

NAFO/NEAFC JOINT DEPLOYMENT PLAN 2021

NEAFC 1st Campaign

PARTICIPANTS

- 1 EST inspector
- 1 LTU inspector
- 1 EFCA Coordinator (acting also as inspector)

PERIOD:

18 October – 7 November 2021

AREA:

NEAFC REGULATORY AREA, ICES DIVISION 27.2.a, on board the EU (EFCA chartered) OPV LUNDY SENTINEL

OBJECTIVES

- Verify compliance by EU and other Contracting Parties vessels fishing in the NEAFC Regulatory Area with requirements of the NEAFC Scheme of Control and Enforcement as well as compliance by EU fishing vessels with any other Union conservation and control measures applicable to these vessels.
- To monitor if no bottom fishing activities occur in the closed areas for the protection of VMEs in the NEAFC Regulatory Area and outside existing bottom fishing areas.
- To monitor and verify the compliance of fisheries exploiting Bluefin tuna with the requirements of ICCAT Recommendation 19-04 and Recommendation 20-07, Regulation (EU) No. 2016/1627 of the European Parliament and the Council, as amended, as well as all other relevant applicable rules as appropriate.
- Support to other coast guard functions activities on request. The OPV “Lundy Sentinel” depending on her geographical location will be available to support multipurpose operations under the framework of European cooperation on Coast Guard functions in support of the MS competent authorities, if requested by specific EU MS and/or EU Agency. Beyond Search and rescue, possible tasks identified are: Oil pollution response services and assistance depending on vessel Lundy Sentinel’s availability and prior endorsement of the Unit management.

RESULTS

- 5 NEAFC sightings.

- No infringements detected.

OBSERVATIONS

- OPV LUNDY SENTINEL left Vigo, Spain on the 18th of October and entered the NEAFC RA, ICES division 27.2.a (Banana Hole) on the 25th of October to carry out the first campaign of the year in the NEAFC RA.
- During the mission, there was only 1 EU vessel operating in the NEAFC RA, Banana Hole, and 2 to 8 fishing vessels from other Contracting Parties. The overall number of vessels fishing in the area during this mission varied from 2 to 3.
- The 3 fishing vessels engaged in fishery, were targeting WHB in the South, South-West part of the NEAFC RA, Banana Hole. Two of them entered NEAFC RA from Faroese EEZ with catches of WHB, HER, and MAC, according to COE messages. Other fishing vessels were transiting the Banana Hole.
- During the patrol in the NEAFC RA, Banana Hole, only pelagic fishery occurred and no fishing vessels exploiting Bluefin tuna stock were observed.
- No activities related with other Coast Guard functions were performed during this patrol.
- Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, EFCA had established special safeguarding measures for EFCA staff and other personnel involved in the mission and followed those closely.
- The patrol was greatly influenced by many natural factors such as weather conditions and available daylight, and the availability of fishing vessels during the patrol.
- Initially it was planned to be present in the NEAFC RA for 7 days but due to adverse weather circumstances, it was decided for safety reasons to leave the RA earlier. OPV LUNDY SENTINEL left the NEAFC RA, Banana Hole on the 29th of October and headed back to Vigo.