

ANNUAL REPORT 2013



EFCA Annual Report 2013

Legal basis:

Articles 14 and 23(2)(b) of Council Regulation (EC) No 768/2005¹ as amended by Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009², Article 47 of the Financial Regulation of EFCA³.

The Annual Report 2013 follows the Activity Based Management System under the Multiannual Work Programme 2013-2017 and Annual Work Programme 2013 adopted on 10 October 2012.

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¹ OJ of the European Union L 128 of 21.05.2005, p.1.

² OJ of the European Union L 343 of 22.12.2009, p.1.

³ AB Decision No 13-W-09 of 31 December 2013.

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Executive Summary

Preparation towards the future implementation of the new Common Fisheries Policy⁴ has marked the Agency activities during 2013.

Regionalisation, the landing obligation, the optimal integration of national control efforts at a wider regional level, the cost-effectiveness and the promotion of a level playing field and European added value through joint operational activities are some of the pillars supporting EFCA daily activities.

In the **operational coordination** domain five JDPs were successfully implemented during 2013:

- Cod, sole and plaice⁵ fisheries in the North Sea and Western Waters
- Cod, salmon, sprat and herring fisheries in the Baltic Sea
- Pelagic Fisheries in Western Waters
- NAFO & NEAFC
- Bluefin Tuna in the Mediterranean Sea and Eastern Atlantic Ocean

EFCA has made further progress towards the implementation of Regional Control Areas, namely by introducing: year-round JDPs, increased coverage of fisheries, JDP decision on a 1 year basis, permanent exchange of information and intelligence and common reporting and evaluation.

The work of the Focus Groups on compliance evaluation and cost effectiveness has paved the way for a new and more “result oriented” framework of evaluation and assessment of joint control activities. In this regard it is worthy to mention the Compliance Evaluation Seminar that took place in Baiona, Spain, on 26-27 June 2013. It gathered representatives from Member States, the European Commission, scientific institutions, RFMO and stakeholder representatives.

In the international arena EFCA continued supporting the European Commission and the Member States for the international cooperation in control and inspection namely with Mediterranean and North Atlantic third countries.

In the area of **capacity building** the EFCA Electronic Reporting System (EFCA-ERS) is now operational and following testing with Member States is available to support the exchange of ERS data during JDP operations. The EFCA Vessel and Monitoring System (EFCA-VMS) has proven to be a very reliable system and following its migration to new servers, business continuity will be assured. The design and development of both the EFCA Fishnet and EFCA Electronic Inspection Report (EFCA-EIR) progressed well in 2013 and both systems will become operational in mid-2014.

The added value of an integrated maritime picture, including EFCA-VMS, AIS, Sat-AIS, LRIT, SAR-Images, nautical charts and inspection and surveillance information, was tested during the JDP's in NAFO, Mediterranean and the North Sea in order to assess low, medium and high vessel density areas.

Following the promising results of the 2012 pilot project in the context of the BFT Joint Deployment Campaign, and in close cooperation with the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA), the project Marsurv-3 continued in 2013 with the development of additional functionalities and the testing of the application in other Joint Deployment Areas.

The organisation of regional workshop and exchange of experience actions, together with the elaboration of Core Curricula courses for training of national fisheries inspectors, have proven to be an excellent tool to promote a level playing field. EFCA organised 23 regional workshops with about 500 participants from EU Member States.

⁴Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 on the Common Fisheries Policy, amending Council Regulations (EC) No 1954/2003 and (EC) No 1224/2009 and repealing Council Regulations (EC) No 2371/2002 and (EC) No 639/2004 and Council Decision 2004/585/EC.

⁵Sole and plaice for the North Sea

At the end of 2013, the first Core Curricula course Inspection at Sea (handbook and manual) has been completed and printed. Material was sent to Member States and the European Commission, and made available on the internet via the Core Curriculum Development Platform.

As for the fight against IUU, the Agency conducted 4 training events for Member States and supported the European Commission in the preparation and conduction of 4 evaluation missions and one capacity building mission to third countries.

Under **governance and representation**- two main events must be highlighted. Firstly EFCA Hearing on “Tools to improve a Culture of Compliance” in the European Parliament (EP) Committee on Fisheries. This was well received by members of the public and European Parliamentarians alike.

Secondly, the presentation by EFCA's Executive Director in the EP Committee on Fisheries on the subject of the Multiannual work programme 2014-2018 and Annual work programme 2014. Valuable contributions were made by the MEPs who acknowledged the work done by the Agency.

Noteworthy is the contribution of EFCA to the roadmap proposed by the European Commission following the tripartite approach on EU decentralised agencies, endorsed by the European Parliament, the Council and the European Commission in July 2012. EFCA has contributed to this roadmap implementation through the EU Agencies Performance Development Network (PDN) to find synergies and to optimise the available resources. In the domain of Data Protection, EFCA has been very proactive and positively assessed by the European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS) following the 2013 survey

measuring the compliance of EU institutions and bodies with Regulation (EC) No 45/2001.

Last but not least, it should be underlined that during 2013 the actions put in place by the Agency, in line with the recommendation issued by the Board on the Five year independent external evaluation of EFCA indicate significant progress.

Foreword

Jörgen Holmquist, Chair of the Administrative Board



This past year has been one of preparation for the significant change the application of the new Common Fisheries Policy features entail.

The European Fisheries Control Agency has concentrated effort on supporting the European Commission and the Member States in preparation of the control and enforcement strategy that the adoption of the new legislation implies, and has already started implementing the agreed roadmap according to plan.

In clear line with its mandate, the Agency will retain the objectives of achieving a level playing field and a culture

of compliance of the Common Fisheries Policy in the most cost-efficient way. These objectives are all the more relevant for the implementation of such features as the obligation to land all catches of specific species ensuring detailed and accurate documentation. In its role as facilitator, the Agency will help develop simple and cost effective methods for monitoring and making technical recommendations.

In addition, on the international stage, the European Fisheries Control Agency will cooperate with third countries and Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMO's) to strengthen compliance with measures, especially those to combat illegal, unreported, unregulated and (IUU) fishing, in order to ensure that measures adopted by such international organisations are strictly adhered to.

The Agency is also a key player for ensuring transparency and effectiveness in the implementation of the policy, whilst taking into consideration the views of the fisheries stakeholders represented in its Advisory Board.

This Annual Report presents the tasks carried out by the Agency in the last year against a background of financial constraints. Stemming from the brokering of control operations with the execution of five joint deployment plans, to the move to regional control areas and the development of a robust data management system, EFCA, equipped with the necessary tools has achieved a high level of excellence in fisheries control. All in all, EFCA has a crucial role in supporting the European Union for an effective implementation of the fisheries control system applying to the Common Fisheries Policy. The Agency and its Board are committed to filling this role.

Introductory statement

Pascal Savouret, Executive Director of EFCA

2013 has been marked for the preparation of the entry into force of the new basic regulation of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). Indeed, the new features of the CFP basic regulation require the adaption of the inspection and control regime to meet the new policy obligations. The European Fisheries Control Agency, in its pivotal role of contributing to an effective and uniform implementation of the policy by brokering operational coordination and giving assistance to the European Commission and Member States, carried out a thorough reflection both internally and together with the Member States in this sense. This reflection has concluded with a new roadmap for the implementation of the new features comprised in the regulation.

In order to be perfectly equipped for the new policy, the EFCA has been building control capacities, namely with the development of a new data management system, so that electronic control tools can work in the most cost-efficient, consistent and effective way within the European Union. As a matter of fact, the Electronic Reporting System allowing for the registration of catch data is now operational and will support the exchange of data during JDP operations; JADE, the tool supporting JDP activities, is ready and Fishnet, a portal catering for operational communication, and the Electronic Inspection Report are making good progress.

Moreover, in the field of Training at the end of 2013, the first Core Curricula courses Inspection at Sea (handbook and manual) have been completed and circulated to the Member States and the European Commission and are helping to have a more uniform application of the rules and increase the effectiveness of control.

One year more, the joint deployment plans (JDP) have been the key vehicle for the agency to coordinate the

control operations. During 2013, the five JDPs of the Agency were successfully implemented.

In addition, through the creation of Focus Groups, the EFCA devised a cost evaluation model for JDPs operations and drafted guidelines for the compliance evaluation. This work is paving the way for enhancing control operations and contributing to compliance assessment in the near future.



The move to regional JDPs this year has been conclusive and against a background of a revised Specific Control and Inspection Programme model, the EFCA has made further progress towards the implementation of Regional Control Areas, aligning the way the Agency works with one of the key features of the reformed CFP: regionalisation.

Moreover, all this challenging work has been delivered against a background of budget constraints, working hand in hand with the EU Agencies network to find synergies and optimising the available resources within the adopted “Road map on the follow-up to the common approach on EU decentralised agencies”.

EFCA significantly contributed to the building of a European added value in 2013 and will maintain its course in 2014 in pursuit of a culture of compliance, level playing field and cost effectiveness in accordance with the premises laid down by the new Common Fisheries Policy basic regulation.



1. INTRODUCTION

The 2013 Annual Report follows the Activity Based Management System under the Multiannual work programme 2013-2017 and Annual work programme 2013, adopted on 10 October 2012, and intends to inform on the main operational and governance activities carried out during 2013, as well as on the main financial and administrative indicators.

With reference to the structure of the report, the second and third chapters contain an overview of the ECFA mandate, resources and activities. The operational activities are described in chapter four and the functional activity, governance and representation, in chapter five.

More information, inter alia, the follow-up to the recommendations by the Administrative Board to the European Commission (EC), issued following the external independent evaluation of the European Fisheries Control Agency, the horizontal support activities, the budget execution, the budget outturn and the balance sheet, can be found in the annexes in the website version.

2. MISSION STATEMENT

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

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, in 2013, EFCA developed its activities along three main strategic axes:

- a) organisation of the operational coordination of pooled national means in those fisheries identified by the European 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;
- c) cooperation with third countries on European Commission request.

EFCA promotes a culture of compliance among stakeholders and contributes to a level playing field at European Union level. 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 Activity Based Management System (ABMS) approach approved by the Administrative Board on 19 October 2010, the Annual Report 2013 is the fourth report implementing ABMS in its reporting, adding the total estimated direct and indirect costs for each activity.

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 Coordination⁶

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

⁶ Activity code: 1 (ABMS).

- Capacity Building⁷

Assistance to the Member States and the European Commission in the area of control, inspection and surveillance, with specific regard to activities enhancing the potential of national enforcement services to apply the rules of the CFP in a uniform and effective manner. These activities include reporting and exchange of data on fishing, control and inspection activities, arranging the accessibility of those data to the Coordination Centre in Charge (CCIC) and Associated Coordination Centres (ACs), developing and coordinating training programmes, fighting against IUU and the possible acquisition of equipment necessary for the implementation of JDPs or on the request of Member States.

• **Functional activity**

- Governance and Representation⁸

For the purpose of the functioning of EFCA as an independent EU body, all activities deployed in support of the Administrative Board, the Advisory Board, inter-agency cooperation, representation and communication are

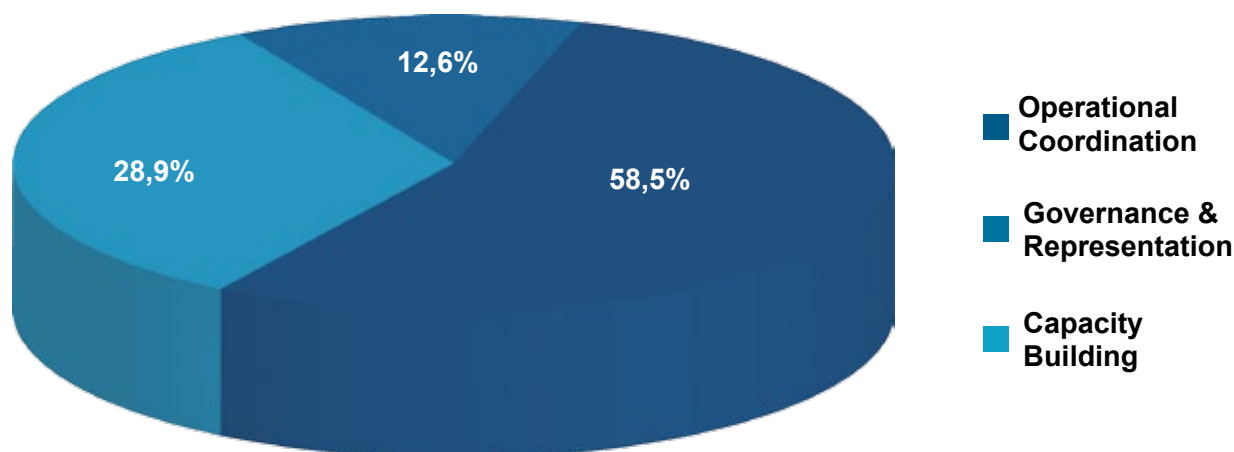


EFCA Staff

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

On 31 December 2013 the Agency had 54 staff members (TAs and CAs) representing 16 nationalities and three Seconded National Experts from the Netherlands, Italy and the United Kingdom. In accordance with the ABMS the pie chart below shows the distribution of the staff allocation by activity:

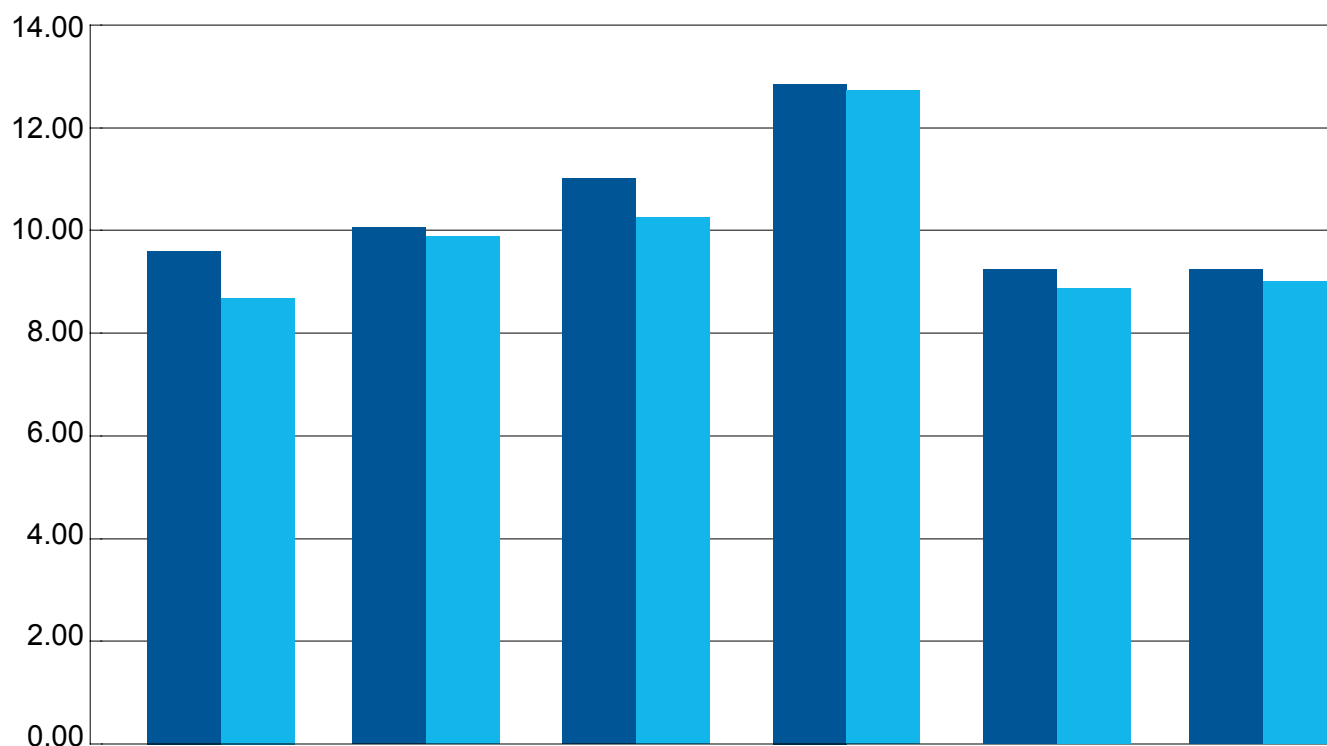
% of dedication of staff



⁷ Activity code: 2 (ABMS).

⁸ Activity code: 3 (ABMS)

The graphs below show the adopted vs. implemented budget evolution from 2008-2013.

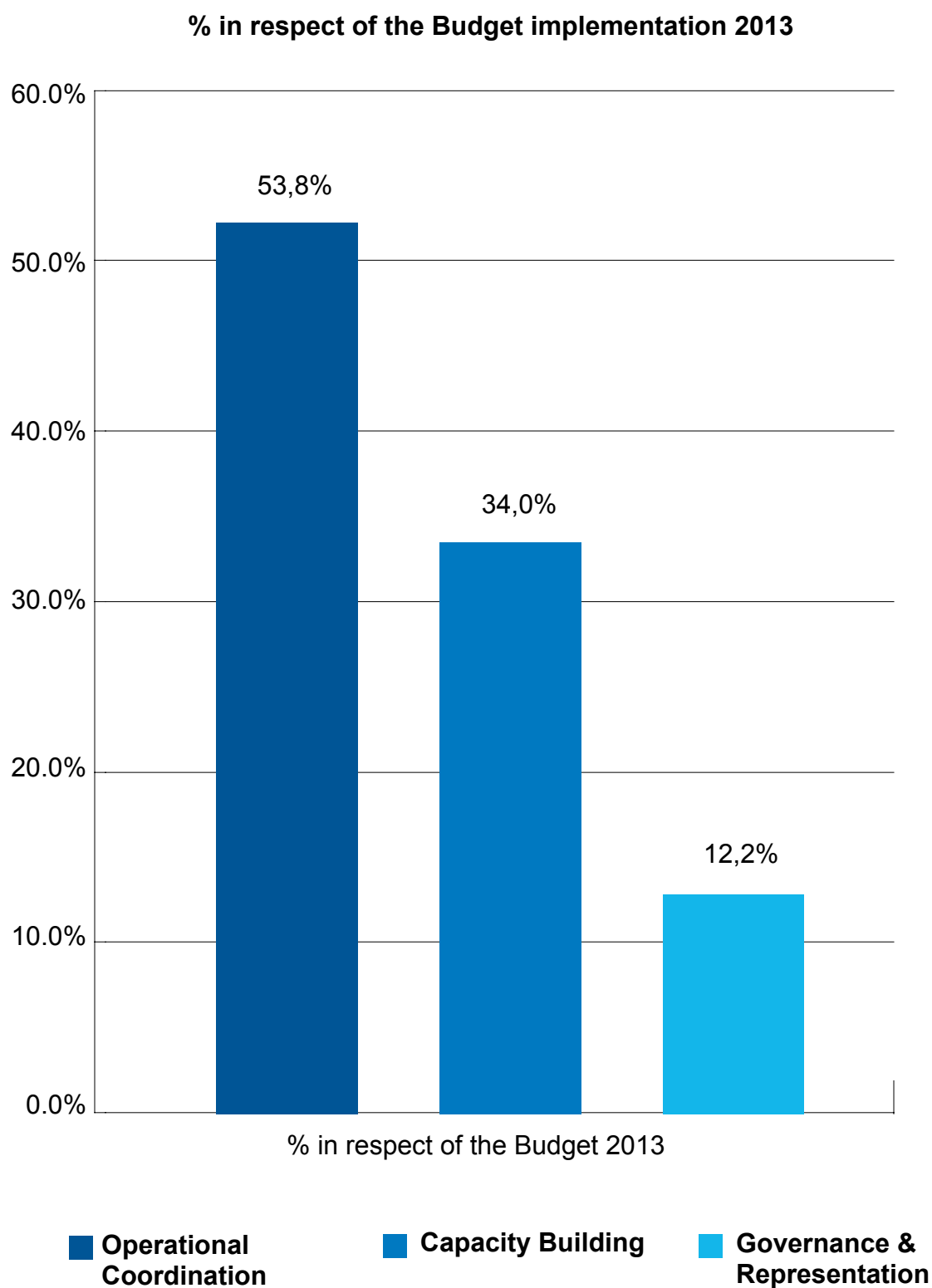


	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Voted Budget (million €)	9.60	10.07	11.01	12.85	9.22	9,22
Executed Budget (million €)	8.68	9.87	10.26	12.72	8.85	9,09

■ Voted Budget
(million €)

■ Executed Budget
(million €)

With reference to the 2013 budget implementation, the chart below shows the distribution by activity.



4. Operational Activities

4.1 Objectives and main achievements

EFCA operational activities have been focused on the priorities of the Multiannual work programme (MWP) 2013-2017 and Annual work programme (AWP) for 2013, namely the implementation of the Joint Deployment Plans (JDPs) and the cooperation for the uniform and effective application of the CFP rules by Member States through data monitoring and networks, training, cooperation with third countries and Maritime surveillance and Pooled Capacities.

The main achievements can be outlined in accordance with the main priority areas identified in the EFCA AWP 2013:

a) JDPs 2013

Five JDPs were successfully implemented during 2013 (see Annex I in the website version):

- Cod, sole and plaice⁹ fisheries in the North Sea and Western Waters;
- Cod, salmon, sprat and herring fisheries in the Baltic Sea;
- Pelagic Fisheries in Western Waters;
- NAFO & NEAFC;
- Bluefin Tuna in the Mediterranean Sea and Eastern Atlantic Ocean.

The JDPs are the key instrument for EFCA to implement the Specific Control and Inspection Programmes (SCIP) adopted by the European Commission following article 95 of the EU Control Regulation, and the International



⁹ Sole and plaice for the North Sea.

Control Schemes adopted by Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMO) to which the EU is a Contracting Party.

Through JDPs, EFCA ensures the best use of human and material resources pooled by Member States in a coordinated way to improve compliance in the fisheries concerned and to guarantee the level playing field. Good coordination with the European Commission and the Member States (MS) concerned, in the context of the different JDPs Steering Groups (SG) and Technical Joint Deployment Groups (TJDG), was instrumental in this respect. All phases of operational coordination, from the setting of operational objectives, planning, implementation and assessment of control activities, were carried out in tight cooperation with the SG and TJDG.

b) Regional control areas implementation

Against the background of a revised Specific Control and Inspection Programme model, EFCA has made further progress towards the implementation of Regional Control Areas:

- year-round JDPs;
- increased coverage of fisheries;
- adaptive planning of JDPs;
- reinforcement of data exchange;
- common reporting and evaluation schemes.

Such developments will facilitate an optimal integration of national control efforts at a wider regional level, promoting cost-effectiveness in JDP related operations.

The regional JDPs also provided an ideal framework for the development of key regional projects such as the definition of a regional risk management strategy and clarification of legal procedures across different Member States waters. Such approach can be further explored in the future for the evaluation of compliance levels in the different fisheries and for discussion on ways of addressing the discard ban.

c) Focus groups on compliance evaluation and cost effectiveness

The EFCA Multiannual work programme for 2013-2017 and Annual work programme for 2013, foresaw the creation of two Focus Groups **to evaluate general trends in compliance levels and to assess cost effectiveness of control operations.**

These Focus Groups are of key importance for the establishment of methodologies which allow for a better measurement of compliance status and estimation of costs in joint control operations. The outcomes of this work will allow for a new and more “result oriented” framework of evaluation and assessment of joint control activities.

During 2013 EFCA carried out a thorough review on global compliance evaluation methods and a study on a cost evaluation model for JDPs. A common list of infringements has been drawn up and a reporting template developed and implemented. These results were presented at the EFCA seminar for 2013, “Compliance Evaluation”, which took place in Baiona on 26-27 June 2013 (see Annex I-14 in the website version) The seminar was attended by representatives from Member States, the European Commission, scientific institutions, RFMO representatives and stakeholder representatives (Advisory Councils - ACs).



d) The JDP cycle: promoting European added value through coordination

In 2013, further 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.

In close partnership with Member States concerned, and in accordance with the European Commission decision for a new SCIP model, EFCA has developed a **Regional Risk Management strategy in the European waters JDPs**. This strategy identifies participants, inputs and outputs required for the **strategic planning** of campaigns, mid-term and short-term planning as summarised in the table below:

EFCA Regional Risk Management Strategy outline

	LONG-TERM	MEDIUM-TERM	SHORT-TERM
Level	Strategic Planning	Tactical planning	Operational
Period	6 months or more	1 week - 6 months	1 day - 1 week
Participants	Steering Group	TJDG	TJDG
Inputs	Historical Catches, fishing effort, risk assessment by MS	Quota situation, changes in fishing patterns, intelligence.	Cross-check of information and intelligence
Outputs	Joint Inspection and Surveillance Activities Plan	Update Plan of Deployment List of targets for inspection	Updated list of targets for inspections

In 2013, EFCA concluded a project proposal to review the risk analysis and management systems in place in order to establish common working procedures for short, medium and long-term risk analyses.

This project will be implemented during 2014 and should provide a complete and full description of the risk analysis processes to be implemented within the JDP framework for the Baltic, North Sea and Western Waters JDP areas, as well as a full explanation of how the results of the analyses should be collated and then disseminated to the relevant Member States' authorities.

- **Implementation:** Member States are the cornerstone for a successful implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy, and JDP coordination can optimise their efforts in this respect. Overall, they have contributed satisfactorily to the success of the JDPs, permitting the joint campaigns to be carried out with adequate means.

As in previous years, the JDPs in international waters (BFT, NAFO and NEAFC) were coordinated from EFCA premises. Regarding EU waters JDPs (North Sea, Baltic Sea and Western Waters), the location of the Coordinating Centre is in general shared between Member States or hosted at EFCA

premises. In 2013, a total of 79 campaign days were coordinated from EFCA (40 days in 2012), with the presence of national experts. In addition, two experts (1 from Italy, 1 from the Netherlands) have been also seconded at EFCA for the full year.

- **Assessment:** The Agency aims at the highest standards of performance and operates on the basis of transparency and accountability. The assessment of activities is also an essential step in the JDP cycle, allowing for a feed-back for constant improvements of the JDP cooperation model, identification of major fisheries threats and improved definition of specific objectives for the following year JDPs.

In line with the developments towards Regional Control Areas, the Agency promotes the assessment of the effectiveness of JDPs on the basis of performance criteria and benchmarks, by a common evaluation with Member States and the EC, including common reporting of joint control activities at regional level. During 2013, a standardised year round reporting was introduced with the 3 monthly progress report, the 6 monthly mid-term assessment report and an annual assessment of effectiveness of JDPs and associated performance indicators.

e) Promoting a level playing field, training and exchange of best practices

In 2013, EFCA continued to promote “**exchanges**” **between the different Member States Union inspectors** in the context of JDP operations, both at sea and on land. Such exchanges are of primary importance to exchange experiences and best practices, and can ultimately contribute to more harmonised control and inspection procedures.

Regional workshops have proven to be an excellent forum to promote the exchange of experience and best practice between Member States inspectors. Such workshops remained a high EFCA priority in 2013 for all JDPs, and were targeting Inspectors from the different Member States, staff of Member States FMCs in charge/

supporting JDP coordination, and in the particular case of NAFO and BFT, Union inspectors before their deployment under JDPs. Prior to Croatia accession to the EU (July 2013), specific workshops were organised for fisheries and inspectors officials, so as they could get more acquainted with the general EU control and inspection framework.

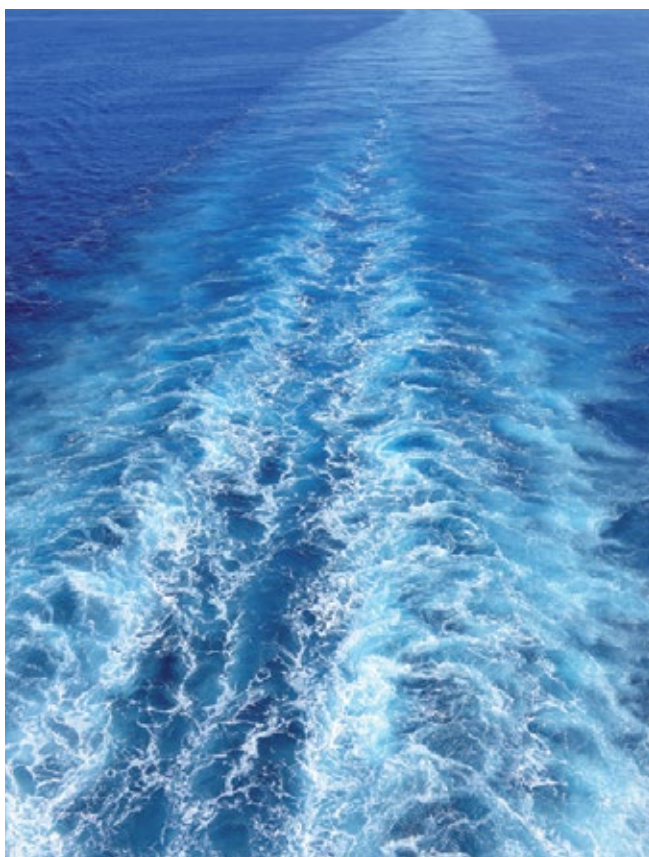
Within the IUU domain, EFCA organised 4 training workshops for Member States’ officials, and participated in three national IUU seminars.

In total, EFCA organised 27 workshops with almost 600 participants from Member States.

Beyond the regional workshop actions, the Agency coordinated and facilitated the elaboration of Core Curricula (CC) courses for training of national fisheries inspectors. At the end of 2013, EFCA successfully completed and printed the CC course Inspection at sea providing practical knowledge for national fisheries inspectors involved in the control and inspection of fishing vessels and their activities. The existing web Core Curriculum Training Platform 1.0 was used to make the material available on internet in a secured way. Based on the existing system, and following the adopted working method and new development processes, a new Core Curriculum Development Platform (CCDP 2.0) was developed. Since the new version of the CCDP was operational in August 2013, the development of the various training courses are following automatically the workflow with approval and validation steps as decided by the Steering Group on Training and Exchange of experience (SGTEE). In this secured web environment, experts are enabled to work on the same project, and to collaborate on documents and to manage meetings.



Blue fin tuna training.



f) International actions

EFCA continued supporting the EC and the Member States for the international cooperation in control and inspection **namely with Mediterranean and North Atlantic third countries.**

In the context of Mediterranean, EFCA supported the EC in the Fisheries dialogue established **with Turkey** and facilitated the exchange of inspectors between the EU and Turkey under the framework of the 2013 BFT campaign.

EFCA has also supported the EU Delegation in the meetings organised **by NAFO, NEAFC and ICCAT**, as well as organising the co-ordination of the fulfilment of EU international obligations arising from the International Schemes of Enforcement and Control of these organisations.

As in previous years, EFCA continued the operational **cooperation with Canada** in the context of the NAFO JDP. In this context, EFCA organised the exchange of Union and Canadian fisheries inspectors.

In the framework of the agreement between **the EU and the Russian Federation** for cooperation in the Baltic Sea, Russian experts were invited to attend the EFCA training workshop for inspectors which took place in Rostock, Germany.

A first evaluation of the implications in terms of financial and human resources of a possible delegation by the EC to EFCA of Data Centre tasks to implement the EU obligations under the RFMOs and Fisheries Partnership Agreements (FPA) was prepared by EFCA. A final decision was not adopted by the Administrative Board in that respect.

g) Data monitoring and networks

In the area of **data monitoring and networks**, the main achievements consisted of the following:

- An enhancement package for the EFCA Electronic Reporting System (**EFCA-ERS**) was completed and included improvements to the Reporting Module, the Business Rules Engine, the Sales Notes Module and some additional GIS features. An additional Data Validation and Cross-check functionality along with new Master Data Reference (MDR) web services was also provided. The application was shared with DG MARE and it is expected that it will also be provided to a number of Member States and other third parties in the near future.
- A new maintenance contract for the EFCA Vessel Monitoring System (**EFCA-VMS**) was established which will ensure vendor support for the application up to September 2015. The successful migration of the system

to new servers will improve reliability and thus enhance the business continuity of this important operational tool.

- The contract for the new EFCA Electronic Inspection Report (**EFCA-EIR**) was signed in August and the Design Phase was completed before the end of the year. The system will receive and parse EIR messages and allow for their exchange between stakeholders (e.g. EFCA, Member States, and European Commission etc.). It will also ensure data quality, integrity and reliability through validation operations, and will provide tools to view search and analyse data for statistical and reporting purposes. The system design has adopted a Service Oriented Architecture (SOA) approach which will provide the foundation for the future integration of EFCA operational applications. The EFCA-EIR is expected to be operational by mid-2014.
- The first phase of the development of the EFCA-FishNet digital communication, collaboration and coordination platform was delivered mid-2013. This phase was primarily focussed on information exchange and asynchronous collaboration tools. Work then commenced on Phases 2 and 3, and it is anticipated that this development will also be completed in mid-2014.

h) Cooperation in maritime affairs and fight against IUU

EFCA actively contributed to the implementation of the EU Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP) and the Common Fisheries Policy promoting **cooperation in maritime affairs** with Member States, the European Commission, relevant EU Agencies and external bodies.



Fisheries Monitoring Centre in Ireland.

As a member of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG), EFCA contributed to the development of the Common Information Sharing Environment (CISE) and the associated cooperation project on CISE. This contribution consisted of attendance to the TAG meetings as well as the provision of written input and verification of relevant deliverables.

The CISE roadmap, leading to the creation of a decentralised information exchange system, interlinks all User Communities, both civilian and military, in the maritime domain. EFCA also participated actively as observer in the pilot projects monitored by DG MARE under the remit of the CISE roadmap.

In 2013, the cooperation with the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) intensified the wider development and application of the Marsurv-3 Maritime Surveillance project. Following the initial test during the 2012 BFT Joint Deployment Campaign, where the main objective was to assess the added value of creating an integrated maritime picture correlating and integrating various maritime datasets, the concept was then tested in two other areas namely the North Atlantic (JDP-NAFO) and the North Sea (JDP NS Cod).

This allowed the testing of different functionalities and the capacity to correlate and fuse maritime data in low, medium and high density maritime environments. Furthermore the Marsurv-3 application was transformed into an EMSA Integrated Maritime Data Environment (IMDatE) service, providing an even wider scope for further development. Marsurv-3 was intensively used in the JDP BFT control centre for the coordination of inspection and surveillance activities. The improved maritime awareness introduced the added value of behavioural monitoring of fishing vessels. The pilot project also tested the use of satellite imagery (SAR) provided by the Mariss service network and the Dolphin project.

The promising results of the implementation of the Marsurv-3 application in the various JDP areas in 2012 were presented on 15 October 2013 to the EFCA Administrative Board, confirming its potential for future development.

Inter-agency cooperation, in particular with Agencies active in the maritime domain has continued and even intensified in 2013. Participation in three Frontex European Patrol Network (EPN) seminars provided access to best practice applied by various other user communities in the maritime surveillance domain, and allowed for EFCA to provide an update on those activities. Furthermore, cooperation with EMSA, the European Union Satellite Centre (EUSC), the European Space Agency (ESA) and the Joint Research Centre (JRC) has intensified through EFCA's involvement in various projects and seminars (Catapult¹⁰, GMES-Copernicus¹¹, SAT-AIS¹², FP7-Dolphin¹³, FP7-NEREIDS¹⁴, etc.). In the framework of BFT JDP activities, two specific training sessions were provided by EFCA for Frontex air surveillance crews.

As for the **fight against IUU**, the EFCA objective was to support the Member States and the European Commission in the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008 (the IUU Regulation). This support by EFCA has been organised in the following key areas:

- Fulfilment of the tasks transferred to EFCA under European Commission Decision 2009/988/EU of 18 December 2009¹⁵, i.e. evaluation and dialogue missions to third countries;
- Delivery of training workshops to national authorities¹⁶.

Main achievements were the support to the European Commission in the preparation and conduction of 4 evaluation missions and one capacity building mission in a third country.

i) IT

In 2013, the ICT Section was restructured and reinforced. The ICT Section applied the Information Technology Infrastructure Library (ITIL) best practice principles. The main objectives achieved are as follows:

- A complete redesign and implementation of the network, a project that will continue throughout 2014 since security is an ongoing process;
- A re-cabling and server consolidation in the Server/Data Room;
- Documentation of procedures and policies;
- Redesign and redeployment of core business applications;
- Support in procurement of EIR;
- Investment in new technologies for firewalls;
- In ICT Governance, the ICT Steering committee meetings continued in 2013.

¹⁰The Satellite Applications Catapult coordinates the work of the Technology Transfer Network on behalf of ESA.

¹¹Copernicus, previously known as GMES (Global Monitoring for Environment and Security), is the European Programme for the establishment of a European capacity for Earth Observation

¹²European Satellite AIS under Joint EMSA/ESA Integrated Applications Programme

¹³DOLPHIN is an EU Copernicus research and development project in the field of Maritime Surveillance.

¹⁴NEREIDS is a FP7 project conceived to provide an integrated vision of maritime policy and maritime surveillance

¹⁵OJL 338, 19.12.2009, p.104.

¹⁶See "Promoting a level playing field, training and exchange of best practises section"Annex I-11 on training in the website version.

4.2. JPDs data and analysis

Timely and permanent exchange of data and intelligence, together with accurate reporting of control and inspection activity, are essential to effectively support regional JDPs. Such approach can benefit all levels of the JDP cycle, facilitating common planning, coordinated implementation of campaigns and joint evaluation and assessment.

a) Analysis of fishing activity

The analysis of the fishing activity is used for the long-term planning of JDPs. In 2013, this analysis was done for the planning of deployment of control means. Three data sets are requested to the EU Member States participating to the JDP:

- Catch by species, month and ICES statistical rectangle
- Landings by species, month and port of landing
- VMS data

Data received from the different Member States are compiled to produce charts and maps used to analyse the spatial and temporal distribution of the fishery. Assuming that the fishery behaviour is seasonal and has globally the same pattern from year to year, the results are used to plan the distribution of the control effort for the next semester.

In March 2013, catch and landing data have been analysed for the planning of 2013 2nd semester campaigns in the North Sea, Western Waters and Baltic JDPs. Historical VMS data were also used to map fishing effort of the Cod fisheries in the North Sea and Baltic Sea.

Based on the analyses performed in the recent years, which show the fishing activity patterns, it has been decided for EU waters JDPs to change the frequency of this type of analysis from bi-annual to annual. The next analysis of catch, landing and VMS data will be done in March 2014, for planning of the 2015 campaigns.

Similar data analysis of catch data was performed for the planning of NEAFC campaign for the following resources: Herring, Mackerel, Haddock, Red Fish and Deep-sea species.



b) Regional risk assessment

EFCA Regional risk assessment methodology is used for the planning of the Joint Deployment campaigns. This system is based on a preliminary identification and scoring of the possible illegal behaviours by fishermen according to the negative impact it may have on the management of the fishery resource. Each Member State then assesses the likelihood of occurrence for these different threats. Data from the different Member States are combined together and the results discussed at a specific risk analysis workshop organised with Member States experts.

In 2013, Regional risk assessment has been used for the planning of JDP Campaigns in EU Western Waters,



North Sea and Baltic Sea (2nd semester 2013, and 2014 full year). Further enhancement of the methodology is planned for 2014, under a dedicated project with Member States and EC, on a regional risk management strategy.

4.3. JDPs planning and implementation

a) Cooperation with the European Commission and Member States: A key factor for effective JDP Planning and cooperation

In organising operational cooperation between Member States through the adoption of JDPs, and for the purpose of operational coordination of joint control, inspection and surveillance activities by Member States, two joint working groups have been established, in accordance with the Joint Deployment Plan decisions and the Multiannual and Annual work programme, for the elaboration and implementation of each JDP:

- the Steering Groups (SG, more concerned with overall planning and strategic decisions) and
- the Technical Joint Deployment Group (TJDG, more concerned with the tactical planning and implementation of joint operations).

During 2013, these working groups steered the successful and timely implementation of all EFCA JDPs, based on solid cooperation principles such as consensus and transparency. Both the SG and TJDG were also quite important in providing feedback for the training activities and implementing some regional projects in support of JDP coordination (e.g. legal procedures project southern North Sea).

b) Operational coordination of JDPs

In 2013, further progress was made by EFCA towards the implementation of Regional Control Areas and overall JDP coordination, by:

- **Establishing year-round JDPs**, with increased coordination and improved complementarities with Member States relevant national control and inspection activities

- **Increasing the coverage of species** in EFCA JDPs, by introducing sole and plaice in southern part of the North Sea JDP and sprat and herring in the Baltic Sea JDP
- Identifying “**core periods**” (with higher fishing activity and coordination demands), and “**non-core periods**” (less fishing activity with a general follow-up coordinated by EFCA), which allowed for a more effective coordination and flexibility in the mobilisation of patrol means
- Ensuring **permanent exchange of information and intelligence** and increasing the “**mid-term**” **planning role for the TJDG**, enabling to better adapt the JDP specific objectives, the control strategy and deployment of control effort to the fisheries circumstances as they occur.

BFT JDP

The successful model of coordination of the BFT JDP, with the presence of national experts at EFCA headquarters (Croatia, France, Malta and Spain), continued in 2013. EFCA officials have also assisted Member States Union inspectors both on-board of national FPVs and joint control activities ashore. In addition, Italy seconded a national expert to support the coordination of the BFT JDP.

NAFO and NEAFC JDPs

In the context of NAFO-NEAFC JDP, operational coordination has been guaranteed from EFCA headquarters. Coordination was also performed on some Member States FPVs with the assistance of an EFCA official on-board.

EU Waters JDP

In 2013, the three EU Waters JDPs (North Sea, Baltic Sea and Western Waters) have used EFCA facilities for the coordination of some campaigns, with a total of 79 days coordinated from EFCA. This represents a 100% increase compared to 2012 where only 2 of the 3 JDPs used EFCA for a total of 40 campaign days. National experts were invited during these campaigns coordinated by EFCA (see table below). The Netherlands provided additional support to the coordination of the North Sea and Western Waters JDPs with the secondment of a national expert at EFCA.

Coordination of EU Waters JDPs from EFCA premises – 2012 and 2013

	Baltic Sea	North Sea	Western Waters
2012		13 days with one expert from Belgium	27 days with experts from Ireland and Scotland
2013	11 days with experts from Latvia and Lithuania	35 days with 3 experts from Germany and Belgium	33 days with 4 experts from Portugal

4.4. Focus Group undertakings

Background

Subsequent to several discussions at the Administrative Board level on the subject of compliance, two Focus Groups were created in order to study the matter in greater detail:

- Focus Group I: to evaluate general trends in compliance levels
- Focus Group II: to assess cost effectiveness of control operations

Objectives and tasks of these two groups were drawn up and incorporated within the MWP for 2013-2017 and the AWP for 2013. The objectives of these groups, results achieved to date and work planned are outlined below.

Focus Group I – Compliance Evaluation

Objectives

1. Establish a shared approach with Member States of serious and other infringements list and associated recording system;
2. Establish a methodology permitting evaluating the trends in compliance levels in the different regions / areas; and
3. Implement the methodology in the different regions / fisheries.

Results to date and further work planning

Two key project tasks were identified and work packages drawn up.

- Task 1: Definition of compliance evaluation methods.
- Task 2: Implementation of regional compliance evaluation.

A common list of infringements has been drawn up and a reporting template developed and implemented. A review of compliance evaluation methods in use, both within Europe and internationally, was carried out by an external expert. Six compliance evaluation tools were identified, as follows:

- Analysis of temporal trends of infringements;
- Examination of estimates of non-allocated catches made by ICES and ICCAT;

- Statistical methods to make alternative catch estimates, compared with official landings data (liaison with ICES / ICCAT SCRS);
- EFCA Regional Risk Assessment outputs and analysis across the time series for the selected fisheries, identifying reasons for perceived levels of risk;
- Interviews and questionnaires on compliance directed at industry for the regions and fisheries of interest;
- Market analyses.

Initial analysis has been undertaken to examine infringement trends relative to control effort for southern North Sea cod, sole and plaice; Western Waters pelagic fisheries and Mediterranean Sea Bluefin tuna fisheries. Initial results indicate a declining trend in infringement citations relative to control effort for these fisheries.

Further tools as detailed above will be used to evaluate compliance in these fisheries and a general methodology developed for the evaluation of compliance in any given fishery.

In terms of planned work in the Focus Group pilot project, the results of analysis carried out using the above methods will be consolidated, expressed in like terms and compliance indices for the fisheries of interest derived.

The results of the pilot project will be presented at a fisheries compliance seminar to be held in June 2014.

Focus Group II – Cost Effectiveness in Control Operations

Objectives

1. Establish a standard methodology for the estimation of costs in JDPs
2. Establishment of a methodology for assessment of cost-effectiveness in JDPs

Results to date and further work planning

As part of the activities of the Focus group “Assessment of the cost-effectiveness of control operations” created in 2012, EFCA has designed in 2013 a methodology to estimate the costs of the JDPs. Costs are approached

from the perspective of the society at large, i.e. accounting for the costs of all agencies involved (both Member State and EFCA):

- Labour;
- Energy (for patrol means);
- Patrol means (maintenance, insurance and depreciation).

Estimation of the costs of control activities carried out by EU Member States in the framework of JDPs requires the estimation of the unit cost of the different control assets used. Due to the lack of data available, a specific model has been developed to estimate these unit costs. They are then multiplied by the control effort extracted from the EFCA database system recording all the JDP activities. EFCA coordination costs are also considered. First trials of the model were performed using 2012 data. An estimation of 2013 JPD Costs will be performed in 2014.

4.5. Training and best practice

Workshops and exchange of best practices remained an important undertaking for EFCA in 2013. A training strategy was presented to the EFCA Administrative Board on 5 March 2013. Considering the resources available, a breakdown of the training actions in line with the legal obligations of EFCA was envisaged as follows:

- Training of trainers;
- Training of Union inspectors (before first deployment);
- Advanced workshops for Union inspectors
- ("best practices");
- Training for third countries on EC request;
- Workshops on the implementation of the IUU regulation.

During that year, 23 regional workshops were conducted for a total of 500 participants. An overview of all operational workshops organised during 2013 is shown in the table below. Training activities carried out in the different regions in which EFCA is coordinating JDPs are described in Annex 1-11 in the website version. All inspectors who took part in sea missions during the 2013 BFT JDP and all NAFO inspectors who took part in sea missions during the 2013 NAFO JDP were trained by EFCA. In the case

of NEAFC more than half of the inspectors were trained in the EFCA workshops.

As for **IUU**, 4 training events for Member States' officials were organised for a total of 85 participants.

Workshops targeting Croatia

Following the conclusions of the meeting held on 23 October 2012 between EFCA and the Croatian Authorities, training actions were planned for Croatian fisheries officers and inspectors. The main objective was to establish a general situation of the regulatory field in the framework of fisheries control and inspection.

In this regard, two workshops took place for Croatian authorities to bring their inspectors and fisheries officers up to speed with EU fisheries legislation and control and inspection procedures:

- Workshop for Croatian inspectors and fishery officers on the fisheries control systems in the EU (focus on the MED), 15-17 January, Porec (Croatia);
- Workshop for Croatian and Slovenian inspectors and fishery officers on the fisheries control systems
- in the EU (focus on the MED), Organized by EFCA in cooperation with Croatia and TAIEX, 14-15 May, Porec (Croatia);

Seminar for Coordination Centres in Charge (CCIC) of JDP campaigns

As in previous years, EFCA organised a seminar for the staff of coordination centres involved in the coordination of joint operations of JDPs. The Seminar for Coordination Centres in Charge (CCIC) of JDP campaigns, took place on 22-23 October in Vigo. The main objective of the CCIC seminar was to analyse current practices concerning coordination of joint campaigns, and to discuss ways to improve those practices in practical terms, in order to enhance efficiency and effectiveness of joint operations.

Overview of the regional workshops and training actions in assistance to Member States performed during 2013

Area	Number of Workshops	Number of Participants
Mediterranean and Black Sea	10	221
NAFO & NEAFC	6	117
Western Waters	1	26
Baltic Sea	3	65
North Sea	2	40
IUU	4	85
All areas	1	31
Total	27	585

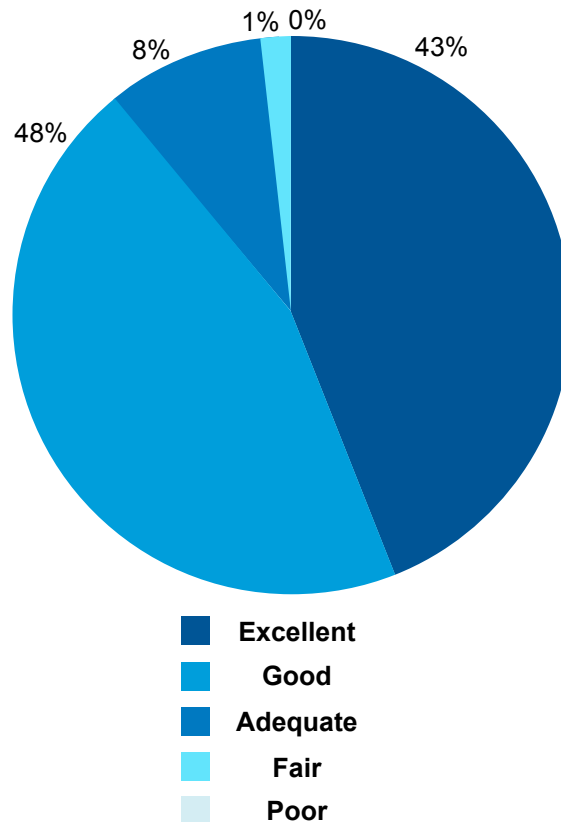
Workshop evaluations surveys

In all workshops, the participating delegates were asked to complete a survey regarding their perception of the usefulness and quality of the workshop. A common format for an evaluation survey template of operational workshops was developed and used in all actions. As a key performance indicator of the quality of training, the results of the evaluations showed that nearly 90% of course participants rated the workshops as good or excellent. There was a general opinion that the seminars were very beneficial in terms of helping to discuss the various topics and the specific problems encountered by the control services. The results of the evaluations are displayed in the figure below.

Core Curricula

To give effect to its coordination duties and legal obligations, EFCA supports Member States in designing a **training programme for trainers and Union inspectors**. A priority in the development of training programmes is to create reference materials for the training of the trainers of the inspectorates and of Union inspectors before their first deployment, the **Core Curricula (CC)**. To enhance the involvement of all stakeholders on the achievement of common training objectives, several fora for exchange of experience and best practice were held. The Steering group and the Working group on training and exchange of experience were consolidated, and Workshops on a regional basis were also organised by EFCA.

Overview of the replies to the satisfaction questionnaires completed by participants in EFCA regional workshops and training actions in assistance to Member States performed during 2013



The Agency implemented SMART (Specific, Measurable, Assignable, Realistic and Time bounded) objectives related to the Training and development activity, and subsequently used adequate monitoring tools, especially for improving the drafting quality and validation sub-processes.

EFCA contracted fisheries experts, other than national officials, for a limited scope and duration, to assist in the development of the CC in order to have a solid basis for the development of training material. A new call of expression of interest was published at the end of October 2013, so as to ensure the subsequent drafting of CC courses.

The time and effort invested in the development of a methodology for training was laid down in a **Methodology paper**, which was successfully implemented in 2013. The Curricula are composed of a training handbook with the teaching materials for the students and a training manual with the instruction for the trainer. This dual approach was used when developing modules on Sea inspection, as previously advised by Member States. A regional and specific approach according to the fisheries has also been taken into account.

The updated version of the web - based CC development platform (CCDP 2.0) was used as from August 2013 for exchanging information with the external experts and Member States, and for using it as an online tool for developing the CC courses. This online application supports the collaboration of experts, Member States, the European Commission and EFCA for the development of CC training materials. Authorised users are able to exchange, to track comments of the different versions of the documents, and to manage meetings, discussion groups, calendar, news, or announcements. This virtual collaboration tool provides the capacity to draft and review CC documents remotely.

The EFCA training steering committee (TSC) set up in 2012 held meetings on a regular basis in 2013 in order to maintain the consistency and allocate the appropriate level of resources to the different training undertakings of the Agency (CC, trainers, Union inspectors, advanced best practices).

4.6. Assessment and evaluation

1. Process

In 2013, the procedures and methodology for the assessment and evaluation of joint control activities was further developed. Such developments were introduced in accordance with the adoption of a new Specific Control and Inspection Programme (SCIP) model for the BS, NS and pelagic fisheries in WW. These new SCIPs included new target species, the establishment of permanent joint control activities in all operational areas and new reporting requirements for Member States regarding their inspection and control activity, overview of suspected infringements detected and state of play of legal process follow-up.

Since the second half of 2013, the EFCA assessment and evaluation process includes:

- 1) A three monthly quantitative summary of joint control activities (including a public summary published on the EFCA web page)
- 2) A six monthly quantitative and qualitative mid-term evaluation of joint control activities.
- 3) Annual assessment of the effectiveness of JDP activities
In order to facilitate the reporting obligations of Member States, EFCA also prepares a statistical overview of control and inspection activities in the context of JDPs, as a dedicated input to the periodical information required in the SCIP decisions.

2. JDP results overview

Overall, the numbers of inspections at sea and ashore were maintained at similar levels to 2012. There was a 41% increase in the number of days of activity in JDPs, as a result of a new model of cooperation under “year-round JDPs”.

The figure below provides an overall description of JDPs activity results over the last 5 years.

Details of control and inspection activity per different JDPs are presented in the Annex I in the website version.

The implementation of “year-round” JDPs, with permanent exchange of information and intelligence, allowed for the development of a more dedicated risk management system. Whilst the overall number of inspections has been kept at the levels of 2012, this approach has contributed in some JDPs to an increase in the detection rate of suspected infringements per inspection as a result of wider coverage and better targeting (see the figure below).

Figure: JDP Activity results trends, 2009 – 2013

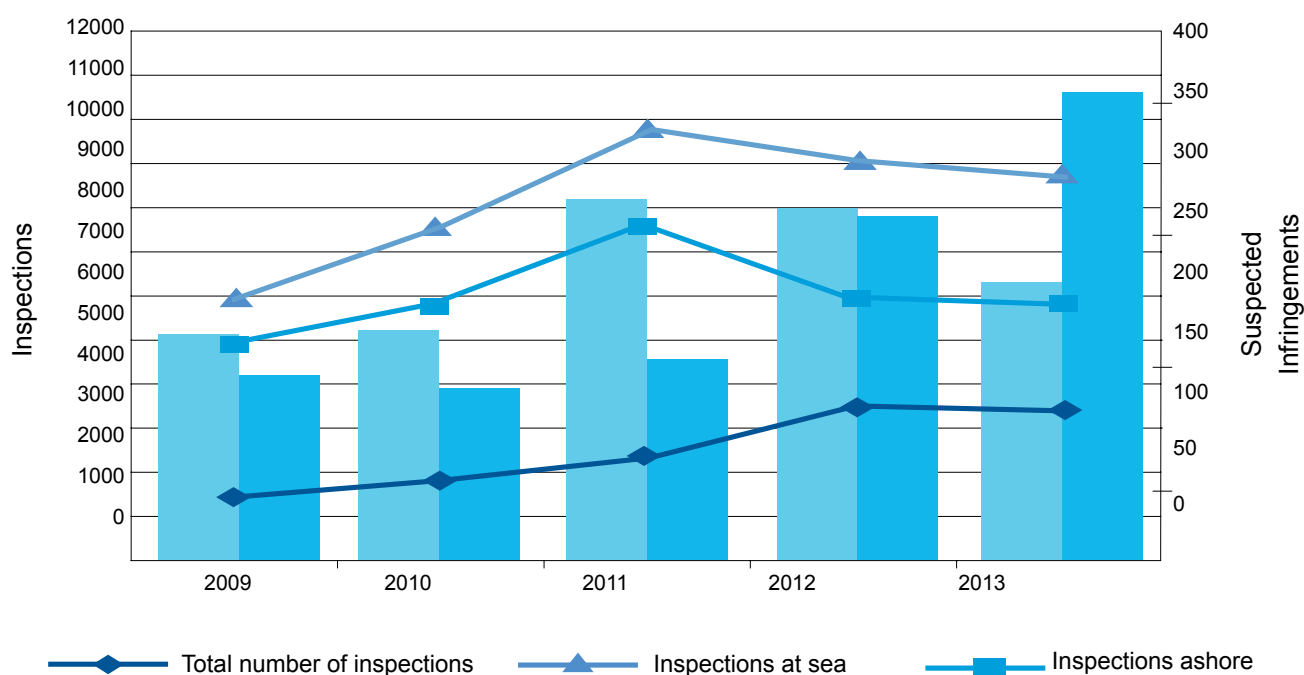
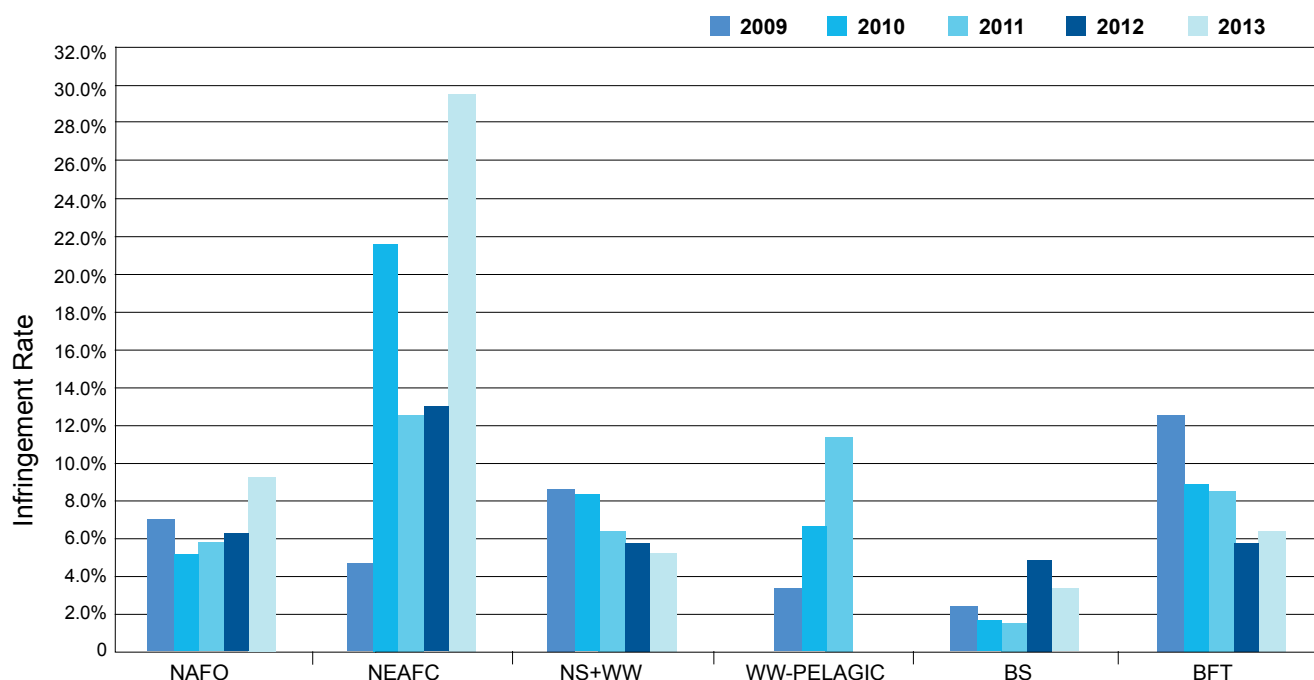


Figure: JDP suspected Infringement Trends, 2009 – 2013



Trends specific to the JDPs are commented below in the following JDP summaries.

NAFO / NEAFC

Operational results NAFO: In the NAFO JDP no suspected infringement was detected during the 27 sea inspections carried out. Regarding inspections at landing by mixed teams, 3 suspected infringements were detected during 5 inspections. A 3% increase in the suspected infringements rate relative to inspections is notable from figure above. However, care should be taken with an interpretation of this since this is an apparent increase brought about by a 39% reduction in the number of sea inspections carried out.

Operational results NEAFC: During 2013, a total of 54 inspections were carried out at sea in the NEAFC Regulatory Area. Of the 16 suspected infringements reported during these inspections, 56% of them fall under the category 'Vessel documentation' – calibration of sea water tanks and maintaining of stowage plan. Of this category, 7 out of 9 (78%) infringement citations - which give rise to the apparent increase in the infringement rate

in 2013 - relate to a specific case which is the subject of ongoing discussions at the level of the NEAFC compliance committee. The case relates to one Contracting Party's interpretation of the requirements of the NEAFC Scheme of Control and Enforcement regarding stowage plans.

Western Waters pelagic

Operational results: The ratio of suspected infringements relative to inspections was 12% for the inspections ashore whilst the ratio of suspected infringements in the inspections at sea fluctuated from 7% in 2012 to 8% in 2013. Most of the suspected infringements found are related to vessels not fulfilling their obligations to record and report catch or catch related data via ERS systems as required.

Overall, these figures indicate the strong control effort undertaken by Member States during 2013, particularly to be noted during the mackerel fishery at the very early

stage of the year. An increase in the relative suspected infringement ratio of 4% is attributable to enhanced risk management and targeting.

Baltic Sea

Operational results: It should be noted that there was 38% decrease in the total number of suspected infringements detected at sea in 2013. It is worth highlighting that the joint control activities were strongly supported in 2013 by the short-term risk analyses which lead to more inspections carried out on well-defined target vessels. The higher effectiveness of targeted inspections was noted; especially ashore where the ratio of suspected infringements detected on the targeted vessels was 9.1%, compared with 1.2% reported from inspections at landings of the non-targeted vessels.

North Sea

Operational results: In 2013, 3 campaigns were conducted in the north, south and western parts of the North Sea, resulting in 432 sea-based days by core FPV, plus 638 sea-days during non-core periods. The total number of inspections carried out in 2013 decreased by 5% compared to 2012, with a total of 3458. The ratio of suspected infringements relative to inspections decreased from 6% to 5%.

Bluefin Tuna

Operational results: In 2013 the number of the scheduled sea missions increased slightly. Scheduled air surveillance missions have remained more or less constant during the last three years.

During the implementation of the 2013 JDP, both Member States and other ICCAT CPCs vessels/operators have been inspected. A total of 440 inspections were performed throughout 283 activity days in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean of which 220 were ashore and 220 were at sea.

For sea inspections, the percentage of inspections made to vessels involved in the capture and transport of bluefin tuna for farming operations accounted for 46% of total sea inspections. Longliners accounted for 42% of the

inspections. Longliners accounted for 22% of the total number of vessels/operators Possible Non Compliances (PNCs) detected at sea, while tugs accounted for 47%.

When the ratio of vessels/operators PNC(s) against the number of inspections at sea for each category is considered, in 2013 the highest ratio occurred in tugs. In total 27% of the tugs inspected resulted in PNC(s).

In 2013, the number of PNCs reported by the inspectors was 35 (33 at sea and 2 ashore). In 2012 the number was 52 (a reduction in absolute terms of 33%).

4.7 Cooperation with third countries

In line with the EFCA AWP 2013, there were two main areas of EFCA cooperation with third countries, namely:

- Mediterranean third countries
- North Atlantic third countries

Mediterranean third countries

Croatia joined the EU on 1 July 2013 and in accordance with the EFCA 2013 AWP which foresees cooperation with Mediterranean third countries including Croatia, a roadmap for the accession of Croatia and its participation to EFCA activities was implemented from 1 January 2013 in order for them to engage in active cooperation.

Two training sessions were organized in Porec, for Croatian fisheries authorities and Croatian fisheries inspectors (and Croatia was invited to participate in all BFT JDP meetings as observer from January to June 2013).

During the month of June, one Croatian inspector was present with other Member States and EFCA coordinators in the Technical Joint Deployment Group (TJDG) in Vigo. The objectives were to initiate some association to all TJDG activities to assist in understanding the behaviour of the Croatian fleet and also to facilitate contact with Croatian authorities. Thanks to this active cooperation, the TJDG was very well informed about the BFT inspection activities done by the Croatian means. The level of direct exchange of VMS data between Croatia and EFCA was also very good.

EFCA is assisting the European Commission in the Fisheries Dialogue established with Turkey, regarding the control of fishing activities in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea. Following the EU-Turkey fisheries dialogue working group meeting held in Brussels on 15 April 2013, it was decided to implement an exchange of inspectors between EU and Turkey in the framework of the 2013 Bluefin tuna campaign.

To give effect to these decision two missions were planned:

a) EU-Turkey: From 10/06/2013 to 14/06/2013 in Italy aboard an Italian Coast Guard patrol vessel, with the presence of one ICCAT Turkish inspector and with the collaboration of an EFCA coordinator.

b) Turkey-EU: From 11/06/2013 to 14/06/2013 in Turkey aboard a Turkish Coast Guard patrol vessel, with the presence of an ICCAT EU inspector, in the present case an EFCA coordinator.

Both exchanges of inspectors allowed the analysis of the inspection techniques/methodology and improved the cooperation between the ICCAT CPC in control.

North Atlantic third countries

In the framework of the Agreement between the EU and the Russian Federation on cooperation in fisheries and the conservation of the living marine resources in the Baltic Sea, Russian experts were invited and participated to the annual EFCA workshop for Baltic Sea EU inspectors celebrated in Rostock, Germany on 1-2 October 2013. The Russian delegation was composed of two representatives from the Russian Fisheries Agency who presented their perspective of the fishery situation in the Kaliningrad / Baltic Sea area. The participation of Russian officials permitted to continue with the cooperation and exchange of information with Russia regarding the Baltic Sea fisheries.

As in previous years, the operational cooperation with Canada in the framework of the inspection activities in NAFO was maintained. A permanent exchange of

operational information with Canadian patrol vessels in the area is kept by the Union patrol means assigned to the NAFO Joint inspection and surveillance scheme. Besides, article 31(5) of the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures provides for cooperation between Contracting Parties in the field of fisheries Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) with respect to the NAFO Regulatory Area (RA).

In past years, Canada and the European Union have undertaken a number of joint operations in the framework of the NAFO pilot project on joint inspection procedures. Inspectors from the European Union operated alongside Canadian colleagues aboard of a Canadian inspection platform and vice versa.

During 2013, French and Estonian inspectors each participated in a joint patrol aboard a Canadian FPV in the NAFO Regulatory Area and a Canadian inspector participated in a patrol of the NAFO Regulatory Area aboard the German FPV "Seeadler", together with EU NAFO inspectors. The results of the campaign were positive, permitting the discussion of specific points and providing feedback for a future discussion in NAFO to establish a permanent mechanism of cooperation between the different contracting parties in NAFO through exchanges of inspectors.

4.8 Cooperation with the European Commission

EFCA MWP 2013-2017 & AWP 2013 established the task to assist the European Commission and the Member States in respect of the activities of Regional Fisheries Management Organizations. This is the case namely of ICCAT, NAFO and NEAFC.

EFCA continues to coordinate the participation of the European Union to the International Scheme of Control and Inspection established by these three RFMOs through Joint Deployment Plans that ensure the fulfilment of the EU obligations in the different areas and also the contribution to an adequate control of the fishing activities.

EFCA staff participates in support of the EU Delegation to the annual meetings of these three organisations and also

to the specific Control Committees of these organizations: COC (ICCAT), STACTIC (NAFO) and PECCOE (NEAFC). Besides, EFCA has been delegated by the European Commission to fulfil a number of tasks related to the notification to RFMOs of different information resulting from the inspection activities deployed by the Member States. Regarding NAFO this information includes a list of observers and inspectors and inspection means. In the context of NEAFC, EFCA is providing to the NEAFC Secretariat a list of inspectors and inspection means as well as compiled annual reports on EU inspection activities in the NEAFC Regulatory Area.

In the area of assisting the European Commission in the implementation of the IUU Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008, EFCA closely cooperated with DG MARE in the preparation and conduction of evaluation and capacity building missions to third countries. The principle aim of the evaluation missions was to analyse on the spot the practical implementation of the IUU Regulation by third countries, and to discuss possible improvement. EFCA contributed to 4 evaluation missions (i.e. Curacao, China, Ghana and Cape Verde) by analysing and processing catch certificates and processing statements in addition to background research on trade statistics, fleet composition, characteristics of the fishing industries, etc. EFCA also cooperated with the European Commission in the evaluation of different legal and administrative procedures. For the first time, EFCA in 2013 contributed as well to the preparation and conduction of a capacity building mission to the Philippines.

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 EFCA. It is composed of six members representing the European Commission and one representative per Member State. The Chair of the Administrative Board is Mr Jörgen Holmquist and the Deputy Chair is Mr Dario Cau.

In 2013, two meetings of the Administrative Board were held in Vigo; the 18th meeting of the Administrative Board was held on 5 March and the 19th meeting on 15 October. At its 18th meeting, the Administrative Board discussed, amongst other, the Multiannual Staff Policy Plan for 2014-2017, the Draft Budget for 2014, took note of the Provisional Multiannual work programme for years 2014-2018 and Annual work programme for year 2014, and adopted the Annual Report 2012. The presentations made by Denmark on Risk Management, by Ireland on Active Surveillance of compliance and by the EC on the road map on decentralised agencies were very welcomed.

At its 19th meeting, the Administrative Board adopted, inter alia, the Multiannual work programme of EFCA for years 2014-2018 and the Annual work programme for year 2014 together with the Budget of EFCA for year 2014. The Board also welcomed the presentation on EFCA's common approach road map (synergies with other agencies) and provided a mandate to the Executive Director to explore possible synergies with other agencies.

5.1.2. Advisory Board

The Advisory Board, composed of one representative of each Advisory Council (AC, former RACs), met twice in 2013 prior to the Administrative Board meetings; in Vigo on 21 February and in Baiona on 26 June 2013.

The Advisory Board representative in the EFCA Administrative Board is appointed in accordance with the yearly rotation system agreed by its members. From 2 March 2013 to 1 March 2014 the PelagicRAC was appointed representative of the Advisory Board in the Administrative Board, and the alternate the LDAC. The representative of the Advisory Board in the Administrative Board will rotate to the LDAC and the alternate will be the representative of the NSAC on 1 March 2014.

5.2. Communication

In 2013, several activities in the Communication domain were carried out in support of the EFCA mission and operational activities, as foreseen in the Communication Strategy Plan.

EFCA promoted a culture of compliance with the rules of the Common Fisheries Policy among the stakeholders by receiving on its premises upon request representatives from NGOs (such as Pew and other international organisations), scientists from IEO and CESIC and industry representatives from France, Spain, Italy and Finland. EFCA participated in the Comfish project fostering communication among stakeholders involved in EU fisheries.

The Agency also contributed to and supported the Communication Strategy defined by the European Commission in the field of the Common Fisheries Policy and in particular in the area of Control and Enforcement by attending the Seafood Exposition at the European Commission stand, keeping its website up to date with information and producing publications for the general public such as the MWP 2013-2017, the Annual Report 2012 and a new brochure on EFCA activities and tools to enhance a culture of compliance of the CFP.

Regarding the objective of having a fluent flow of information with the institutional actors while raising awareness about the Agency's work, EFCA organised a mini-hearing in the European Parliament which was entitled Tools to improve a Culture of Compliance in European Fisheries, on 22 April 2013. Representatives from the Irish Presidency and the Advisory Board (composed of representatives of both the fishing industry as well as NGOs) and EFCA gave their perspectives on the topic. The mini hearing was attended by 15 MEPs, other EU institutions officials and stakeholders. Prior to it on that day, EFCA advanced the presentation to European Commission officials during a lunch time conference. In addition, EFCA hosted the Interagency Annual Accountants meeting on 19-20 September 2013.

The French Minister in charge of Transport, Sea and Fishing, Mr. Frédéric Cuvillier, and a French delegation visited the EFCA on 4 October 2013. He was accompanied by the Delegate of the Spanish Government in Galicia, Mr. Samuel Juarez and the Director General of Fisheries, Mr. Andrés Hermida. EFCA did a presentation on its main activities and current objectives.

Communication with the media mainly revolved around the conclusions of the Administrative Board meetings, the hearing in the European Parliament, the bluefin tuna control campaign and the seminar on the Compliance Evaluation that took place in Baiona on 26-27 June 2013. With a view to promote the values of the European Union locally, EFCA organised like every year the Europe Day on its premises. The event was attended by prominent regional and local authorities as well as other fisheries stakeholders and was widely covered in the regional press. EFCA representatives also attended the inauguration of the Conxemar fair and White fish congress.

With regard to internal communications, regular internal meetings with the staff were held and the new intranet has been in the bug fixing for most part of the year and will be finally launched in 2014.



Visit of the the French Minister in charge of Transport, Sea and Fishing, Mr. Frédéric Cuvillier and the Delegate of the Spanish Government in Galicia, Mr. Samuel Juarez



Meeting with NGOs

5.3. Representation and networks

The **Advisory Councils (ACs)** represent the stakeholders in relevant geographical areas or fisheries. There are seven Advisory Councils which cover different fishing grounds; both in EU and international waters and those under fisheries agreements: North Sea AC, Pelagic Stocks AC, North Western Waters AC, Baltic Sea AC, Long Distance AC, South Western Waters AC and Mediterranean Sea AC.

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

During 2013, EFCA participated in meetings of the Executive Committees of the ACs, especially in those of the ACs affected by the Joint Deployment Plans adopted by EFCA. The Agency also participated in the AC Working Groups, but solely when issues referring to EFCA competences were included in the agendas of the relevant meetings.

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

Two main events must be highlighted, firstly the EFCA Hearing on Tools to improve a Culture of Compliance in the **European Parliament** (EP) Committee on Fisheries and secondly, the presentation by EFCA's Executive Director in the EP Committee on Fisheries on the subject of the Multiannual work programme 2014-2018 and Annual work programme 2014. Valuable contributions were made by the MEPs who acknowledged the work done by the Agency.

EFCA has participated, and supported the EU delegation, in meetings of the RFMOs, in which JDPs are implemented: NAFO, NEAFC, and ICCAT. During 2013, the Agency also participated in the Coastguard Forum meetings.

On horizontal matters, the **inter-agency cooperation** network coordinates the relations between Agencies, the Commission and the European Parliament. In this context, the Executive Director and the Head of 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, the Performance Development Network (PDN) and Accounting.

Noteworthy is the contribution of EFCA to the roadmap proposed by the European Commission following the tripartite approach on EU decentralised agencies endorsed by the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission in July 2012. EFCA has contributed to the roadmap implementation through the EU Agencies Performance Development Network to find synergies and to optimise the available resources.

Within the EU Agencies PDN the work developed, inter alia, in the following fields has been especially relevant: identification of common elements for the multiannual and annual work programme of the agencies, thus a proposal for a programming document across agencies, the repository and overview of the systems for indicators and performance measurement, and the guiding principles for agencies external evaluations.

The Agency was also represented on the Board of the Translation Centre in Luxembourg during two meetings in 2013.



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