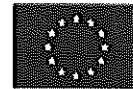




Administrative Board



Item 8: EFCA Evaluation – Issuing of recommendations

Recommendations by the Administrative Board to the Commission issued following the external independent evaluation of the European Fisheries Control Agency

Introductory remarks

According to Article 39 of Regulation (EC) 768/2005, as amended by Regulation (EC) 1224/2009, the Administrative Board of EFCA commissioned an independent external evaluation of the implementation of the Regulation. Following a competitive tender, the study was carried out by a consultant following the terms of reference agreed on by the Administrative Board.

The Administrative Board received the final report of the five years external independent evaluation on 2 March 2012.

In order to maintain an open discussion to debate and analyse the work that has been done since the setting up of the Agency and the way forward, the EFCA organised a Seminar on the Five Years Independent External Evaluation on 14 March 2012, with the participation of representatives of the Administrative Board of EFCA, the European Parliament and other concerned stakeholders. The Consultants presented their report to the Seminar.

The Administrative Board welcomes the Consultant's conclusions that "On the whole, governance arrangements have worked well. Considering the agency's limited resources, its operation in the politically sensitive environment of fisheries policy, and current Member State budget constraints, performance against the evaluation criteria of relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability can be considered promising"

On the basis of the consultant's report and discussions thereon at the Seminar that took place on 14 March 2012, the Administrative Board presents below its recommendations to the European Commission.

A follow up on the implementation of the recommendations will be provided in EFCA annual report.

European Fisheries Control Agency

Email: efca@efca.europa.eu – Tel: +34 986 12 06 10 – Fax: +34 886 12 52 37
Address: Edificio Odriozola, Avenida García Barbón 4, E-36201 Vigo – Spain
Postal Address: EFCA - Apartado de Correos 771 - E-36200 Vigo – Spain

1 Recommendations regarding changes to the Agency regulation 768/2005 as amended

1.1 On objectives and responsibilities

- 1.1.1 It is too premature to propose an amendment of Agency regulation. Nevertheless a guidance document with clear description of responsibilities delimitation between EFCA, EC, and MS is recommended.
- 1.1.2 Level playing field and coordination and assistance for better compliance are considered as wider objectives of the Agency.

2 Recommendations related to the Agency and its working practices.

2.1 On governance

- 2.1.1 Administrative Board to focus on strategic issues, leaving routine matters to be decided by written procedure.
- 2.1.2 Administrative Board participation is a Member State prerogative.
- 2.1.3 The Board should reflect on the participation of other parties in the Administrative Board.

2.2 On operational coordination

- 2.2.1 General agreement with regard to the introduction of multi-species and continuous regional JDP with a solid legal basis and prioritisation.
- 2.2.2 It was recognised to take action on improving estimates of Bluefin tuna biomass during transfer to cages.
- 2.2.3 To examine periodically at which level EFCA involvement in the JDPs provides the best added value, in accordance with the existing legal basis.

2.3 On training

- 2.3.1 Establish a clear overarching road map for training, in particular the remaining areas of the Core Curricula, including the training of trainers.
- 2.3.2 Review of working methods to accelerate the development of the Core Curricula.
- 2.3.3 Ensure maintenance of Core Curricula.
- 2.3.4 Establishment of regional training for national inspectors, as well as Union inspectors.



2.4 On dissemination of good practices

- 2.4.1 Show-case EFCA best practice on inter-agency and national agencies cooperation, and share EFCA experience on performance indicators for measuring administrative efficiency and effectiveness.
- 2.4.2 Take stock of exchanged best practices and dissemination via the EFCA website.

2.5 On assessment

- 2.5.1 Implement the recently prepared method for assessing the performance of the JDPs after discussion at regional level.
- 2.5.2 Development of indicators for measuring the effectiveness of capacity building.
- 2.5.3 Develop a method for assessing cost effectiveness for Member States.
- 2.5.4 Annual stock-taking of scientific evidence on developments with the fish stocks that the EFCA is focusing on. Consider scientific bodies request for access to data for scientific purposes.
- 2.5.5 EFCA and the EC to study ways of exchanging data on compliance with the Common Fisheries Policy requirements, in accordance with data ownership requirements of Member States.

2.6 On cooperation and communication

- 2.6.1 EFCA to develop an information portal for fisheries control.
- 2.6.2 Encourage the Agency to continue synergies between different meetings and use of telephone and video conferencing.
- 2.6.3 Enhancing regular, systematic, and effective communication with other stakeholders, particularly Member States, regarding the development of Agency activities.