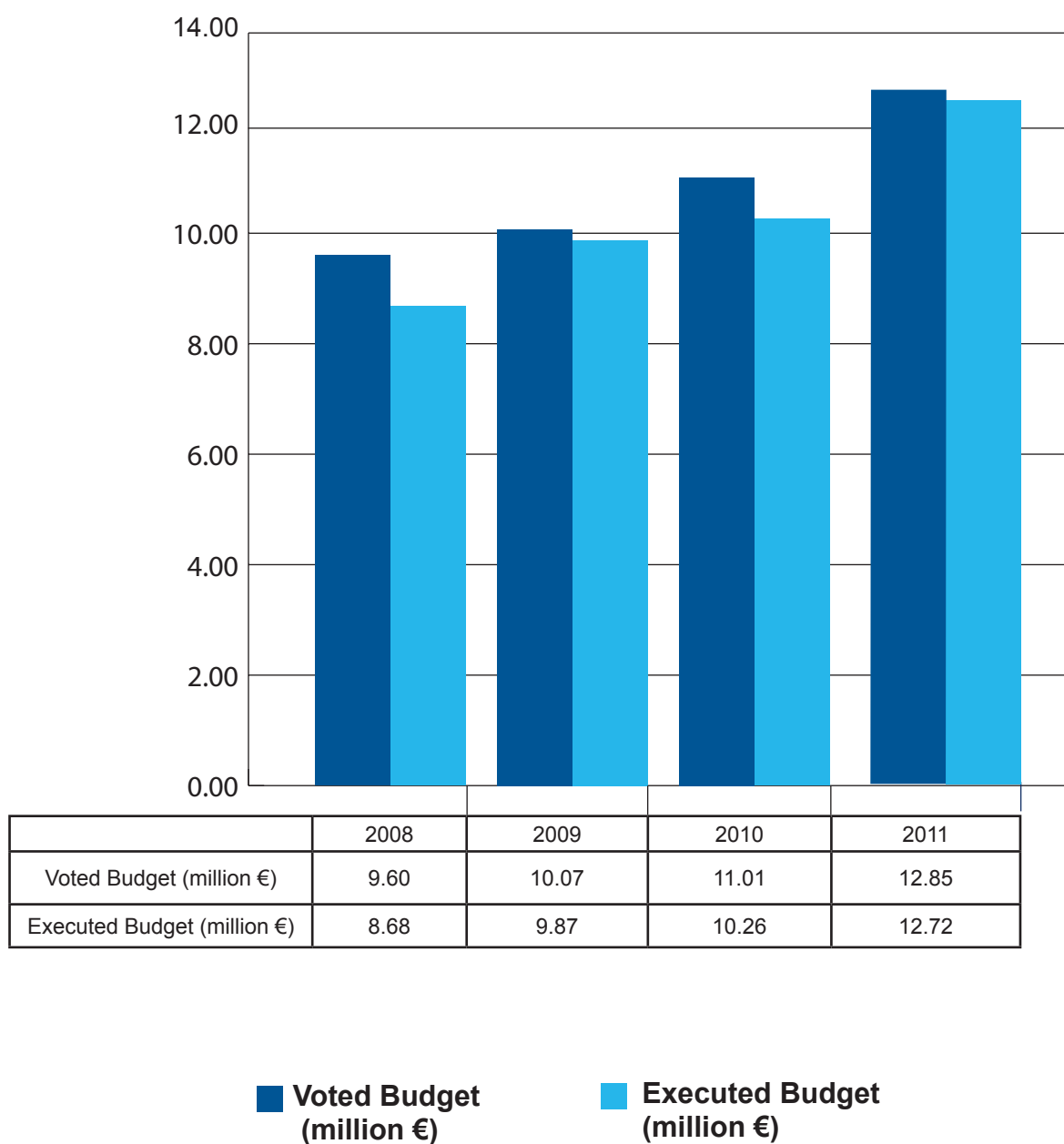
**% of dedication of staff 2011 (31/12/11)**



<sup>6</sup>Activity code: 2 (ABMS).

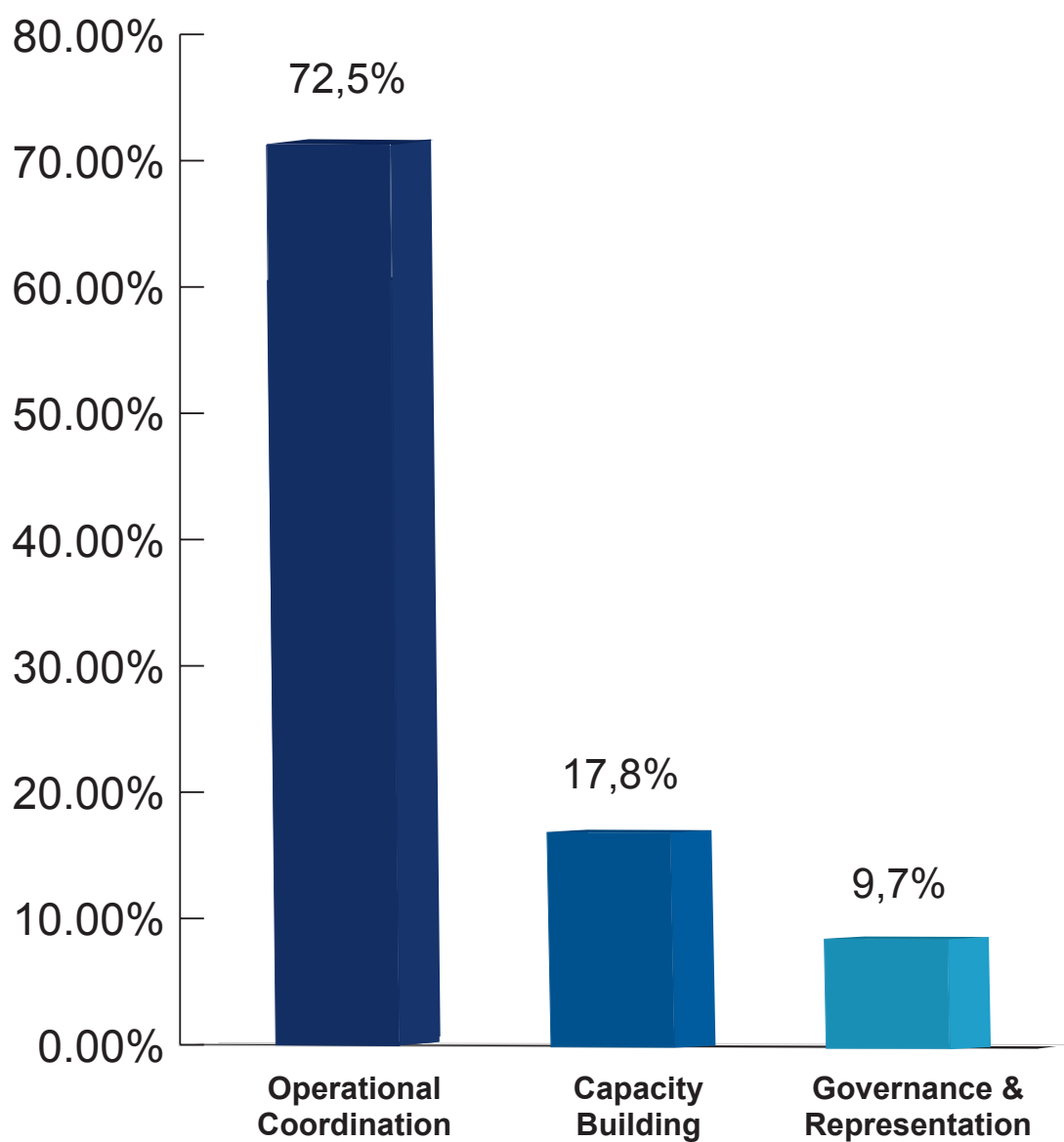
<sup>7</sup>Activity code: 3 (ABMS)

With reference to the Budget 2011 the graphs below show the budget evolution and execution from 2008-2011 and the budgetary allocation by activity:



The activity “Operational Coordination” includes the €4 million contribution assigned to the chartering of a vessel.

### Budget Implementation ABB 2011



## 4. Operational Activities

### 4.1 Operational Coordination

#### 4.1.1 Introduction and activity data

The EFCA operational coordination activities have been focused on the priorities of the Annual Work Programme (AWP) for 2011:

- assistance to the Member States and the Commission in the application of the EU Regulation against IUU fishing (EC) No 1005/2008;
- implementation of 4 JDPs, in accordance with the principles agreed and discussed with the Member

States and the Commission, regarding the planning, implementation and assessment of JDPs.

The four JDPs implemented by the EFCA during 2011 were:

- Cod fisheries in the North Sea and Western Waters
- Cod fisheries in the Baltic Sea
- NAFO & NEAFC
- Bluefin Tuna in the Mediterranean Sea and Eastern Atlantic Ocean

As from the 5 September 2011, a new JDP for Pelagic in Western Waters was implemented following the adoption of a Specific Control and Inspection programme by the Commission.





As no concomitant increase in resources was made available for this JDP, the financial resources required were taken from the European waters JDPs, mostly from “Cod fisheries in the North Sea and Western Waters” JDP and the human resources from the Baltic Sea, North Sea and the IUU desk.

Amongst these JDPs, it should be outlined that currently only the NAFO/NEAFC and the pelagic in Western Waters JDPs are multispecies, and thus closer to the “regional control areas” vision as prioritised by the EFCA Multiannual Work Programme (MWP).

**Table 1** presents the details on the execution of tasks included in the EFCA AWP 2011 regarding operational coordination. All deliverables foreseen in the AWP 2011 have been achieved.

**Table 2** shows the data regarding performance indicators applied to operational coordination activities.

**Table 3** summarises the number of infringements detected in all JDPs by type.

**Table 4** presents the details of the execution of the tasks included in the Work Programme regarding the fight against IUU fishing. All deliverables foreseen in the WP 2011 have been achieved.

As required by Art. 14 of Regulation (EC) No 768/2005, the EFCA is obliged to undertake an annual assessment of each JDP. Annex I presents for information the assessment reports of the JDPs for NAFO and NEAFC and Bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean and the eastern Atlantic, which were already prepared in close cooperation with Member States and the Commission.

The assessment report of the JDPs for North Sea and adjacent waters and Baltic Sea will be issued in the first half of 2012.



## DELIVERABLE OF ACTIVITIES

Table 1: WP 2011 general follow-up table (Amounts in €)

Activities Performed	JDP North Sea & Western Waters	JDP Pelagic Western Waters	JDP Baltic Sea		JDP Bluefin Tuna		JDP NAFO & NEAFC	
	Budget: 165.000	Staff: 1 AD + 2 AST + 1 SNE	Budget: 165.000	Staff: 1 AD + 3AST	Budget: 165.000	Staff: 1AD+ 3AST+ 6SNE	Budget: 200.000	Staff: 1 AD + 4 AST
Deliverables								
Meetings of the Steering Group and Technical Joint Deployment Group	1. MAR, 22nd SG, Göteborg, SE 2. SEP, 20th SNS TJDG, Vigo, ES 3. SEP 21st SG Vigo, ES 4. NOV, 7th SNS TJDG, Paris, FR 5. NOV, 24th TJDG, Vigo, ES	1. JUL, 7th Vigo, ES 2. OCT, 14th Madrid, ES	1. MAR, 24th Göteborg, SE 2. SEP, 22nd Vigo, ES		1. FEB, 8th- 9th Venice, IT 2. APR, 28-29t St. Julian's, MT 3. MAY, 31st Vigo, ES 4. JUL, 5th Vigo, ES		1. JAN, 25th Copenhagen, DK 2. JUN, 10th Tallinn, EE 3. OCT, 13th Madrid, ES	
Adoption of JDP for 2011 and 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decision N° 2009/071 of 14/12/2010</li> <li>Decision N° 2011/12 of 14/06/2011</li> <li>Decision N° 2011/34 of 13/12/2011</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decision N° 2011/24 of 29/08/2011 amended by</li> <li>Decision N° 2011/037 of 19/12/2011</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decision N° 2010/030 of 17/12/2010</li> <li>Decision N° 2011/013 of 22/06/2011</li> <li>Decision N° 2011/036 of 14/12/2011</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decision N° 2011/007 of 18/04/2011</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decision N° 2010/029 of 09/12/2010 amended by</li> <li>Decision N° 2011/017 of 21/07/2011 and</li> <li>Decision N° 2011/035 of 13/12/2011</li> </ul>	

**Table 1: WP 2011 general follow-up table (Amounts in €)**

Activities Performed	JDP North Sea & Western Waters	JDP Pelagic Western Waters	JDP Baltic Sea	JDP Bluefin Tuna	JDP NAFO & NEAFC	
Joint Campaigns	11 according to the JDP decision, including 9 short-term and 2 long-term campaigns	1 campaign (4 months) according to the JDP decision	9 according to the JDP decision	1 according to the JDP decision	7 according to the JDP decision (1 with participation of an inspector from Saint Pierre et Miquelon, and one with an inspector from Canada on board EU FPV)  Additionally, 1 campaign with a EFCA staff on Canadian FPV	9 Joint Campaigns according to the JDP decision
Workshops	* 1 Inspector Trainers Workshop (2 days), Edinburgh, UK;  2 Regional Risk Analysis Workshops: Copenhagen, DK (1 day) + Vigo, ES (1day);  1 Coordination Centre Workshop (2 days), Vigo, ES;  1 Risk Management Workshop (4 days), Etel, FR;	1 Coordination Centre Workshop (2days), Vigo, ES;  1 Regional Risk Analysis Workshop: Edinburgh (1 day)	1 seminar, 29th SEP 2011 Vilnius, LT  2 Regional Risk Analysis Workshops: Copenhagen, DK (1day) + Vigo, ES (1day);  1 Coordination Centre Workshop (2 days), Vigo, ES;	2 trainings for BFT and Mediterranean Technical measures, Vigo, ES  2 national training;	1 training (3 days) Vigo, ES  1 Port state control workshop (2 days) Vigo, ES	1 training (2 days) Vigo, ES  1 training (1 day) Cork, IE
Chartering of FPV	NONE	NONE	NONE	76 days	47 days	35 days

Table 2: Performance indicators evaluation WP 2011

Performance Indicators						
	JDP North Sea & Western Waters	Pelagic JDP Western Waters	JDP Baltic Sea	JDP Bluefin tuna	JDP NAFO & NEAFC	
1- Number of campaigns days at sea and ashore per JDP	340 joint campaign days southern NS 93 joint campaign days northern NS 535 days at sea	119 days	145 days	247 days at sea 163 days ashore	125 days at sea 8 days ashore	162 days at sea
2- % of campaign days and sea days carried out in accordance with the JDP schedule.	100% joint campaign days 96% sea days carried out	100% joint campaign days carried	100% of campaign executed: 101 % of sea days 100 % of ashore days	105 % of campaign days with: 106% of sea days 109% of ashore days 93% of air days	100% of sea days	98% of campaign days
3- Control and inspection means deployed in accordance with the JDP schedule (% of total planned)	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
4- Number of sightings, inspections and presumed infringements detected during JDP.	5268 sightings (2322 sea; 2946 air)  3978 inspections (1337 sea; 2631 ashore; 10 transport)  255 vessels with at least 1 infringement found (93 ashore; 159 sea; 3 by air surveillance)  295 presumed infringements reported (189; 106 ashore)	572 sightings (83 sea + 142 air + 347 ashore) 349 Inspections (64 sea + 285 ashore) 12 infringements (2 sea +10 ashore)	847 sightings (710 sea +137 air) 4720 inspections (4135 ashore + 585 sea) 80 infringement ( 44ashore +36 sea)	1032 sightings 677 inspections 59 presumed infringements	83 sightings 33 sea & port inspections 2 presumed infringements	943 sightings 112 inspections 14 presumed infringements

**Table 2: Performance indicators evaluation WP 2011**

Performance Indicators						
	JDP North Sea & Western Waters	Pelagic JDP Western Waters	JDP Baltic Sea	JDP Bluefin tuna	JDP NAFO & NEAFC	
5- Ratios for sightings-inspection-presumed infringements/ per campaigning day during JDP	12 sightings/day 9 inspections/day 0.68 presumed infringements/day	4.7 sighting/day 2.93 inspection/day 0.08 presumed infringement/day	5.8 sighting/day 32.5 inspection/day 0.55 presumed infringement/day	3.28 sightings/day 1.65 inspections/day 0.14 presumed infringements/day	0.66 sightings/day 0.26 inspections/day 0.008 presumed infringements/day	5.8 sightings/day 0.7 inspections/day 0.09 presumed infringements/day
6-Man/days in mixed and joint teams.	248 man/days	64 man/days	273 man/day	488 man/days	356 man/day	208 man/day
7- % of main species landings (by weight) controlled during the JDP compared with total main species landings (by weight)	6.1%	n.a.	16.1%	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.



Table 2: Performance indicators evaluation WP 2011

Performance Indicators						
	JDP North Sea & Western Waters	Pelagic JDP Western Waters	JDP Baltic Sea	JDP Bluefin tuna	JDP NAFO & NEAFC	
8- Ratios for targeted vessels - inspection-presumed infringements/ per campaign day	<u>Target Vessels:</u> Targeted sea inspections: 204 Infringements at sea: 36 (17.6%)  <u>Targeted inspections</u> at landing: 51 Infringements at landing: 1 (1.96%)  <u>Non-target vessels:</u> Non-targeted sea inspections: 1133. Infringements at landing: 2580 Infringements at landing: 92 (3,6%)	n.a.	The methodology with target vessels was used from June until December (campaigns 4-9).  <u>Target vessels</u> Sea inspections 12 Infringements at sea 1 (8.33%) Shore inspections 69 Infringements ashore 1 (1.45%)  <u>Non-target vessels</u> Sea inspections 279. Infringements at sea 12 (4.30%) Shore inspections 1870 Infringements ashore 16 (0.85%)	1.51 targeted vessels inspections/day  0.14 targeted vessels presumed infringements/ day	n.a.	n.a.
9- Satisfaction questionnaire standards completed by participants in the Joint Campaigns and the Workshops	34% "excellent" satisfaction rating 60% "good" satisfaction rating 1.5% "adequate" satisfaction rating 3% "fair" satisfaction rating 1.5% "no opinion" satisfaction rating	n.a.	27% considered the BS training "excellent" 67% as "good" and 6% as "adequate" satisfaction rate	28% of the participants considered the 2011 BFT training as an excellent training and 72 % as a good training	29% "excellent" satisfaction rating 53% "good" satisfaction rating 12% "adequate" satisfaction rating 6% "fair" satisfaction rating	36% "excellent" satisfaction rating 55% "good" satisfaction rating 9% "adequate" satisfaction rating

#### 4.1.2 JDPs evolution and output

During 2011, EFCA has been working in close partnership with Member States and the Commission in the framework of the Steering Groups (SG) created by each JDP in order to achieve the strategic goals and objectives of the AWP 2011. All phases of operational coordination, from the setting of operational objectives, risk management and planning of JDPs, to the implementation and assessment of activities, were carried out in close cooperation with the Steering Group.

All tasks assigned to operational coordination during 2011 have been fulfilled in accordance with the work programme and the different JDPs decisions. As previously mentioned, a new activity related to a JDP on pelagic fisheries in Western Waters was started<sup>8</sup> during 2011. The objective of this is for EFCA to coordinate control and inspection activities between Member States as stipulated by the Commission Decision of 24 May 2011 establishing a specific control and inspection programme for pelagic fisheries in Western Waters of the North East Atlantic.

During 2011, further steps were taken to enhance the quality and specific relevance of the activities developed, which can be summarised as follows:

##### **a) Common deployment of Member States' control resources**

Member States have contributed satisfactorily to the success of the JDPs, permitting the joint campaigns to be carried out with adequate means. For international waters JDPs (i.e NAFO/NEAFC and BFT), Member States

means were complemented by the deployment of the EU chartered Fisheries Patrol Vessel "TYR", which was used as a common EU inspection platform.

Ways were explored to further promote a more rational and cost effective deployment of means throughout longer campaigns, thus avoiding unnecessary concentration of means over short periods. The southern North Sea campaign operated almost on a "year-round" basis, with permanent exchange of information and intelligence, with the national control activities directed at cod (and species associated in some fisheries, such as plaice and sole), fully integrated under JDP coordination (in particular those at sea). Further prolongation of campaign periods was also explored in the context of the northern North Sea campaigns and Baltic Sea JDP.



<sup>8</sup> A new Specific Control and Inspection Programme for the pelagic fisheries in Western Waters was adopted by the Commission on 24 May 2011 (Commission Decision 2011/310/EU of 24 May 2011). This Programme is the legal basis for the adoption of a Joint Deployment Plan by the EFCA. The EFCA convened a meeting of a Western Waters Steering Group with Member States and the Commission on 7 July 2011, after requesting the necessary data from Member States to prepare a draft planning of JDP activities. As a result of this meeting, a draft Joint Deployment Plan was notified by the EFCA Executive Director to the Member States concerned and the Commission, including the control and inspection activities to be coordinated up to December 2011. The JDP was finally adopted on 29 August 2011.

This JDP is the first Regional and multispecies JDP operating in Union waters, and has the following characteristics, permanent JDP, with permanent exchange of information and full communication of results and intelligence in real time basis of the TJDP. A full assessment report of this JDP will be produced in 2013.

### b) Promoting a risk management based approach

A risk management approach forms the current basis for well targeted inspections and helps ensure a positive cost-benefit ratio in both the long term and short term planning of joint campaigns.

Regional Risk Analysis systems are implemented in the different JDPs affecting EU waters in order to facilitate the long term planning of joint campaigns detailing the appropriate control effort in a spatial and temporal basis and the definition of the specific objectives of the joint campaigns. The joint exercise relays in two axes:



- EFCA prepares, in cooperation with Member States, maps with the areas and periods where catches and landings of the different species are likely to occur.
- Member States contribute to a regional definition of the risks concerning the different fisheries involved risk assessment procedure carried out by EFCA.

Short term risk analysis has been implemented during the joint campaigns, mostly building on Member States expertise and allowing for the definition of common targets for inspection. These elements have proved effective in the planning of daily activities, allowing for a more precise identification of potentially 'non-compliant' targets.

A project on a common methodology to identify target vessels has been initiated in the framework of the Technical Joint Deployment Group for the campaigns in the Southern North Sea. Final expected result will be the designation of joint targets for inspections by each Member State following the same basis.

### c) Regional workshops for improving JDP operations

Regional workshops have proven to be an excellent forum to promote the exchange of experiences and best practices between Member States inspectors. The introduction of "real case scenarios" and the organisation of operational units grouping Member States inspectors have facilitated the development of a common understanding and common operational procedures to any potential "real-life" operation. In 2011, the operational cooperation between National and EFCA FMCs under JDPs, and procedures related to the deployment of European Union inspectors in waters of a different flag state, have been particularly targeted.

National and Union inspectors participate in the joint campaigns. Notwithstanding, Member States, are encouraged, in some specific joint campaigns, such as NAFO or BFT, to deploy inspectors that have attended an EFCA specific workshop. Regional training remains a high priority and the EFCA will continue to further cooperate with Member States in that respect.

### d) The JDP cycle: Promoting European Added Value at all stages

The organisation of the best use of human and material resources pooled by Member States in a coordinated way generates European added-value when compared with stand-alone Member States operations, namely by promoting:

- **uniformity and effectiveness of control**
- **increased transparency of control activities**
- **a level playing field for the fishing industry**
- **cost-effective use of national control resources.**





In 2011, improvements in the 3 phases of the JDP cycle (planning, implementation and assessment) continued to be explored:

- **Planning:** JDP planning is undertaken according to a risk management based approach and establishment of clear specific objectives.

A joint Regional Risk Analysis system is applied in all JDPs to facilitate planning of JDP activities through the identification of areas, periods and specific objectives to be covered.

This is a common exercise, done in close cooperation with all Member States in question, facilitating a detailed picture of the fishery and a common view on main risks and priorities.

Further developments were introduced for mid term-planning, so as to readjust periods, places and targeted risks, since changes in circumstances and events occur. This was particularly the case for the “long-term” campaigns under the southern North and Pelagic Fisheries in Western Waters JDPs, where a weekly/quarterly phone conference with all the Members of the TJDG was introduced as a way to facilitate coordination and the exchange of information. The experience has shown to be positive in the adjustment of control efforts and in facilitating more cost-effective deployment of control means.

- **Implementation:** During 2011 efforts were made to introduce more flexible and adaptive JDPs. Longer joint campaign periods were introduced in JDPs in EU waters in particular for the southern North Sea and the pelagic fisheries in Western Waters. These are easier to adapt to fishery patterns as they occur, allowing for a more flexible and complementary joint deployment of control resources.

- **Assessment:** Periodic reporting has been undertaken in all JDPs, ensuring timely communication of the results through the Steering Group members and stakeholders; generally at the end of the different joint campaigns. This reporting system is both databased and qualitative; covering all the different elements of the activities. This system has permitted a joint analysis with Member States to highlight possible common problems and discuss potential solutions.

A common methodology and associated performance indicators for the annual assessments of JDP effectiveness was introduced in 2011 for several JDPs.

This methodology has proven to be very useful in evaluating if inspection activities have been deployed according to the specific objectives of JDPs.

However, there is still a need to further strengthen the knowledge-base to assess the impact of JDPs on general objectives, such as improvement of compliance, stock status, cost-effectiveness and ultimately the contribution for European added value under joint control operations.

It should be noted that the evaluation of the contribution of JDPs to these general objectives is a difficult exercise, particularly as they are of a multifactor nature and not easily quantifiable on a single basis.

The EFCA intends to continue to work in this domain in close partnership with the Commission and Member States, in particular as regards the evaluation of compliance. The involvement of an external independent scientific advice type of structure (e.g. STECF, ICES) in this type of impact evaluation exercise could also be considered.

Finally, a wider integration of EFCA impact evaluation in the evaluation of the multiannual/recovery plans of species covered under JDPs could also be envisaged in this context.



#### **e) Pilot project for the utilization of stereo video technology in BFT**

The EFCA was requested by Member States to coordinate the implementation of a joint EU pilot project concerning the utilisation of stereoscopic systems aiming at a better estimation of both the number and weight of bluefin tuna at the point of capture and caging.

A fact-finding mission was implemented to Australia from 6 to 11 March 2011. EFCA Administrative Board and

Steering Group representatives were briefed about the results of this mission. Following the request of the Bluefin Tuna JDP Steering Group, the EFCA convened an Expert Group to finalise the formulation of the project proposal.

France, Malta and Spain presented to the Expert Group the activities undertaken by those Member States in the field of stereo-video systems. As it was foreseen, the Expert Group developed a proposal for a “Feasibility study to assess the utilisation of stereo-video systems in Atlantic bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) in a commercial setting”.

The Italian Government offered the farm premises of Marina di Camerota to implement the field work and the French Government provided the stereo camera acquired to perform the above mentioned pilot project.

Initially, the field work was foreseen to be carried out in September 2011, but due to problems with the logistics and in order to facilitate its implementation, it was postponed until the harvesting period, i.e. October 2011 and finally completed during the period of 24 to 28 of October and from 3 to 5 November 2011.

During the first part some operational aspects were addressed, and a training course for local staff of the farm was carried out by an Australian expert. An underwater test for the use of the stereo camera inside the cages (without the use of a frame gate) was conducted.

The second part of the field work was carried out at the end of the harvesting period (from 3 to 5 November 2011) in order to avoid the loss of fish. The stereoscopic camera was used to record the transfer of bluefin tuna between two cages through a metallic gate of 6x4 meters.

A total of 168 bluefin tuna individuals were used during the trial. Once slaughtered, the length and the weight of the bluefin tuna individuals was physically measured to be able to compare these results with the ones provided by the AQ1 AM100 – Tuna sizing & Counting System.

Subsequently, the analysis of the recording and the measurement of the individuals were undertaken using the software provided by the AQ1 AM100 – Tuna sizing & Counting System.

The principal outcomes have been:

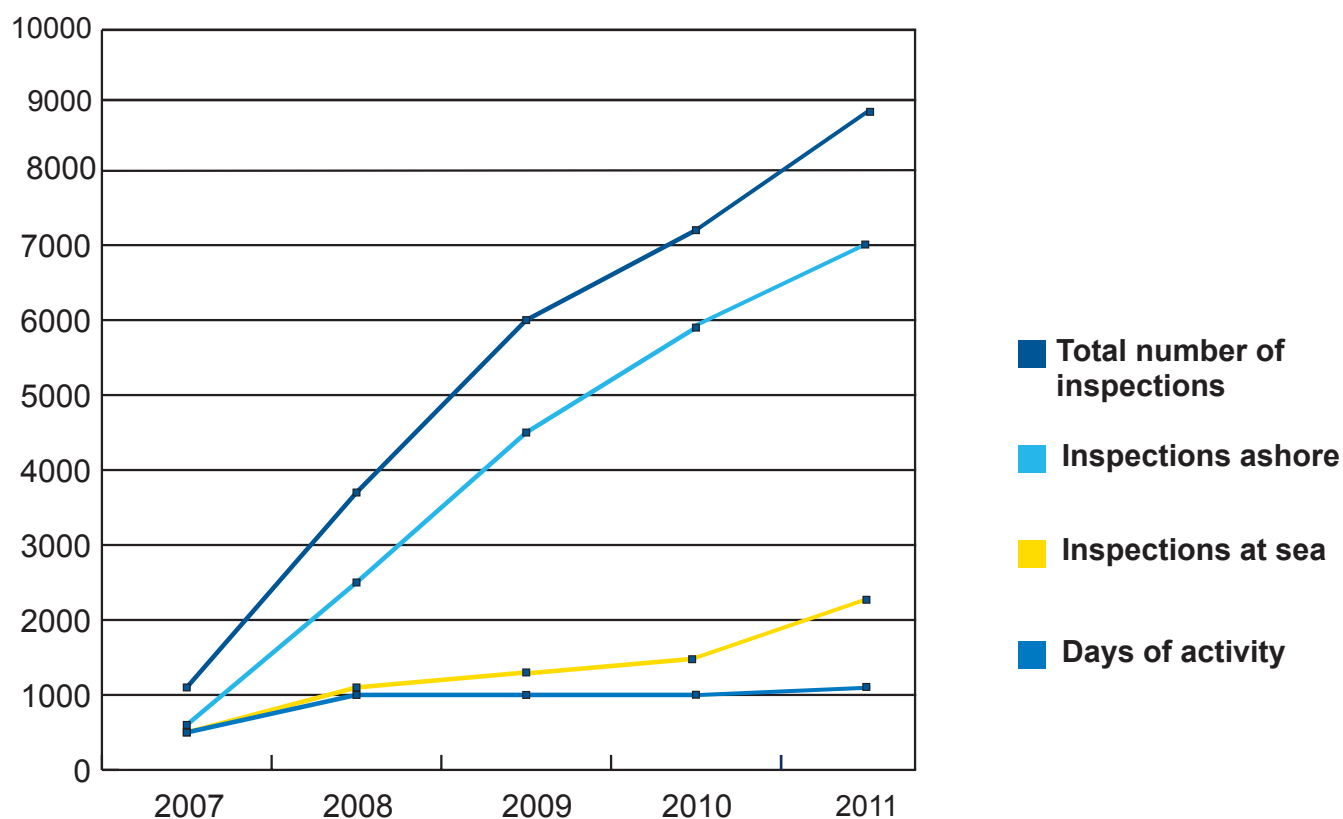
- o The reported estimated error (about 6%) between the physical measurements and the measurements calculated with AQ1 AM100 – Tuna sizing & Counting System is very promising but there is still room for improvement by acquiring new (and more abundant)

data and more suitable images for all the specimens either deploying more cameras or managing the transfer operations in order to allow the fish to pass one at a time through the camera field.

- o A simple post-processing method has been used to try to reduce the deviation of the assessed length data from the actual measurements. After this process the mean square error was reduced by more than 50% and the largest share of residual error was accounted for by the largest specimen alone.

## f) Analysis of JDP evolution over 5 years of operation.

**Figure 1: JDPs cumulative data, 2007-2011**



Source: EFCA

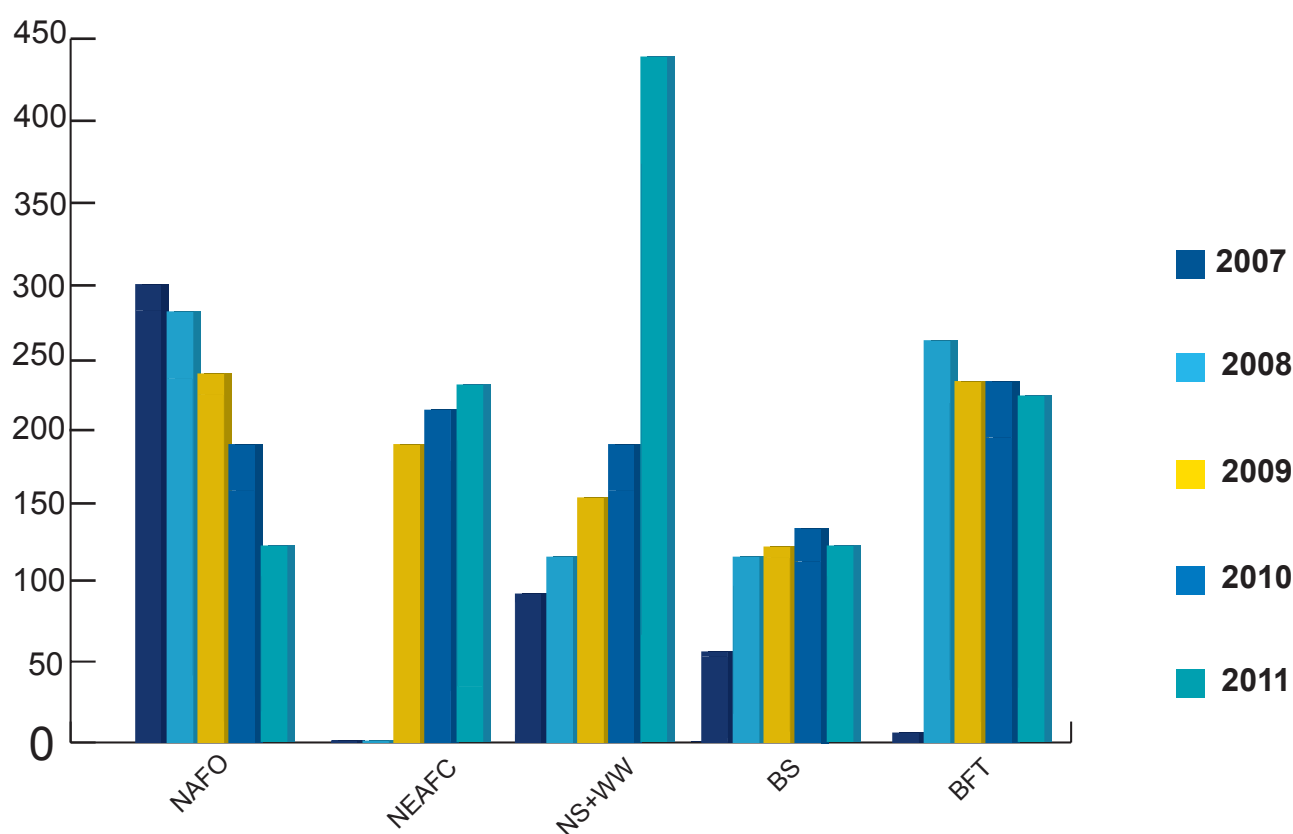
From 2007 onwards, the number of fisheries in which the EFCA is active has increased. Since 2009, 4 JDPs have been implemented annually. For the last part of 2011, a new JDP for pelagic fisheries in Western Waters was initiated.

During the last three years, the days of activity of JDPs have been reasonably constant. In 2011, whilst the days

of activity remained constant, there was a significant increase of the total numbers of inspections from last year, both at sea and ashore, with significantly more inspections coordinated in the North Sea and the Baltic Sea.

The total number of inspections coordinated in the framework of the JDPs during 2011 is approaching 10.000 in the JDPs coordinated by EFCA.

**Figure 2: Number of campaign days**



Source: EFCA

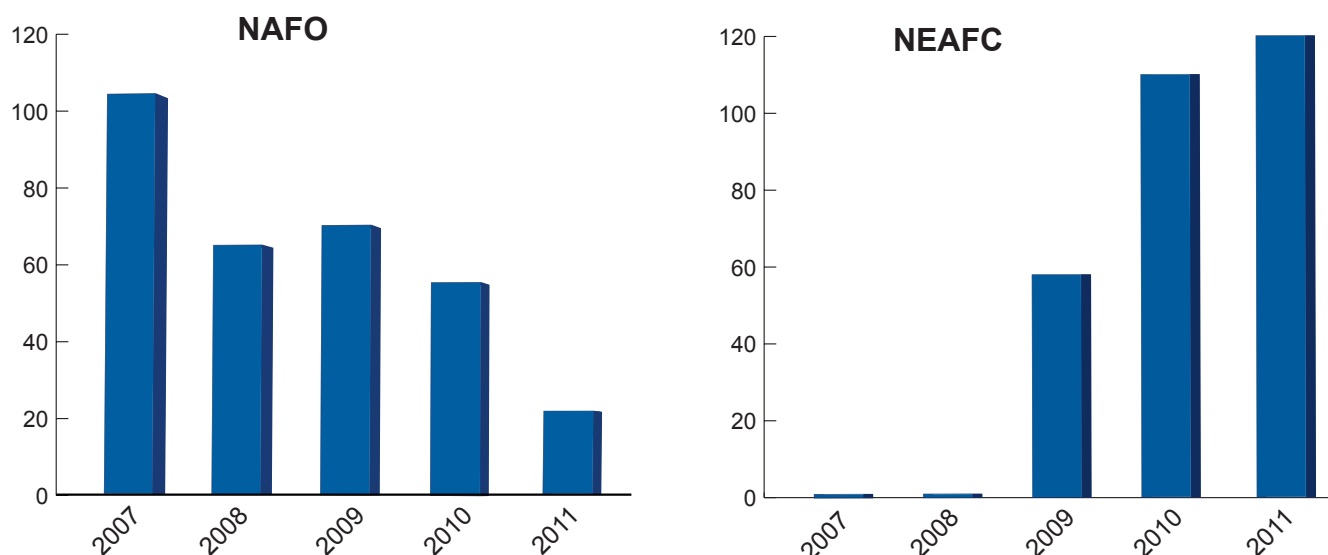
\* NS campaign days are a cumulative result of the SNS campaign + NNS campaigns

JDPs can be divided in two groups: EU and Non-EU waters.

- EU waters JDPs are organised through periodic joint campaigns. In the Baltic Sea, the number of activity days has remained more or less constant for the last 3 years. In the case of the North Sea and Western waters, a significant increase in the joint campaign days can be noticed, mainly due to the “year round” campaign of the southern North Sea JDP. This campaign has been successful in showing the advantages of a more permanent coordination and exchange of information between the control authorities, and particularly by promoting a better coordination between JDP means (i.e. “core FPVs”) and national control means deployed in the area (i.e. “associated FPVs”).

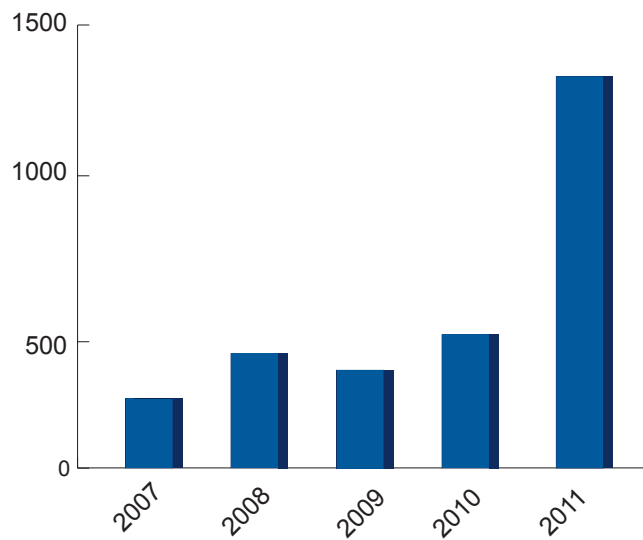
- In the JDPs concerning Non-EU waters managed by Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) - NAFO & NEAFC and ICCAT - there has been a slight increase of activity in the NEAFC JDP and a decrease in the NAFO JDP- in the last 3 years. In these areas, the fisheries take place during specific periods in the year. The decrease of operational days in NAFO is linked to a reduction of the fishing activity of the EU fleet. Furthermore, after a decrease in campaign days in the BFT JDP between 2008 and 2010 due to a progressive reduction of the fishing season, in 2011 the number of campaign days seems to have stabilised. In parallel, better planning based on risk analysis and accumulated experience from previous years, allowed for an adequate number of inspections in these areas.

**Figure 3: Total number of inspections at sea by areas, 2007-2011<sup>9</sup>**

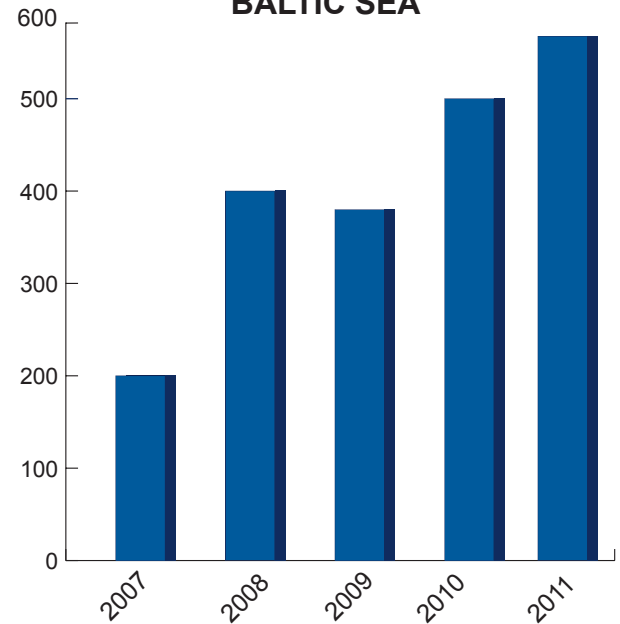


<sup>9</sup> In 2007 and 2008 the fisheries in the NEAFC area were not covered by a JDP.

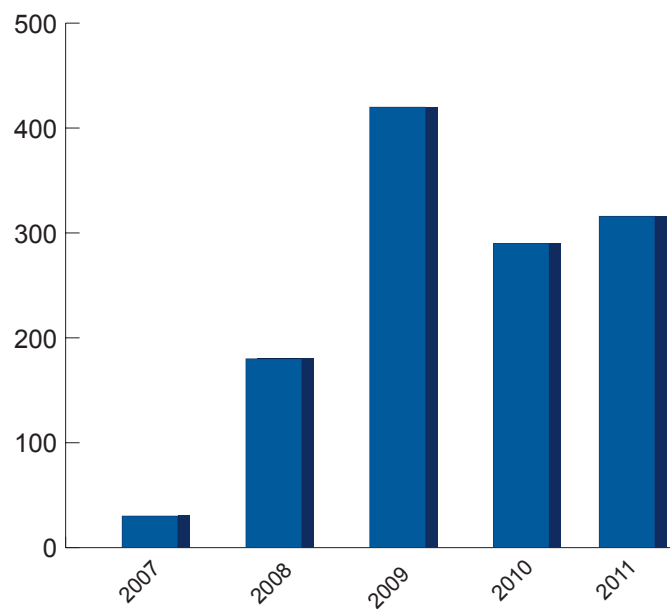
**NS WW**



**BALTIC SEA**



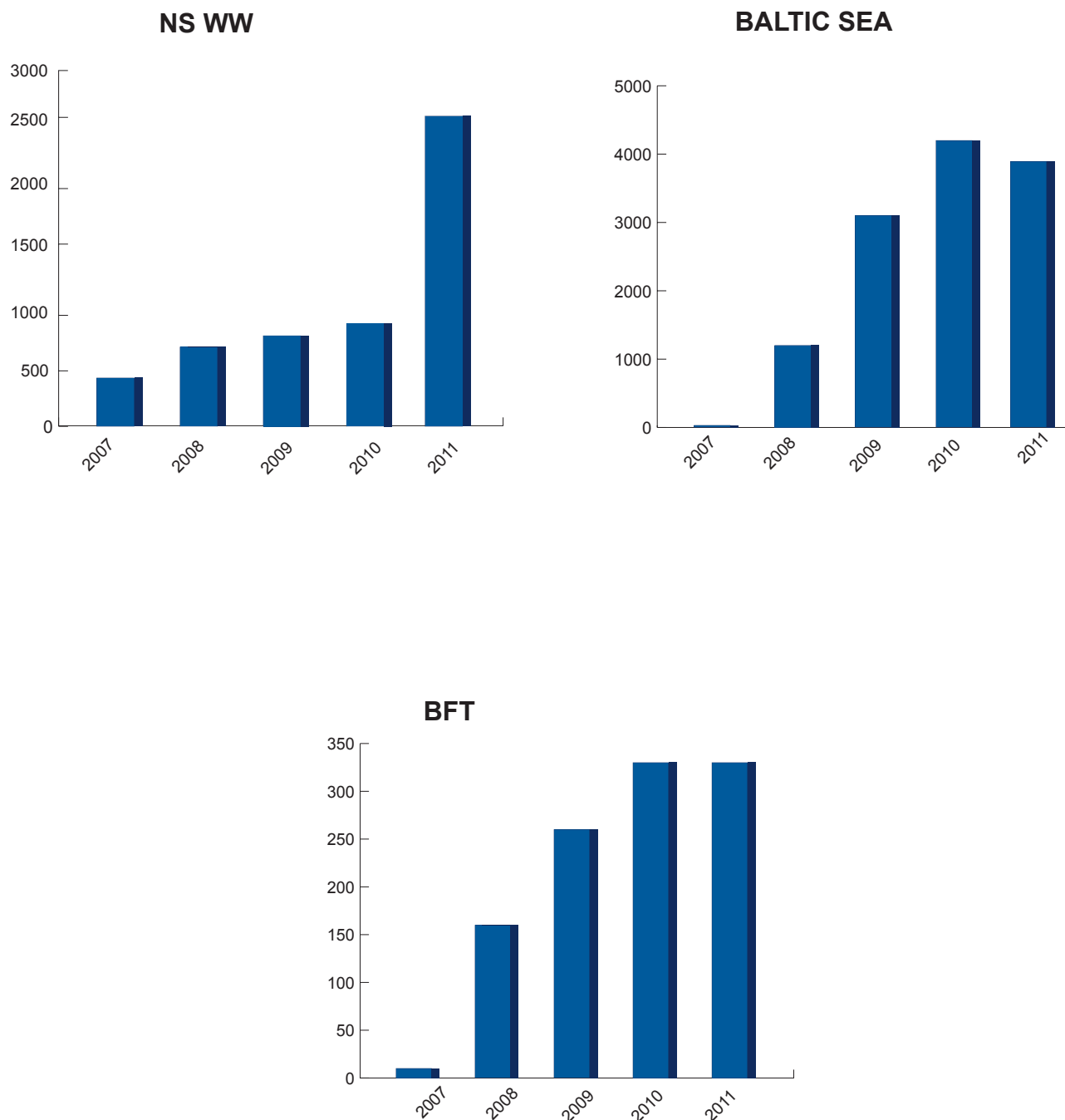
**BFT**



Source: EFCA<sup>10</sup>

<sup>10</sup> In 2007 the BFT fishery was not covered by a JDP.

Figure 4: Total number of inspections ashore



Source: EFCA<sup>11</sup>

<sup>11</sup> In 2007 the BFT fishery was not covered by a JDP.



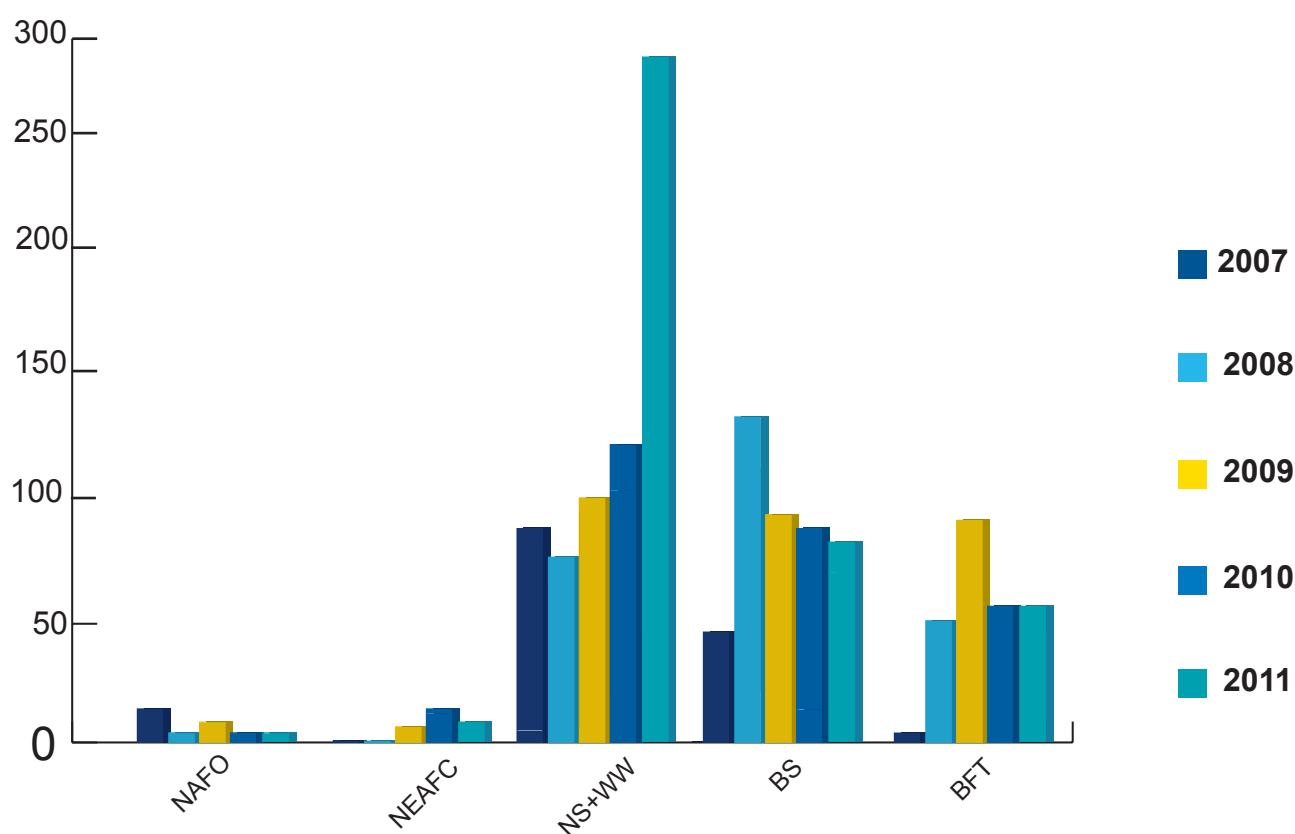
Overall, the number of inspections throughout the recent years has increased in EU waters. In 2011, this number seems to be levelling for most of the JDPs, with the exception of the NS JDP, as a result of the southern North Sea permanent campaign.

In the NAFO & NEAFC areas, the total number of inspections remained stable, because of the reduction of fishing activity days and since inspections in NAFO were compensated with a more active presence in NEAFC.

Currently there are no shore inspections in both areas covered by the JDP, but some mixed teams of inspectors from different Member States have been organized by EFCA to participate to shore inspections.

Regarding the Baltic Sea, there was an increase in the number of sea inspections compared to 2010, thanks to the introduction of some longer campaigns and optimization of inspections at sea. Inspections ashore have been more or less stable, with a slight decrease in 2011.

**Figure 5: Total number of apparent infringements**



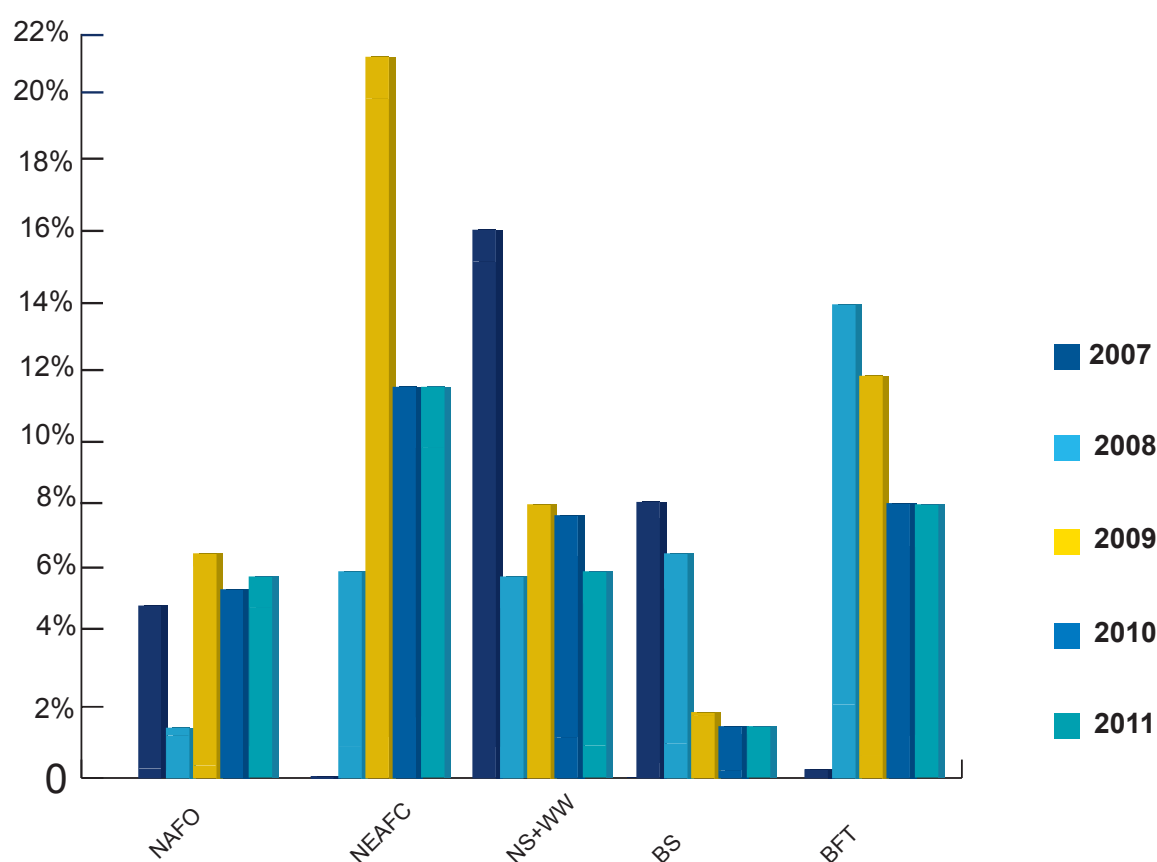
Source: EFCA



A general reduction in the number of apparent infringements detected can be observed in all the areas except in North Sea, where a significant

increase in the number of inspections took place, which implied an increase in the number of apparent infringements discovered.

**Figure 6: Ratio of apparent infringements per inspection**



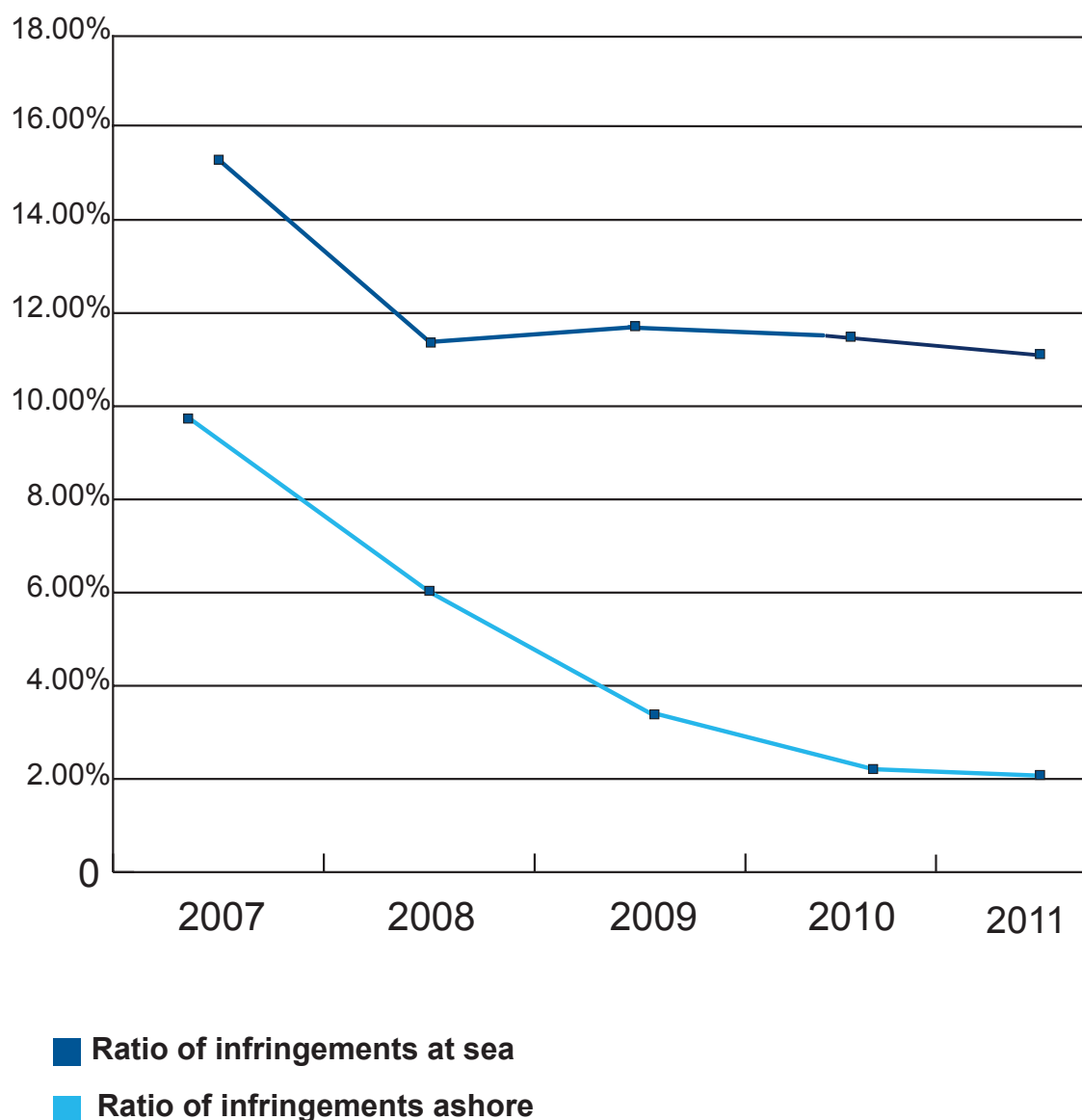
**Source: EFCA**

It is apparent that NEAFC infringement ratios have fallen from 21% during 2010 to a level of 12% in 2011.

The main type of infringement discovered relates to labelling rules applicable in the area. As a result of control activities, compliance has improved in that respect.

There was a slight decrease in the ratio of infringements versus inspections in the last year for the Baltic Sea, North Sea and Western Waters (more pronounced decrease), and BFT. For NAFO there seems to be a quite stable picture in this ratio for the last 3 years.

**Figure 7: Infringements ratio at sea vs. ashore**



Overall, one can observe that the ratio of infringements at sea and ashore has been decreasing in the past years.

This decrease can be observed against a scenario of increased number of inspections, and the progressive introduction of a risk assessment approach with an increased infringement detection rate for target vessels.

It is difficult to derive at any firm conclusion based on these figures or to determine if compliance levels are increasing, as many other factors could be involved in this complex issue (e.g. increased awareness of JDP activities). However, this trend is certainly encouraging, particularly considering that an increased control effort has been deployed and that targeting of inspections has been successfully introduced in some JDPs.

**Table 3. Number of infringements detected by type in all JDPs**

JDP	Inspections	Licensing & Pertaining Conditions	Technical Measures	Conservation Measures	Reporting	National Measures	TOTAL
North Sea	11	19	85	46	117	17	295
Baltic Sea	5	34	12	2	23	4	80
Pelagic				2	10		12
NAFO		1		1			2
NEAFC		2		8	4		14
BFT	5	8	4	13	76		106
TOTAL	21	64	101	72	230	21	509

Table 3 provides an overall estimation of the nature of infringements found in the different JDPs. Overall, it can be observed that most of the infringements are related to reporting issues (mostly entry/exit or notification of landing) and technical measures (gear related issues).

However, it should be outlined that it is difficult to conduct a valid cumulative analysis on the occurrence of the different type of apparent infringements, as these occur in areas with very different legislative and fisheries backgrounds. A more detailed analysis should be carried out in the context of the annual assessment of the effectiveness of the different JDPs.

## 4.1.3 Cooperation and best practices

The core objective of EFCA is to promote the uniform and effective application of the rules of the CFP, towards ensuring a level playing field. The operation of joint teams of inspectors and the training and workshop sessions organised during the year are an essential contribution to this objective:

- The cooperation between Member States through the creation of joint teams of inspectors of different nationalities is essential for operational coordination. Approximately 1600 man/days were deployed in joint teams during 2011 (same level of joint/mixed teams as in 2010). This practice is one of the main tools to foster cooperation, increasing transparency of activities, exchange of best practices and building confidence between the different national authorities. In some cases, EFCA participated as part of a joint team, mainly in international waters where its coordinators may act as Union inspectors (see below).
- The workshops linked to JDPs are also considered a major element towards ensuring a level playing field and a harmonised approach in the application of EU law by all Member States' inspectors. A total of nearly 300 staff from Member States received training for regional JDPs during 2011. Furthermore, the EFCA participated in national training courses organised by Member States for the BFT JDP.

## 4.1.4 JDP Seminar: improving effectiveness

The main conclusions of the Seminar of JDPs 2011 are presented in Annex II. In summary, they call for some actions to be developed gradually by the regional JDPs steering groups:

- To analyse and optimise **the methodology** and **associated performance indicators** proposed for the



annual assessment of the effectiveness of JDPs, and broaden the objectives to make it clear that important values such as greater collaboration in the area of fisheries control are considered.

- Consider the development of a regional system based on the cross check of electronic data to establish a **harmonised standard for risk analysis** and derive at the **evaluation of trends in compliance**.
- Following feedback from joint operations, the evaluation of JDPs should contribute to the analysis of the **"controllability"** of the relevant management measures in place.

#### 4.1.5 Fight against IUU fishing

The EFCA has continued to support the Member States and the Commission in the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 1005 / 2008 in the fight against IUU fishing. The support by the EFCA has been organised in three key areas:



- Fulfilment of tasks transferred to the EFCA under Commission Decision 2009/988/EU of 18 December 2009.
- Provision of training to national authorities.
- Preparation of a draft IUU Work Plan to provide a framework for the activities of the EFCA in fighting IUU fishing.

##### **a) Activities concerning the tasks transferred to the EFCA under Commission Decision 2009/988/EU of 18 December 2009. Main progress in 2011:**

Only one sighting report has been received. It was produced by French inspectors on board an Australian patrol vessel of an IUU listed fishing vessel in the CCMALR area. Under article 48(4) of

the IUU Regulation and as disposed in article 1(d) the Commission Decision of 18 December 2009 the EFCA received and transmitted the specific sighting report immediately to the RFMO concerned (CCMALR) with copy to all Member States and to DG MARE for information and further action if appropriate.

In 2011, the EFCA has participated and supported the Commission in eleven evaluation and dialogue missions to third countries: Thailand, China (2), Guinea Conakry, Senegal, Mauritius, Korea, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Togo and Guatemala.

##### **b) Training activities**

##### Training events for Member States, organised by the EFCA at its premises in Vigo

Four training workshops were organized by the EFCA for Member State officials. They were conducted following identification of training needs in cooperation with the Commission and the Member States.

Member State representatives attending the workshops were asked to disseminate the information and documents presented within the training as widely as possible within their own administrations. Concerning the organisation of the workshops, Member States were split into groups in order to allow the participation of at least three representatives per Member State.

In 2011 the aim was to make the training more practical and operational focussed on real cases. Some of the main specific training topics delivered during 2011 were:

- o Verification procedures and tools:
  - Exchange of experiences and best practices
- o Cooperation among authorities
- o Validation of catch certificates by Member States
- o Reporting obligations



- o Practical application of the common risk management criteria

- o Use of Mutual Assistance

The evaluation survey conducted during the 2011 workshops shows that Member States are quite satisfied with the organization and level of the training imparted by the EFCA.

- EFCA participation in training events organised by Member States at national level

The EFCA also supported Member States in courses organised at a national level for the implementation of the IUU Regulation. The EFCA attended one workshop organised by Malta to assist their officials to impart the training.

**c) EFCA IUU Working Group**

Only one meeting of the working Group for IUU was held in 2011:

- The primary aim of the meeting was to remind Member States the templates and procedures for the tasks designated to the EFCA under the Commission Decision 2009/988/EU, to discuss the training needs for Member States authorities on the implementation of the IUU Regulation during 2011 and to discuss the EFCA IUU Work Plan for 2012 and beyond. During this meeting, the EFCA proposed to undertake a series of visits to Member States in order to take stock of their national organisation, procedures and practices to tackle the IUU issue, and to research about their expectations regarding EFCA activities in this respect. The Commission and the Member States agreed with this initiative.

- As regards the role of the Agency in this field, the Commission concluded that the implementation of the IUU regulation is a great challenge for the EU, and that therefore the Commission would have to continue to play

a strong role in coordinating the implementation of this regulation in general and in risk management in particular.

- There was a second working group meeting scheduled for 2011, whose purpose was to explore the future work of the EFCA and to discuss the envisaged EFCA IUU Work Plan for 2012-2016. The meeting was, however, cancelled due to the outcome of the Administrative Board meeting in October 2011 and resulting AWP 2012. No further meetings of the EFCA IUU Working Group have been scheduled.

**d) EFCA IUU Work plan**

- One of the main drivers of the cancelled second working group meeting was supposed to be the outcome of the meeting of Directors General "IUU-stock taking and way forward" celebrated in Sopot, Poland, in July 2011, which indicated that the EFCA should play a stronger role in some areas related to the fight against IUU fishing.

- To address this new scenario the EFCA developed an IUU Work Plan presenting a list of potential new activities. This Work Plan was composed by three main axes:

- I. Operational coordination dealing with coordination and assistance to Member States in the application of the IUU Regulation.
- II. Capacity building to assist Member States in establishing a global view through the setting up of networks and information tools in support to risk analysis.
- III. International dimension dealing with assistance to the EC and Member States through the involvement in international fora and participation in evaluation missions.

- This draft Work Plan was distributed during the Administrative Board in October 2011, as an element for the future reflection of the Administrative Board.

**Table 4: Summary of activities in the fight against IUU fishing during 2011**

Activities Performed	IUU	
	Budget: 231.000	Staff: 1 AD+ 3 AST + 1 SNE
	Deliverables	
Meetings of the IUU Working Group	1	
Evaluation missions to Thirds Countries	11	
Training Workshops for Member States	4 general + 1 national	
Coordination meetings with DG MARE	11	
Participation in IUU Expert group meetings	5	

#### 4.1.6 Cooperation with Third Countries

The EFCA has been requested by the Commission to assist the EU in its relations regarding, control and inspection with several Third Countries. The activities developed with each country are summarised below:

##### a) Canada

Following a technical meeting held on 18 and 19 January 2011 with the Canadian authorities, the cooperation has been based on exchange of inspectors during operations.

A pilot project organised by the Commission and Canada regarding the possibility to organise joint operations in the NAFO area has been implemented during 2011.

As a part of it, an EFCA coordinator was invited to participate in a mission done by Canada in NAFO waters on the second half of March 2011.

Also, a Canadian inspector was on board of the EFCA chartered vessel last November during an inspection campaign.

The experience has been positive, improving communication and enabling the identification of agreed points to guarantee that these joint operations are successful in the future. Points such as who is the leading inspector when inspectors of two parties participate jointly in an inspection, or a common agreement to organise the risk analysis during the campaign need to be discussed in this respect.

- Common seminar for EU and Canadian Inspectors: The EFCA organised last December a joint seminar for EU and Canadian inspectors. The objective of this Seminar was to share information and best practices applied in NAFO controls, and work towards a common understanding of the NAFO rules, to guarantee a level playing field for the operators. Both parties presented their inspections system at sea and ashore and different points were discussed.

### **b) Russia**

The EFCA participated to the 1st Meeting of the Joint Baltic Sea Fisheries Committee Working Group on Control, held in Brussels on 21-22 June 2011, between the EU and Russia. As a result of the meeting, several initiatives were agreed regarding the participation of Russian experts to workshops organised by the EFCA, in particular regarding Baltic Sea.

Russian experts participated to the annual workshop organised by the EFCA for Member States inspectors in the Baltic Sea (Vilnius, Lithuania, 29 September), in which experiences and information on control and inspection between the two parties was exchanged.

### **c) Turkey**

The EFCA was invited by the Commission to participate in the first meeting of the Fisheries Dialogue Working Group between the EU and Turkey, on 4 and 5 May 2011. In the document of conclusions of that meeting, both parties agreed to implement several actions with a view to strengthening their cooperation in the Mediterranean as regards fisheries control policy.

A meeting focused on the inspection and control of the bluefin tuna campaign between the EU and Turkey

was organised by the EFCA on 30 May 2011 on its premises in Vigo.

The objective of the meeting was to have an exchange of views on the inspection activities for BFT by both sides and to set up a pilot action to exchange inspectors of both sides during the 2011 campaign.

Regarding the pilot action to exchange inspectors, an EFCA coordinator participated in June with inspection activities onboard a Turkish vessel. Also a Turkish officer was present in June onboard the EFCA chartered FPV Tyr. It served for both parties to become acquainted the inspection activities undertaken in the framework of the ICCAT Scheme of Inspections.

A meeting to evaluate this cooperation was held on 6 October between the EU and Turkey with EFCA presence. The main conclusions were:

- A constructive dialogue has been put in place. Trust and frank discussions, have taken place which can pave the way to an enhanced cooperation.
- All the actions agreed during the Fisheries Dialogue meeting in May have been implemented.

## **4.2 Capacity building**

### **4.2.1 Introduction and activity data**

Capacity building activities are broadly divided into three main areas of cooperation for the uniform and effective application of the CFP rules by Member States: data monitoring and networks, training and pooled capacities (Title III – Capacity Building, Chapter 3.0). In addition, EFCA also provides supports to operational coordination activities in the field of acquisition of means (Title/Chapter 3.2 in the Budget 2011).



The responsibilities include supporting the development of EFCA's own capabilities for the coordination of joint deployment plan operations.

Activities are conducted within a context of cooperation in maritime affairs in order to contribute to the implementation of the EU Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP).

### 4.2.2 Data Monitoring and Networks

Several activities were performed under this area, mainly:

#### 4.2.2.1 Study on EU Member States information system supporting fisheries controls

In 2011, an important study of EU Member States information systems of interest for the support of fisheries control was completed.



After a first round of visits in the Baltic and North Sea area end of 2010, Member States of regions covering Western Waters in the Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea were visited (Bulgaria, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Ireland, Malta, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Romania and United Kingdom).

All national (22), regional (5) and global (1) reports were successfully delivered by a consortium of 2 consulting

companies contracted for this project. The study found examples of good practice occurring in all data domains used for fisheries controls. The final report also grouped the good practices that could be replicated across the Member States into five themes concerning; data collection, data management, data analysis, data access (i.e. provision of data to field teams) and data exchange.

#### 4.2.2.2 Data Analysis

Data analysis services are provided on a regular basis to support the planning of the JDPs or on an ad-hoc basis. In general, these analyses include the spatio-temporal analysis of monthly catches and landings in a certain area and the calculation of effort statistics based on VMS data of a certain period.

The data received from the Member States (MSs) were processed in a set of thematic maps. Ad-hoc data analysis requests could be providing support to coordinators with their risk analysis work, simple mapping requests or more detailed spatio-temporal analysis of catches or VMS tracks of specific vessels or a group of vessels.



#### 4.2.2.3 VMS

The VMS system has been used in 2011 to assist in the coordination of all the Joint Deployment Plans: Cod in Baltic, Cod in North Sea, Small Pelagic in Western Waters, NAFO, NEAFC and Bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean Sea.

During 2011, EFCA received VMS positions from all EU Member States participating to the different JDPs as well as from RFMOs (ICCAT, NEAFC and NAFO) for non EU Countries. In addition, EFCA forwarded VMS data to some EU Member States as part of the Bluefin Tuna JDP arrangements, and to different patrol vessels including the TYR chartered by EFCA and other Member States patrol vessels involved in NAFO campaigns.

A contract was established by EFCA to enhance the system including changes of the NAFO and NEAFC communication schemes, reinforcement of user access rights and security in data exchange.

#### 4.2.2.4 FishNet

The objective of FishNet is to create a virtual coordination platform providing JDP stakeholders with collaboration tools (e.g. sharing data and documents, exchange information, teleconferencing) to support decision making, planning, operational coordination, and assessment of joint control operations, and to promote remote collaboration to support these coordination activities.

The platform should provide its users with the necessary tools to allow them to perform JDP campaign coordination tasks as if they worked in a virtual coordination centre.

In 2011 a feasibility study for FishNet was finalized with the objective to analyze the requirements and to prepare the implementation phase of the platform.

This study provided an overview of the current situation regarding the exchange of documents and information within the context of JDPs, and an overview of what is

necessary in order to enhance collaboration and ensure the secure exchange of information. It included a cost and benefit analysis and presented a roadmap estimating required resources, time and budget.

Due to the confidentiality of certain information to be transmitted across this platform security and access management are of utmost importance for its success.

Therefore EFCA decided to initiate a targeted study, to identify necessary security and access management requirements to be taken into consideration when developing the FishNet platform.

This study provided EFCA with a comprehensive set of security and access management requirements, as well as practical security recommendations, tailored to the specific context of FishNet, presenting the applicable or relevant requirements from a technical, and EU legal and regulatory framework.

As the approach of this study was wider than the FishNet platform only, the final results will serve as a reference document for any system, developed or operated by EFCA, for storing or exchanging documents, data and information.

#### 4.2.2.5 Electronic Reporting System – ERS

Another major task in 2011 was preparing for the implementation of an EFCA operational Electronic Reporting System (ERS) in line with the Control Regulation (2009/1224/EU), its Implementing Rules (2011/404/EC) and the NOR-ERS Agreed record for ERS data exchanges with Norway.

The objectives of the new system is to allow EFCA to receive and parse ERS messages, exchange them with the stakeholders involved in JDP operations, ensure data quality, integrity and reliability through validation

operations, and to provide the user with a set of tools, accessible through a lightweight web user interface, to view, search, analyze and produce statistics and reports based on specific criteria.

A procurement process was prepared and launched in 2011 for setting-up this environment and a contract was signed to develop this ERS system.

#### 4.2.2.6 Electronic Inspection Reports – EIR

The new control regulation and its implementing rules require the Member States to register, store in electronic format and in some cases exchange information on inspections and sightings.

Following a presentation of the preliminary results of the study providing an inventory of the Member States' information systems for supporting the fisheries management and controls (see above), the Member States and EFCA identified a possible area of cooperation: joint development and exchange of Electronic Inspection Reports.

EFCA organized two workshops to come to a common understanding by all Member States of all items that need to be registered and in order to create a common exchange format to facilitate the exchange of this type information (listed in Annex XXVII and XXIII of 2011/404/EU).

The outcome of these two workshops was a working document containing a common understanding or definition for each item and a reference to existing elements in the ERS definition.

It was recognised to bring added value to the Member States who encouraged the continuation of this collaboration work.

#### 4.2.2.7 Inspection and control database

This application is used during at-sea patrols on board of vessels with no or limited remote access to internet. Tasks performed in 2011 included help desk, upgrades due to changes in the NAFO 2011 Scheme.

A number of upgrades were tested and installed, thereby improving the performance and the usability of the application.

#### 4.2.3 Training

In the field of training, EFCA continued with the development and harmonisation of training activities and of training core curricula (CC) for fisheries inspectors.

To achieve this goal, the priority in the training development process focused on creating reference materials for the training of the trainers at the inspectorate and for the training of Union inspectors before their first deployment at sea.

To enhance the involvement of Member States authorities on the achievement of common training objectives, several forums for exchange of experience and best practice were organized, in particular two regional workshops. An important activity was initiated by preparing a first set of modules.

During these meetings a dual approach on the development was determined for the course model that will apply to all modules with a standard training manual for the instructor accompanied by a handbook for the trainee.

Finally, the EFCA concluded several contracts with external experts whose expertise covers pedagogy, control and inspection techniques and fisheries activities.

These experts are in charge of drafting the contents according to guidelines developed by EFCA. Until now, 34 draft modules of the Sea Inspection have been developed,





and most of them were reviewed and refined during the meeting with Member States representatives.

EFCA bilateral cooperation was pursued under the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the EFCA and the French national authorities. Its execution provided for a very valuable exchange of information and expertise that allowed concrete synergies and the sharing of know-how.

At the request of Member States, EFCA contributed to national training programmes in two Member States (Sweden and Greece). At these occasions the first developed draft training materials were successfully tested demonstrating high acceptance either by trainers or by the participating fishing inspectors. During 2011, a number of upgrades were initiated for improving the

performance and usability of the collaboration web-platform with the view to re-launch it in 2012.

#### 4.2.4 Pooled capacities

As a major outcome in the area of pooled capacities, the EFCA operational coordination centre was further developed in order to provide for an adequate tool allowing Member States and the EFCA to coordinate JDP campaigns from the premises of the EFCA in Vigo. This centre is designed to offer a timely response capacity in the case an emergency unit was required.

In view of the EFCA's tasks related to the list of Community Inspectors, the list and several updates thereof were published on the official website of EFCA and Community Inspector identification documents were issued accordingly.

The provision of operational and personal safety equipment (i.e. boarding equipment and lifejackets...) and the follow up of the joint procurement framework contract for purchasing electronic mesh gauges was continued.

#### 4.2.5 Acquisition of means

Following an open call for tenders, a framework contract was successfully concluded for the chartering of a fisheries patrol vessel.



The selection procedure and the detailed technical specifications in the call for tender ensured 100% availability of a fishery patrol vessel achieving the highest standards.

In 2011 the vessel was deployed for 92 days in the ICCAT Convention Area (Mediterranean Sea), followed by 35 days in the NEAFC Regulatory Area and 47 days of fisheries surveillance in the NAFO Regulatory Area.

## **5. Governance and representation**

### **5.1 Administrative and Advisory Boards**

#### **5.1.1 Administrative Board**

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



Since October 2011, with terms of office of three years, the Chair is Mr Jörgen Holmquist and the Deputy Chair Mr Markku Aro.

In 2011, three meetings of the Administrative Board were held in Vigo; the 13th meeting of the Administrative Board

was held on 15 March, the 14th extraordinary meeting on 8 July and the 15th meeting on 18 October.

At its 13th meeting, the Administrative Board adopted, amongst other, the Draft Budget for 2012 and took note of the first Provisional Multiannual Work Programme for years 2012-2016 and Work Programme for year 2012.

At its 14th extraordinary meeting Mr Pascal Savouret was appointed Executive Director of the EFCA, starting on 1 September 2011 with a term of office of five years.

At its 15th meeting the Administrative Board adopted the Multiannual Work Programme of the EFCA for years 2012-2016 and the Annual Work Programme for year 2012 together with the Budget of the EFCA for year 2012.

In the last quarter of 2010 the Administrative Board initiated the procedures for the commissioning of an independent external evaluation on the 5 year activity of the Agency.

The aim of the evaluation is to assess the impact of the legislation, 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.

At the beginning of 2011, following the procurement procedure the Evaluation contract was assigned to an external evaluator. The Evaluation is scheduled to be finished and adopted by the Administrative Board in 2012.

#### **5.1.2 Advisory Board**

The Advisory Board; composed of one representative of each Regional Advisory Council (RAC) met twice in 2011 in preparation of the meetings of the Administrative Board; in Brussels on 2 March and in Vigo on 28 September.





The Advisory Board representative in the EFCA Administrative Board is appointed in accordance with a yearly rotation system agreed by RAC representatives.

From 2 March 2011 to March 2012 the SWWRAC was appointed representative of the Advisory Board in the Administrative Board, and the BSRAC alternate.

The representative of the Advisory Board in the Administrative Board will rotate annually to the BSRAC and the alternate will be the representative of the PelagicRAC.

## 5.2 Communication

In 2011, EFCA was supported by its Communication strategy to ensure the overall operational goals and the Agency's mission and the work is well known by its target audiences, comprising stakeholders in the fisheries where the EFCA is involved.

The EFCA reached the general public in support of the European Commission strategy conveying the CFP message.

Special support was given when the implementing rules of the Control regulation were adopted.

EFCA echoed the Commission's message and communicated the information to interested journalists. In addition, EFCA participated in the Seafood Exposition in Brussels, including continuous EFCA staff presence and a promotional display.

Media work was developed around the main topics of the year. Besides the communication of main decisions taken at the Administrative Board, the appointment of the new Director was an aspect that drew much attention and was widely covered with both interviews and articles.

Moreover, the new JDP for pelagics, the joint control operation in the North Sea and the bluefin tuna JDP were other issues that involved briefing journalists.

Throughout the year and upon request, several articles were written for both specialized and general media and interviews were convened.

During 2011, the agency received a number of high level visitors, including the representatives of the German Parliament, the Director General of DG MARE and of regional and local authorities.





Moreover, the EFCA participated in the EU agencies exhibition in the European Parliament. The objective of the exhibition was to present the work of EU agencies to institutions and stakeholders in Brussels, and namely to MEPs and European Parliament staff.

The EFCA participated in the cluster for Safety, Environment and Health, contributed to the exhibition with a poster and a brochure and the EFCA Annual report, and general brochures were distributed at the stand.

Finally, the JDP seminar and the presentation of the new Executive Director were two occasions on which the EFCA hosted an institutional event at its premises.

With regards to online communication, the low fidelity prototype for a new intranet was developed so it can become the main access tool for information for EFCA staff with a view to having an easier, more user friendly interface that can streamline working processes.

Finally, regarding the EFCA website, the number of visitors has increased from an average of 3000 visits to 5000 per month, with monthly peaks of more than 6000 visitors.

Other tools were produced to underpin EFCA communication, including the printed EFCA Annual Report and Multiannual Work Programme.

In addition, during 2011 preparations were made for the change of name from CFCA to EFCA for which new visual identity guidelines and templates had to be developed as well as new material ordered so the change could be effective from January 2012 onwards.



### 5.3 Representation and networks

#### 5.3.1 Regional Advisory Councils

The Regional Advisory Councils (RACs) represent marine stakeholders in relevant geographical areas or fisheries.

There are seven Regional Advisory Councils which cover different fishing grounds; both in EU and international waters and those under fisheries agreements: North Sea RAC, Pelagic Stocks RAC, North Western Waters RAC, Baltic Sea RAC, Long Distance RAC, South Western Waters RAC and Mediterranean Sea RAC.

The RACs are an important target audience for the EFCA in its Communication policy, as they are partners and suppliers of information to a range of fisheries organisations and other stakeholders.

During 2011, the EFCA participated in meetings of the Executive Committees of the RACs, especially in those of the RACs affected by the Joint Deployment Plans adopted by the EFCA.

The Agency also participated in the RAC Working Groups, but solely when issues referring to EFCA competences were included in the agendas of the relevant meetings.

#### 5.3.2 Cooperation with other Agencies in the Maritime domain

Currently, data on fisheries activities and controls are collected separately. Under existing agreements with EMSA and Frontex, the EFCA explored the potential contribution it can make in providing global operational pictures.

EFCA actively participated in the preparatory work relating to the establishment of a Common Information Sharing Environment (CISE) by representing the



fisheries user community at the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) meetings.

#### 5.3.3 EU Agencies, networks and institutional representation

The EFCA attends the meetings convened by the Commission, the European Parliament and the Council where its presence is desirable, required or in the interest of the Agency.

Amongst the meetings attended during 2011 were the hearings in the Fisheries Committee in the EP



and the presentations made on the occasion of the visits of the Director General of DG MARE to EFCA headquarters and the representatives of the German Bundestag.

In addition, EFCA representatives also attended the Commission expert groups on control for fisheries and aquaculture.

The EFCA has participated in meetings of the RFMOs in which JDPs are executed: NAFO, NEAFC, and ICCAT, during 2011. The EFCA representatives supported the EU Delegation in these meetings.

In the field of 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 Administration attended the various meetings held at managerial level. Likewise, Agency staff met their counterparts through specific technical networks: Procurement (NAPO), Communication, Data protection, Legal (IALN), IT and Accounting.

The Head of Unit A - Resources represented the EFCA on the Board of the Translation Centre during two meetings in 2011.









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