

EUROPEAN FISHERIES CONTROL AGENCY

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

(Consolidated Annual Activity Report 2021)

Legal basis:

Articles 15 and 32(2)(b) of Regulation (EU) 2019/473 of the European Parliament (EP) and of the Council of 19 March 2019 on the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA)¹, Article 48 of the Financial Regulation (FR) of the European Fisheries Control Agency².

¹ Official Journal (OJ) L 83, 25.3.2019, p. 18.

² Administrative Board (AB) Decision No 19-W-05 of 29 August 2019.

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FOREWORD BY THE CHAIR OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD

The Consolidated Annual Activity Report 2021, subsequently referred as Annual Report 2021, provides a thorough description of the activities of the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) carried out during 2021.

The activities range from the operational coordination of fisheries activities in the European Union, risk assessment and data analysis, compliance with the international provisions of the Common Fisheries Policy and contribution to the European cooperation on coast guard functions and Capacity Building.

These activities clearly contribute to a culture of compliance and to the harmonised and efficient application of the Common Fisheries Policy. Moreover, they are firmly embedded in the European Green Deal helping safeguard biodiversity and also contributing to a sustainable blue economy.

Even though the COVID-19 pandemic kept posing challenges, the well established health and safety protocols, allowed for EFCA to go ahead with its operational activities and implement the six Joint Deployment Plans (JDP) covering all EU sea-basins and international waters.

EFCA was reinforced with additional resources to help the Union implement the Trade and Cooperation Agreement with the UK. In this sense, EFCA was granted with more staff and additional operational capacity. This reinforcement is also an acknowledgement of the good work done by EFCA so far.

As newly elected Chair of the Administrative Board, in which Member States and the Commission are represented, I would like to thank the excellent work of my predecessor, Veronika Veits, at the helm of EFCA's Administrative Board.

I am confident we will carry on working together for a level playing field and a uniform and effective application of the CFP and I would like to express my gratitude to all institutions and partners that helped EFCA achieve its objectives. Thanks to our common effort, EFCA delivered entirely the work programme for 2021.

ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD'S ANALYSIS AND ASSESSMENT

The Administrative Board,

Having regard to the EU Regulation (EU) 2019/473 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 March 2019 on the European Fisheries Control Agency³,

Having regard to the Financial Regulation of the European Fisheries Control Agency of 29 August 2019 and in particular Article 48 thereof,

Having regard to the Multiannual work programme (MWP) 2021-2025 and Annual work programme 2021 adopted by the Administrative Board on 14 October 2020⁴, as amended on 04 June 2021⁵,

The Annual Report 2021 is adopted following the template provided by the communication from the Commission on the strengthening of the governance of Union Bodies under Article 70 of the Financial Regulation 2018/1046 and on the guidelines for the Single Programming Document (SPD) and the Consolidated Annual Activity Report. The activities have been grouped following the structure presented on the Single Programming document containing the Multiannual work programme 2021-2025 and the Annual work programme 2021,

Has analysed and assessed the Authorising Officer's (Executive Director's) Annual Report for the financial year 2021. The Administrative Board acknowledges the results achieved by EFCA and notes in particular the following:

1. The Annual Report 2021 provides a faithful and comprehensive account of the work undertaken by EFCA in 2021. It reflects the achievements of EFCA as set out in the Multiannual work programme 2021-2025 and in the Annual work programme 2021 adopted by the Administrative Board on 14 October 2020, and its subsequent amendment.
2. The absence of any open observations from the European Court of Auditors (ECA), the suitable follow-up of the observations from the European Parliament and the absence of *critical or very important* recommendations from the Internal Audit Service (IAS).
3. The final implementation of EFCA's budget is 99.1% for commitments and 74.5% for payments.

EFCA initially received a total budget of €17 million as a contribution from the General EU Budget for 2021, representing an increase of 0.6% in respect of 2020. Within the framework of the collaboration agreements with the United Kingdom, EFCA was granted €4 million more to be implemented starting in July 2021, raising the total budget of 2021 to €21 million (increase of 24.3% in respect of 2020).

In addition, EFCA received resources during 2021 in relation to the grant for Improved Regional fisheries governance in Western Africa (PESCAO project), to be implemented from 2018-2022. In total, the grant awarded equalled €2.5 million, from which €0.62 million was earmarked for 2021

EFCA promotes a policy of equality, aiming to have an optimal gender balance among its staff. On 31 December 2021, the overall percentage of female staff members was 51%. This figure is reduced to 49%, if SNEs are included. The percentage of female staff grade AD8 (administrator's function group, grade 8) and higher was 38%.

³ Regulation (EU) 2019/473 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 March 2019 on the European Fisheries Control Agency, OJ L 83, 25.3.2019

⁴ Administrative Board Decision No 20-II-8 of the Administrative Board of the European Fisheries Control Agency of 14 October 2020 concerning the adoption of Adoption of the Single Programming Document containing the Multiannual work programme 2021 - 2025 and Annual work programme for 2021 and of the Budget and the Establishment plan of the European Fisheries Control Agency for year 2021

⁵ Administrative Board Decision No 21II-03 of the Administrative Board of the European Fisheries Control Agency of 4 June 2021 amending AB Decision No 20-II-07 of 14 October 2020 concerning the adoption of the EFCA Single Programming Document containing the Multiannual work programme 2021 - 2025 and the Annual work programme for year 2021 and of the Budget and the Establishment Plan of the European Fisheries Control Agency for year 2021

4. With reference to the operational activities, the following facts and figures were specifically relevant:
- six JDPs successfully implemented;
 - six strategic risk assessment carried out in preparation of the JDPs 2021;
 - 32 specific actions implemented in the framework of the North Sea, Baltic Sea and Western Waters JDPs;
 - eight specific campaigns implemented in the framework of the Mediterranean Sea and Black Sea JDPs;
 - number of inspections (at sea and ashore) reported within the JDPs framework⁶: 53 567;
 - number of inspections with at least one suspected infringement⁷ reported: 4 031;
 - the deployment of EFCA's chartered vessels, Lundy Sentinel and Aegis (since September 2021), provided robust platforms for fisheries inspections, leading to 77 inspections and 22 suspected infringements detected fostering transparency, exchange of knowledge and expertise and a first-hand understanding of fisheries situations in terms of compliance;
 - the progress made and the work carried out within the framework of cooperation on coast guard functions with EMSA and Frontex and the implementation of the Annual Strategic Plan;
 - at the request of the European Commission, the EFCA assisted the Union to cooperate with third countries and international organisations dealing with fisheries, including RFMOs, in order to strengthen operational coordination and compliance;
 - in the framework of PESCAO, EFCA contributed to the achievement of the overall objective of the PESCAO project, to enhance the contribution of fisheries resources to sustainable development, food security and poverty alleviation in West Africa. EFCA provided technical support to the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission, the Fisheries Committee for the Western Central Gulf of Guinea and their member countries, in a coordinated manner, using its experience in the EU context;
 - EFCA organised and contributed to 41 training events; a total of 1 421 officials (EU Member States and third countries) were trained;
 - in order to promote and proliferate the use of its e-learning platform by Member States' inspectors, EFCA finalised the translation of the video tutorials on the use of mesh gauges and the IMS (developed in cooperation with EMSA) into Bulgarian, Dutch, Estonian, Finnish, Latvian, Lithuanian, Romanian, and Swedish.
5. Following the advancements and achievements of 2020 in the areas of paperless and electronic workflows, 2021 has been a year of consolidation and optimisation of the existing procedures. The teleworking arrangements have continued, which has increased the dependency on the electronic tools and workflows even further. EFCA has made improvement and simplifications of existing procedures, finding new ways of increasing the efficiency in the administrative areas.
6. EFCA implements an internal control framework applicable at all levels of management and it is designed to provide reasonable assurance that operations are effective and efficient and financial reporting complies with applicable laws and regulations.
7. The information provided in the Annual Report 2021 gives the Administrative Board reasonable assurance that the resources available to EFCA in 2021 were used for their intended purpose and in accordance with the principles of sound financial management.

Done on 05 April 2022

[Signed]

Chair of the Administrative Board

⁶ Provisional data based on the information provided by Member States up to 2 February 2022

⁷ Provisional data based on the information provided by Member States up to 2 February 2022

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2021, the European Fisheries Control Agency implemented 98.6% of the Annual Work Programme (AWP) adopted by the Administrative Board in the framework of the Single Programming Document, despite the challenges still caused by COVID-19. Implementation was aligned with a coherent budget execution of 99.1%.

The agency supported the Member States and the Commission in the effective and harmonised implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy through the coordination of the Joint Deployments Plans and the capacity building activities in the framework of the international dimension. The European cooperation on coast guard functions, formalised by a tripartite working arrangement with EMSA and Frontex, also enhanced EFCA's capacity of contributing to fisheries control.

During 2021, additional resources were granted to EFCA providing the Agency with the necessary operational capacity for assisting the Member States and the European Commission in the monitoring, control and surveillance regime harnessed to the Common Fisheries Policy, including the measures entailed by the Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) with the UK. The amended work programme anticipated also three new projects subsidised by grants in the frame of the upcoming European Maritime Fisheries and aquaculture Fund (EMFAF). These projects would encompass a study on the weighting process of fisheries products across the Union, a virtual regional training academy in the Western Mediterranean Sea for fisheries control and inspection, and the maintenance of the Handbook and online sectorial qualification framework (SQF) for the European cooperation on Coast Guard functions.

Highlights of EFCA's performance within its mandate include:

- In 2021 all six JDPs (NAFO/NEAFC, North Sea, Baltic Sea, Black Sea, Western Waters, Mediterranean & Eastern Atlantic) were implemented as planned, keeping the measures and protocols set due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Through the use of JDPs, EFCA provided assistance to Member States and the European Commission in the area of control, inspection and surveillance. Specifically, the activity focused on joint coordination and enhancement of the potential of national enforcement services to apply the rules of the Common Fisheries Policy in a uniform and effective manner. In 2021, the cooperative efforts led to 53 567 coordinated inspections, and 4 031 inspections with at least one suspected infringement.
- Following the JDPs 2020 – Cost Assessment Report, the overall cost evaluation for implementing JDPs in 2020 were approximately of €71 million.
- In accordance with the results of the regional risk analysis, priority was given to the control of fisheries with the highest risks, and joint control activities were regularly coordinated in the context of specific actions. In total there were 32 specific actions proposed in the framework of three JDPs and eight specific campaigns implemented in the framework of the Mediterranean Sea and Black.
- In 2021 EFCA used the framework of the JDPs to enhance the standardisation of inspections, in particular through increasing the last haul observation procedures during inspections at sea in all EU JDP areas.
- The North Sea and Western Waters JDPs, included the establishment of a Virtual Coordination Network (VCN), aiming to enhance a common situational awareness picture, give focus to risks related with the Trade and Cooperation Agreement with UK. The VCN takes into account the outcomes of the risk assessment where threats associated with control of fishing activity in terms of licencing, access to resources displacement of fishing effort and gear conflicts were identified.

The VCN also plays an important role on assess the impacts to control in EU waters due to divergences between the UK and EU regulations and was a key channel of communication

between the EC, Member States and EFCA concerning UK fisheries related issues and a main element to coordinate control activities.

- EFCA provided assistance to the Member States regional Control Expert Groups (CEGs). EFCA cooperated with the CEGs of the main regional bodies created in the framework of regionalisation, such as BALTFISH, Scheveningen, NWW and SWW CEGs. The work of these groups has been reinforced and enhanced in accordance with the updated Terms of Reference and CEG's workplans for 2021 and 2022.

The main areas of activities with the support of EFCA are the common understanding on the application of fisheries related regulations from the perspective of control and inspection, and the implementation of the LO, in particular in the areas of risk assessment, evaluation of compliance and remote electronic monitoring.

- In the international dimension of the Common Fisheries Policy, EFCA continued to assist the Commission to cooperate with third countries and international organisations dealing with fisheries such as Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (namely, NAFO, NEAFC, ICCAT and GFCM), to strengthen operational coordination and compliance.
- In the fight against IUU activities, EFCA assisted the European Commission with the analysis of 138 catch certificates and 78 processing statements for two third countries.

In the framework of the five-year EU funded PESCAO project, including a component aiming to improve the fight against Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) fishing activities in Western Africa, EFCA continued to provide technical assistance to the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission (SRFC), the Fisheries Committee for the Western Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC) and their member countries, in a coordinated manner, using the experience gained in the EU context.

- The Tripartite Working Agreement (TWA) between, EFCA, EMSA and Frontex sets the foundations for the framework of cooperation, which aims to support national authorities carrying out Coast Guard Functions and to provide assistance and expertise on coordination and fisheries control using the means available in the agencies. An important achievement in 2021 was the agreement between the three agencies on a new and reinforced TWA, which entered into force on the 18 March 2021 and replaced the first TWA signed in 2017. EFCA, as chair of the TWA Steering Committee during the first half of 2021, successfully led the negotiations to agree on the new TWA.

EFCA provided support to the Commission and in cooperation with Frontex and EMSA led the preparations involving MS national authorities as regards the Practical Handbook on European Cooperation on Coast Guard Functions. The Handbook was made available in July 2021 by the European Commission through a recommendation⁸. The cooperation supports the implementation of the European Union Maritime Security Strategy⁹ as well as some specific activities to the EU blue economy report.¹⁰

- Training activities in support of the effective and uniform application of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) are crucial to guarantee a fair and equitable treatment to the Union operators. Currently, 1421 officials are trained by EFCA, including by e-learning.
- EFCA's chartered OPVs, the Lundy Sentinel, and Aegis since September 2021, were operational and provided a robust platform for fisheries inspections leading to a total of 77 inspections and 22 suspected infringements detected. The EFCA chartered OPVs contributed to the implementation of JDPs in the EU sea basins by adding capacity to fisheries control operations

⁸ https://ec.europa.eu/oceans-and-fisheries/publications/handbook-european-cooperation-coast-guard-functions_en

⁹ Council conclusions on the revision of the European Union Maritime Security Strategy (EUMSS) Action Plan (26 June 2018), doc.10494/18.

¹⁰ The EU blue economy report 2021 - Publications Office of the EU (europa.eu)

outside the territorial waters of MS and providing a platform to deploy multinational Member State inspection teams. This promoted transparency and a level playing field and fostered a good exchange of knowledge and expertise. It also provided a first-hand understanding of fisheries situations in terms of compliance, to enable the fine tuning of risk assessments. In addition to fisheries control tasks, EFCA's OPVs were made available for multipurpose tasks in the framework of European cooperation on coast guard functions, such as search and rescue, maritime border control and pollution response operations, in cooperation with Member State authorities, Frontex and EMSA. The Lundy Sentinel also included a light Remotely Piloted Aircraft System on board.

- EFCA's information systems enabled the collection of data from each Member State providing details of their fishing vessels, catches and other such information. Overall, EFCA was sent Electronic Reporting System-logbook data from 6054 vessels in 12 Member States and Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) data from different vessels, throughout all Member States.
- The EFCA IMS application is used by a large community of Member States users as a support to fisheries control and activities against IUU fishing. By the end of 2021, 1167 credentials were issued to users of the fisheries control authorities in Member States, the European Commission and EFCA. This is an increase of 10.8 % compared to 2020. EFCA collaborates with EMSA in the provision of services through a web-based application, which integrates maritime data from several sources.

The use of specific functionalities and services such as Automatic Behavior Monitoring (ABM) and Copernicus Maritime Services (CMS) - both imbedded in the EFCA IMS application - are taken on board in various Joint Deployment Plans.

As agreed in the North Sea JDP decision, the Real Time Closures established in the North Sea are visible in the EFCA IMS promoting an efficient monitoring and control of fisheries activities in these areas.

- 2021 has been a year of consolidation and optimisation of the existing procedures in terms of paperless administration and electronic workflows. The teleworking arrangements have continued, which has increased the dependency on the electronic tools and workflows even further. EFCA has made improvement and simplifications of existing procedures, finding new ways of increasing the efficiency in the administrative areas.
- Through its Communication strategy, EFCA promotes a culture of compliance with the Common Fisheries Policy and fosters the European Union values. The Annual Communication Strategy had to be adapted to a flexible hybrid mode, with online communication during the times with more restrictions, and moving to physical events when allowed.

On 21 April 2021 EFCA Administrative Board appointed me, Susan Steele, as Executive Director of the European Fisheries Control Agency. I had the honour to take office in September 2021 after ten years of dedication and determined leadership of Pascal Savouret.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank sincerely EFCA staff for their welcome, excellence and professionalism. Also, I want to thank the Member States and the Commission for their trust in me in the important task we have ahead.

The present report is addressed to the Administrative Board of EFCA, the different EU Institutions, the EFCA stakeholders and the general public. As in previous years, a fifth issue of 'A year in review' providing a summarised version of the EFCA Annual Report 2021 will be published.

PART I. ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE YEAR

1.1 MULTIANNUAL PROGRAMME 2021-2025

In accordance with its Founding Regulation¹¹, EFCA's 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"*.

EFCA's multiannual framework is guided, *inter alia*, by:

- the implementation of the features of the Common Fisheries Policy;
- the European Green Deal¹²;
- the recommendations issued by the Administrative Board following the Five Year Independent External Evaluation of the European Fisheries Control Agency on 21 June 2017;
- the Framework Financial Regulation (FFR);
- the support to the implementation of the European Union Maritime Security Strategy (EUMSS)¹³, where EFCA, together with EMSA and Frontex is contributing through the implementation of the European Coastguard initiative.
- the Roadmap on the follow-up to the Common Approach on EU decentralised agencies;

Moreover, in line with the Council conclusions "Towards an ever more sustainable Union by 2030"¹⁴, the Commission Communication "Next steps for a sustainable European future"¹⁵ and its reflection paper 'Towards a Sustainable Europe by 2030'¹⁶ on the follow-up to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, including on the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, and in accord with the European Union Agencies' Network (EUAN)¹⁷, EFCA closely adheres to the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)¹⁸:

Goal 5: Gender Equality

- Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision making in political, economic and public life.

Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

- Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment.
- Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all.

Goal 13: Climate Action

- Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning.
- Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning.

¹¹ Regulation (EU) 2019/473 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 March 2019 on the European Fisheries Control Agency, OJ L 83, 25.3.2019, p. 18.

¹² Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee Of The Regions, EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, COM(2020) 380 final

¹³ Council conclusions on the revision of the European Union Maritime Security Strategy (EUMSS) Action Plan (26 June 2018), doc.10494/18

¹⁴ Council conclusions "Towards an ever more sustainable Union by 2030", as adopted by the Council at its 3685th meeting held on 9 April 2019, <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-8286-2019-INIT/en/pdf>

¹⁵ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions Next steps for a sustainable European future, European action for sustainability, COM (2016)0739 final, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM%3A2016%3A739%3AFIN>

¹⁶ European Commission, Reflection Paper Towards a sustainable Europe By 2030 https://ec.europa.eu/commission/publications/reflection-paper-towards-sustainable-europe-2030_en

¹⁷ 2019-2020 Work Programme of the Network of EU Agencies, https://euagencies.eu/sites/default/files/euan_wp_2019_2020_0.pdf

¹⁸ <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

Goal 14: Life below Water

- By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics.

❖ Coordination and cooperation with Member States

EFCA is the European body responsible for organising operational coordination of fisheries control activities and providing assistance in that area to the Member States and the Commission.

The main methods for EFCA to assist Member States in the implementation of the control measures linked with the Common Fisheries Policy, through coordination of their efforts and promotion of cooperation, are:

- The Joint Deployment Plans (JDP)¹⁹, established for fisheries/areas that are considered a priority by the European Commission and the Member States concerned. They can be referred to as:
 - EU waters to which a Specific Control and Inspection Programme (SCIP)²⁰ adopted by the Commission in concert with the Member States applies, or
 - International waters under the competence of a Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (RFMO), where EFCA is requested to coordinate the implementation of the European obligations under international control and inspection programmes.
- The EFCA assistance to the Member States in accordance with articles 7 and 16 of EFCA's Founding Regulation, after a request from one or more Member States, including through cooperation with the Member States Control Expert Groups.

❖ Evolution of Joint Deployment Plans

In accordance with the Multiannual Work Programme, the Five-Year Independent External Evaluation of EFCA (2012-2016)²¹ and the related recommendations issued by the Administrative Board, JDPs are implemented as year-round joint operations covering a wide range of fisheries directed to the most relevant species as defined in the relevant SCIP decisions. These operations include a permanent exchange of information and intelligence between the Member States concerned.

Currently, as the SCIP is not limited in time, all JDPs have a multiannual scope. Control activities are planned for each year on the basis of the results of regional risk assessments. Member States assess the existing risks with regard to fish stocks, areas, periods and fleet segments exploiting these stocks, following the harmonised methodology established in cooperation with EFCA and Member States in accordance with the SCIP requirements. The JDP strategic planning for 2021 addressed all the prominent risks identified through a set of risk treatment measures in the form of specific actions and campaigns.

The JDP framework ensured that the Member States concerned kept collaborating closely with each other in 2021. This collaboration was accomplished thanks to the work of the Technical Joint Deployment Group (TJDG) of each JDP and the joint coordination of specific campaigns²²/specific actions²³ through

¹⁹ See Part 1.2.1 Operational activities.

²⁰ See Part 1.2.1 Operational activities.

²¹ https://www.efca.europa.eu/en/library?f%5B0%5D=field_library_type%3A69

²² 'Specific campaign' means a joint action where the concerned Member States and EFCA jointly focus on a specific fishery of primary common importance, planned in function of the results of the regional risk assessment. This specific campaign will be scheduled to take place in a specific period and in a specific area. Member States (MS) and EFCA will ensure efficient information flow on a daily basis and asset tasking. To facilitate a real-time coordination, the joint coordination team can be activated virtually or physically at the EFCA Coordination Centre during the operational period of these specific campaigns." *EFCA ED Decision 2020/16 and EFCA ED Decision 2021/35*.

²³ 'Specific action' means a joint action where the concerned Member States and EFCA jointly focus on a specific fishery(ies) to address a specific threat of high risk as identified by the regional risk assessment. The specific action will be scheduled to take

a virtual coordination centre and exchanges of inspectors, although in low number compared to previous years²⁴. Other important elements are the exchange of Vessel Monitoring System and Electronic Reporting System (ERS) data, sharing of information on daily deployment of control assets (Situation Report - SITREP), results of inspection activities (Activity Report - ACTREP), lists of priority targets for inspections, and intelligence concerning current risk issues in the joint campaign areas. The exchange of data and sharing of information as well as using EFCA IMS at operational level, contributed positively to the transparency of the control operations in the JDPs areas.

As regards the graph and table “*JDPs inspections and suspected infringements evolution*” reported in 2021 for all JDPs, there was a decrease on the number of inspections conducted in the North Sea (67%) and in the Black Sea (1%) JDPs. The significant decrease in the North Sea JDP is mainly driven by the absence of inspections that previously were conducted by UK, in particular land inspections conducted on markets, which constituted 70% of the 2020 inspections conducted in the North Sea. The number of inspections in Baltic Sea, Western Waters, NAFO & NEAFC and in the Mediterranean Sea JDPs increased in 2021. In the case of the Western Waters JDP the increase (of 24% in relation to previous year) is due to an increase of sea-based inspections reported to EFCA, as a result of a better reporting of Member States activities implementation of the demersal component, required by the SCIP since 2019. The MED JDP²⁵ contributed the most to this increase (82% increase on inspections reported under the JDP), again due to the wider scope of this SCIP in 2021, where new fisheries were covered, also reflecting a better and timely (or improved) reporting of Member States activities. The observed increases are not necessarily linked to increases in Member States control efforts in the relevant sea-basins. The increase in total number of inspections in the Baltic Sea JDP was of 14%, proportionally for land and sea inspections. Regarding the NAFO & NEAFC JDP, the observed increase of inspections on 2021 was of 163%, mainly due to an increase of land inspections of vessels operating in NAFO RA²⁶ and sea inspections in NEAFC RA.

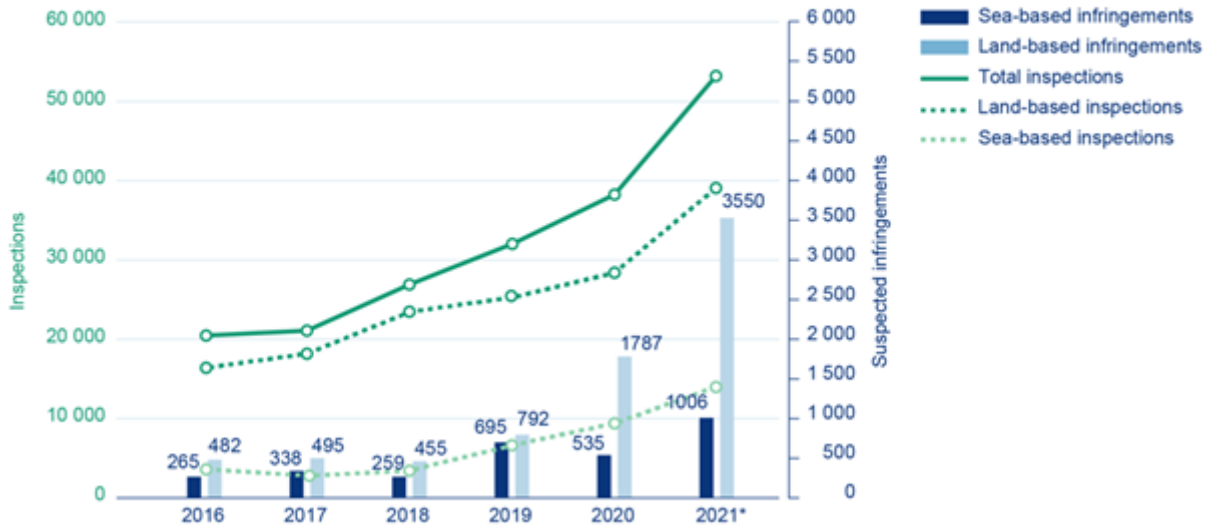
place during a specific period and in a specific area. The Member States and EFCA will ensure routine information flow and adequate asset tasking. To facilitate a real-time coordination, the joint coordination team can be activated virtually or physically at the EFCA Coordination Centre during the operational period of the specific action.

²⁴ Exchanges the Black Sea JDP could not be implemented due to the restrictions in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic.

²⁵ Mediterranean JDP (it also covers BFT in the Eastern Atlantic).

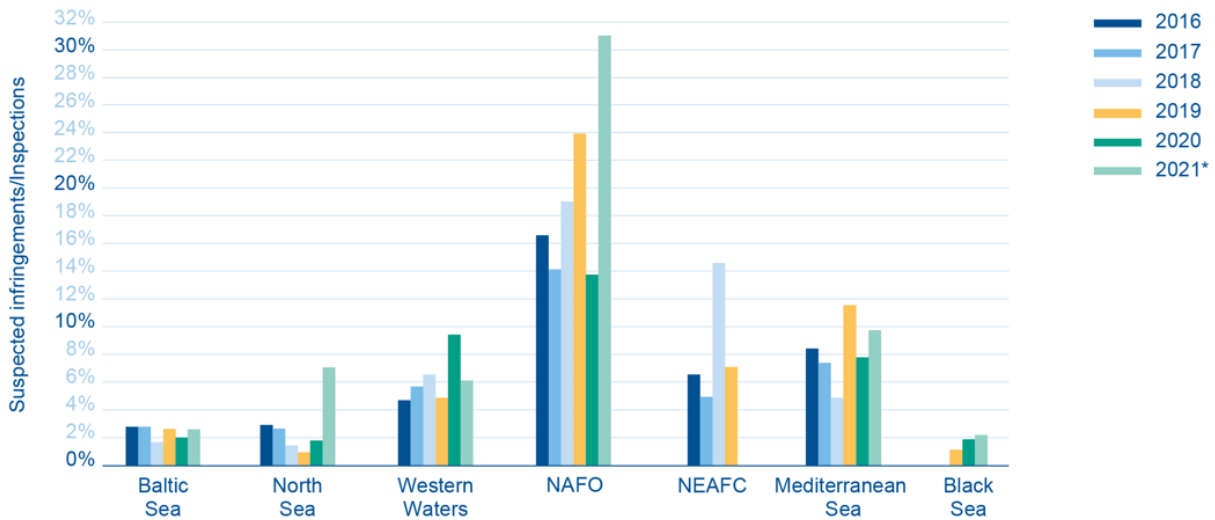
²⁶ Since 2021, all land inspections of vessels operating in NAFO RA were considered under the JDP framework, while in previous years' JDP, only the land inspections with mixed teams were considered.

JDPs inspections and suspected infringements evolution



As regards the “*Ratio of suspected infringements by inspection in the different JDP areas*”, an increase of suspected infringement ratio in the North Sea, NAFO, and Mediterranean Sea JDPs, compared with the previous year can be noted. The suspected infringement ratio for the Western Waters JDP is lower compared to the suspected infringement ratio identified in 2020. The suspected infringement ration in the Baltic Sea and the Black Sea are very close (slightly higher) to the ratio of 2020. All the suspected infringements (25) detected in the NAFO-NEAFC JDP, were in the NAFO RA.

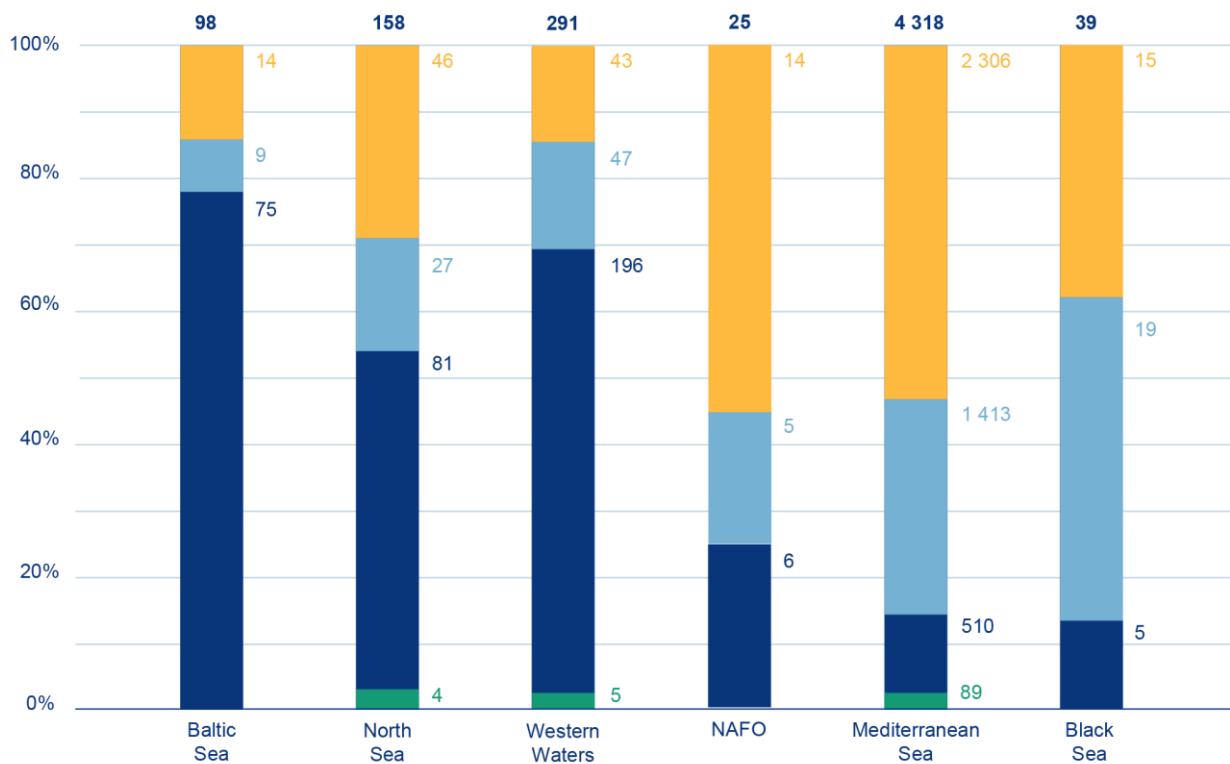
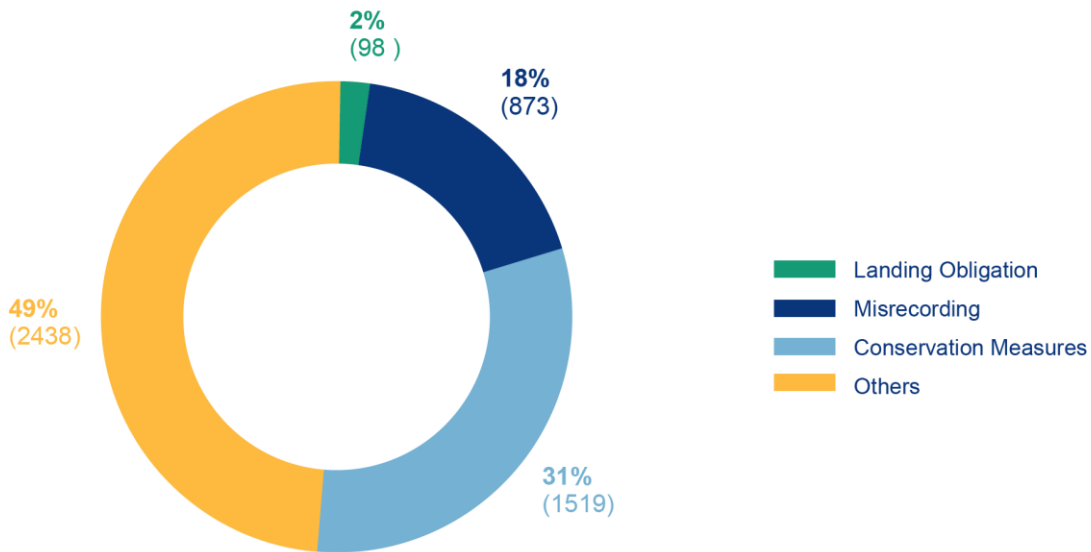
Ratio of suspected infringements by inspection in the different JDP areas*



*Data available on 2 February 2022. Additional data may be received later from Member States.

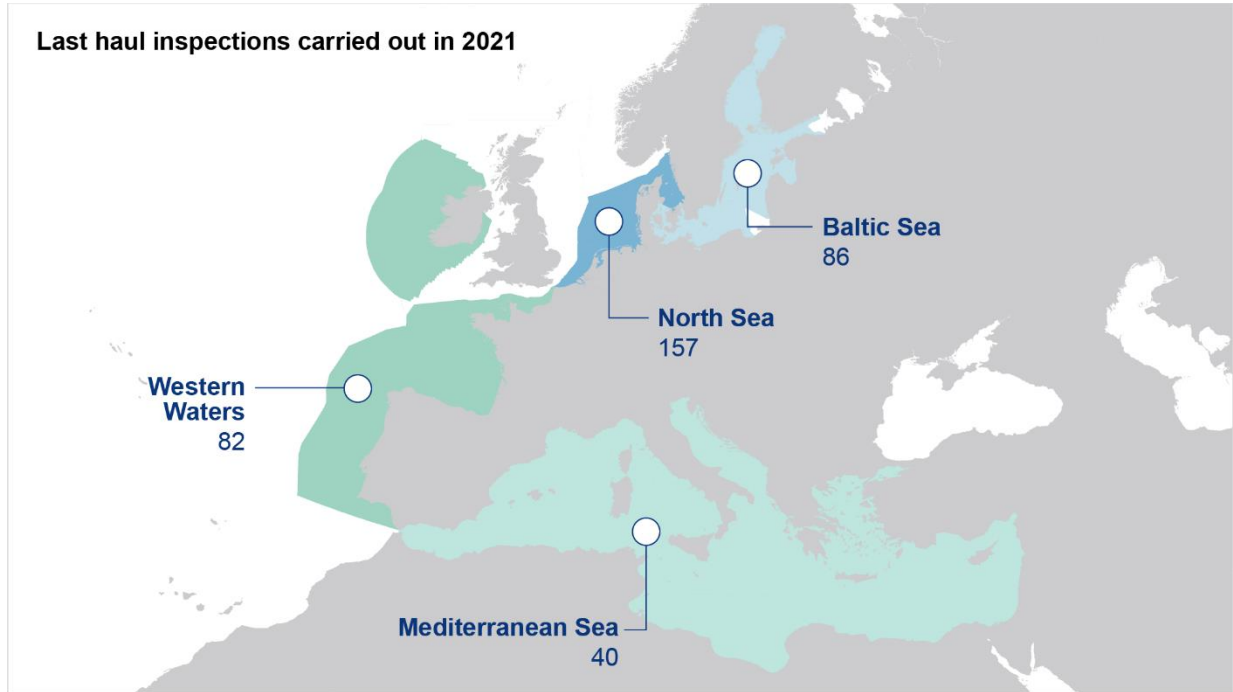
A detailed analysis by type of the most significant suspected infringements found in 2021, provided below, confirms that half of the total suspected infringements detected concern misreporting/misrecording and technical conservation measures related infringements. These are generally considered to be the main threats together with possible non-compliance with the requirements of the landing obligation for which the number of infringements remains extremely low (compared with the total) because of the lack of appropriate control means and tools to detect instances of illegal discards. The category “Others” encompasses a very diverse suspected infringements type that are not related with the previous categories and are presented in detail in Tables D of the various JDPs of Annex I. In 2021, the suspected infringements related with misrecording were the more common detected suspected infringements in the Baltic Sea (76%), North Sea (51%) and Western Waters JDPs (67%). For the Mediterranean Sea and Black Sea JDPs, and based on the data reported by Member States, suspected infringements categorised as “Others” and “Conservation measures” are the most common. No suspected infringements were detected on fishing activities in the NEAFC RA. Details of the suspected infringement are presented in Annex I for each JDP.

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



*Data available on 2 February 2022. Additional data may be received later from Member States.

The last haul inspections (LH), last observed haul during a sea inspection where catch composition is recorded (sampled) by the inspector on board in the framework of the Landing Obligation, continued to be promoted and enhanced in JDPs to obtain a compliance indicator for deriving levels of illegal discards.. The number of LH inspections conducted per JDP area in 2021 is presented in the map below. For all the JDPs with a Last Haul programme the number of Last Hauls conducted in 2021 was higher than the previous year.



❖ Strategic multiannual objectives

The table below presents EFCA's **strategic multiannual objectives** and the progress made towards their fulfilment.

STRATEGIC MULTIANNUAL OBJECTIVES	Key Performance Indicator (KPI)	STATE OF PLAY END 2021		TARGET
1. To evaluate and to contribute to enhancing the level of compliance by JDP, and propose measures for improvement in cooperation with Member States and EC ²⁷	Evolution of compliance levels	NS	9%↑	Compliance levels evaluated by JDP
		BS	2%↓	
		NAFO & NEAFC	NAFO 22%↑ NEAFC 0%↓	
		WW	14%↑	
		MED	7%↓	
		Black Sea	4%↓	
2. Standardised methodology used for inspection activities	Standard inspection methodologies adopted	At least one methodology per JDP implemented		One methodology per JDP
3. Cooperation provided to fight against IUU fishing at international level	Support provided by EFCA on request of the European Commission at international level	100%		100%
4. Contribute to achieve a Level Playing Field through Capacity Building tools	Number of officials trained by EFCA, including by e-learning	1421		1000 (per year)
5. Support to National authorities in coast guard functions	Number of JDPs with multipurpose operations organised	6 ²⁸		5
6. Improve EFCA working practices	Number of Administrative Board recommendations following the Five-year independent external evaluation of EFCA (2012-2016) implemented or ongoing ²⁹	11		10 out of 11 (2021)

²⁷ Values presented correspond to the infringement ratio of sea inspections in 2021. The symbols “↓”, and “↑” denote, a decrease or an increase respectively, of the infringement ratio of sea inspection in 2021 in relation to the average infringement ratio of sea inspections in 2016-2020, for Black Sea 2021 values are compared with the average 2019-20. Data available on 2 February 2022.

²⁸ Implemented during the period 2019-2021.

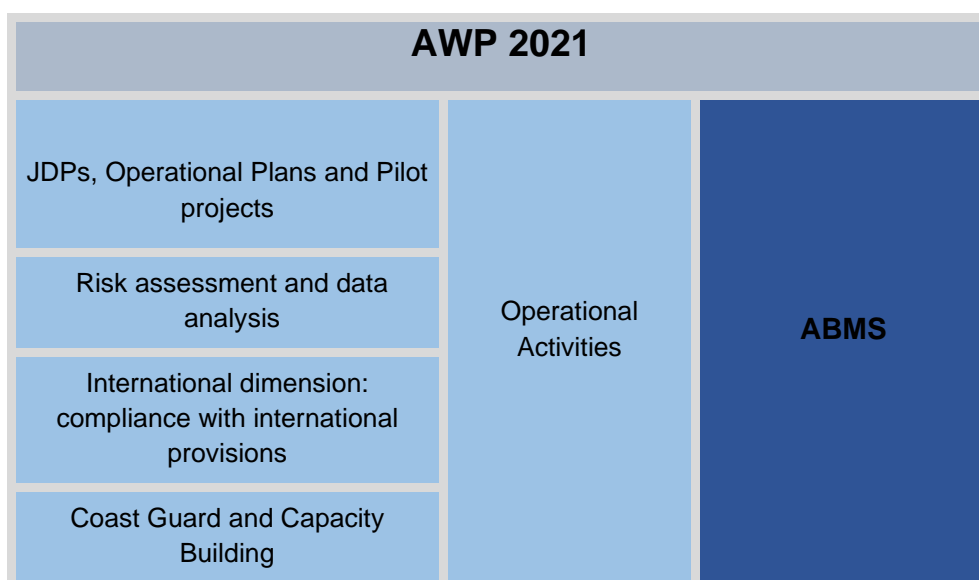
²⁹ Five-Year Independent External Evaluation Report of EFCA and the Administrative Board recommendations: <https://www.efca.europa.eu/en/content/external-evaluation-2017>

1.2 ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME 2021

In line with the Framework Financial Regulation and EFCA’s Financial Regulation provisions on annual and multiannual programming, the Annual Report 2021 was adopted following the Communication from the Commission on the strengthening of the governance of Union Bodies under Article 70 of the Financial Regulation 2018/1046 and on the guidelines for the Single Programming Document and the Consolidated Annual Activity Report.³⁰

The Annual Report 2021 mirrors the structure of the Annual Work Programme 2021, especially in the achievements of the year and embeds the requirements laid down in the Commission guidelines and template for the Consolidated Annual Activity Report.

The reporting of the operational activities has been grouped into four areas in accordance with the SPD 2021 structure.



The main year results are presented in the main body of the report, while comprehensive operational and administrative information is provided in the annexes.

³⁰ 25 C(2020) 2297 final

ANTI COVID-19 MEASURES

Despite the standing challenges caused by COVID-19, the Agency was able to implement 98.6% of the annual work programme in cooperation with the Member States and the Commission including the JDPs. The Member States operated under their nationally established health protocols. Moreover, EFCA maintained the sharing of its operational capacity with Offshore Patrol Vessel Lundy Sentinel as well as in September additionally chartered OPV Aegis deployed in line with EFCA's health safeguarding protocol. Also, a good cooperation continued with other EU agencies, such as EMSA and Frontex, without major interruption while having all interactions mainly via online platforms.

Supporting the Union and the Member States

EFCA carried on assisting the Member States and the European Union including to fulfil its international control and inspection obligations.

Regarding the impact of COVID-19 on fisheries control, inspection and Member States enforcement, EFCA adapted the control plans in concert with Member States (MS) and the EC where needed. Together with MS, EFCA analysed the risks impacted by reduced monitoring and control levels caused by COVID-19 and developed specific actions and mitigation measures for each fleet segments and/or campaign under the joint deployment plans.

MS were also asked to update the level of fishing and control activities in the different JDPs. EFCA compiled and exchanged this information with MS and the Commission to ensure a complete situation was available and updated when needed.

Ensuring safer conditions for inspectors

As a sanitary precautionary approach in relation to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, without prejudice of Member States national health protocols for inspectors, EFCA kept and updated the specific protocol for the operations on board of its Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs).

The procedure covered two main levels of measures relevant for the operations: measures for joining the EFCA chartered ships, OPV Lundy Sentinel and OPV Aegis, and measures for inspecting fishing vessels.

The planning for the operations of the EFCA chartered vessels was designed to respect safety related requirements by:

- Introduction of 17 days quarantine period for the crew
- Two PCR tests requirement for EFCA deployed staff on board and specific sanitary measures on-board on the OPVs
- Inspecting only fishing vessels that i) were more than 3 weeks in the fishing grounds or, ii) in case of fishing vessels operating for a shorter period, that were evaluated of having a low risk in relation to COVID-19, based on a radio contact with master and the typology and size of the vessel.

Moving to other inspection instruments

As already implemented in 2020 and in order to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on fisheries control, inspection and MS enforcement, EFCA focused more on other available instruments such as data monitoring and analysis, based on the EFCA methodology for compliance indicators (e.g., cross-checks of logbook and landing declaration and sales notes, to detect misreporting).

While it was not possible to rely on remote electronic monitoring such as CCTVs, which would have proved an excellent alternative to the halting of physical inspections during COVID-19 pandemic, EFCA nevertheless used other available tools, including but not limited to, additional information from

surveillance flights in cooperation with Frontex, deployment of drones within the cooperation with EMSA, and analysis of satellite images from Copernicus.

EFCA Coordination Centre (CC) activities were implemented online via “Virtual CC”, which allowed EFCA staff, MS’ experts and personnel from other agencies, to participate in the daily coordination activities during the specific campaigns and surveillance operations (e.g. North Sea and Western Waters, Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea).

Meetings, trainings and workshops

Most of the meetings and training actions with EFCA stakeholders have been maintained without any disruptions. All JDPs, training actions and meetings with MS experts and other stakeholders were delivered in accordance to plan.

With more numerous attendance to the webinar trainings, the face to face interactive elements of training were absent but EFCA embraced new aspects of webinar technology to promote engagement and interactivity on line to good effect. Interactivity remains a key element as exchanging actively views and sharing experience is of great value.

Corporate level

The sanitary crisis and subsequent migration to teleworking by EFCA staff ensured business continuity and proved the resilience of the Agency in the face of critical and long-lasting situations, even though the EFCA Business Continuity Plan was never activated. EFCA applied teleworking based on the Phased plan for a gradual return to the office and in accordance with the sanitary situation. In the summer, on 5 July 2021, EFCA moved from structured teleworking to teleworking combined with a limited cautious and voluntary return to the office. On 13 December 2021, EFCA moved back to structured teleworking until the end of 2021. The phased plan for a gradual return to the office and its annexed protocols established by EFCA to face COVID-19, were submitted to the Spanish Certification Agency AENOR who approved and certified these protocols in December 2020. The certification foresees a trimestral revision of the plan and protocols.

At the corporate level, where necessary processes and procedures were adapted in consideration of the teleworking measures. Electronic workflows and the digitalisation of the communication tools was also reinforced. These measures had already started and were accelerated in this context, taking into account the wider EU objectives and the EU agencies priorities, such as the Green Deal and Digital Transition, which respond to EU citizens’ expectations for change and reflect the ambitions of the Sustainable Development Goals.

1.2.1. OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Operational activities revolve around the following areas:

- JDPs, Operational Plans and Pilot projects
- Risk assessment and data analysis
- International dimension: compliance with international provisions
- Coast Guard and Capacity Building

1. JDPs, Operational Plans and Pilot projects

EFCA operational coordination activities are the corner stone of the Agency. They are constructed based on the Specific Control and Inspection Programmes Decisions by the European Commission and are implemented on an annual basis in the form of EFCA's Joint Deployment Plans, in all the EU waters and International waters of the Mediterranean and North Atlantic, for the fisheries that are considered a priority by the European Commission and Member States. Nonetheless, NAFO and NEAFC JDP are based on Regulations of the European Parliament and the Council.

WHAT ARE SCIPs?

The Specific Control and Inspection Programmes (SCIPs) are programmes that define minimum and common standards for control and risk assessment in a given sea-basin and for specific fisheries in that sea-basin. The scope, procedures and benchmarks of the SCIPs are laid down in an Implementing Decision adopted by the European Commission in the form of an Implementing Decision. For the fisheries that are covered by the SCIPs, according to the EFCA Founding Regulation, EFCA shall coordinate the joint inspection and surveillance activities by Member States concerned through a Joint Deployment Plan.

The SCIPs and JDPs for 2021 applied to the areas identified in the Annexes of the Commission Implementing Decision 2018/1986 of 13 December 2018³¹:

1. Mediterranean and Eastern Atlantic³²
2. Black Sea
3. Baltic Sea
4. North Sea
5. Western Waters of the Eastern Atlantic

³¹ Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2018/1986 of 13 December 2018 establishing specific control and inspection programmes for certain fisheries and repealing Implementing Decisions 2012/807/EU, 2013/328/EU, 2013/305/EU and 2014/156/EU (OJ L317, 14.12.2018, p.29).

³² Only Bluefin tuna fisheries (BFT) in the Eastern Atlantic.

The Joint Deployment Plans

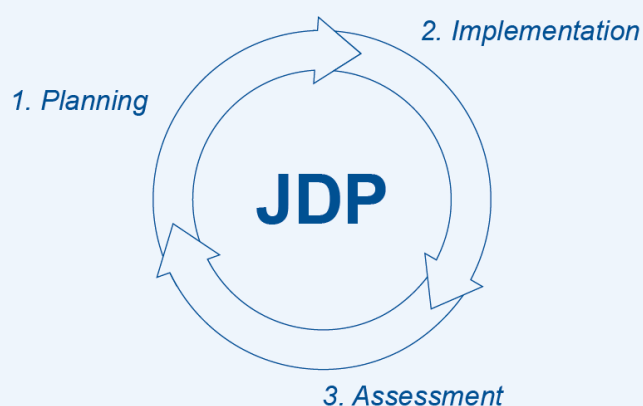
WHAT IS A JOINT DEPLOYMENT PLAN?

As already mentioned in Part I.1.1, the Joint Deployment Plans are established for fisheries/areas that are considered a priority by the European Commission and the concerned Member States. They can refer to:

- EU and adjacent waters to which a SCIP adopted by the Commission in concert with the Member States applies, or
- International waters under the competence of a RFMO, where EFCA is requested to coordinate the implementation of the European obligations under international control and inspection programmes.

The JDPs life cycle consist of three phases: planning, implementation and assessment:

The JDP lifecycle



1. Planning

The planning of the deployment of fisheries control means at sea, in the air and ashore is based on results of a regional risk assessment conducted in accordance with the methodology developed by the Member States and EFCA. The organisational framework of the cooperation and coordination of joint control operations and the procedures for operational information to be shared are discussed and agreed by a Steering Group, composed of Member States, the European Commission and EFCA.

2. Implementation

The JDP is implemented through a year-round continuous campaign. EFCA coordinates the deployment of control means in operational areas and the implementation of joint control operations through a Technical Joint Deployment Group. The coordination covers the implementation of specific actions and specific campaigns, targeted inspections, sharing of fishing activity related data and collection of inspection and surveillance data for further analysis. The coordination may be conducted directly by Member States experts appointed to a Joint Coordination Team deployed to the EFCA Coordination Centre, either physical or virtually.

3. Assessment

The JDP is assessed and evaluated yearly by EFCA with the collaboration of the Member States, with the aim to improve future JDP planning and implementation, for an efficient monitoring, control and surveillance of fishing related activities in the sea basins covered by the JDP.

During 2021, specific attention was given to enhance JDP operational performance in the EU and international waters, in close cooperation with Member States, and in some cases with other EU agencies, third countries and Regional Fisheries Management Organisations.

For this purpose, in order to achieve effectiveness and efficiency of operational activities, the Agency, based on the budget and cooperation structures available, has provided its operational capacity in the form of a Coordination Centre (in a virtual mode), chartered means (airborne and seaborne), access to relevant systems (e.g. EFCA IMS, FISHNET, etc.), as well as coordinated planning of the deployment of Member States control means within the scope of JDP.

JDP Assessment Reports

In line with its founding regulation, EFCA assesses annually the effectiveness of each JDP. The assessment reports prepared in 2021 encompassed all facts and figures of the JDPs. They include an analysis of the execution of Member States commitments of means, inspector exchanges at sea, ashore, and the number of inspections carried out and suspected infringements detected concerning the activities of the previous year. The assessment performs additional analyses, including on the following topics:

- The results of the Regional Risk Assessment exercises.
- The outcome of the Specific campaigns/Specific Actions implemented under the JDPs.
- Detailed information on specific fisheries control campaigns.
- Trainings and their impact.
- Inspections and infringements rate on vessels that are on the regional target vessels lists, provided by the flag Member States.
- Trends in suspected infringements.

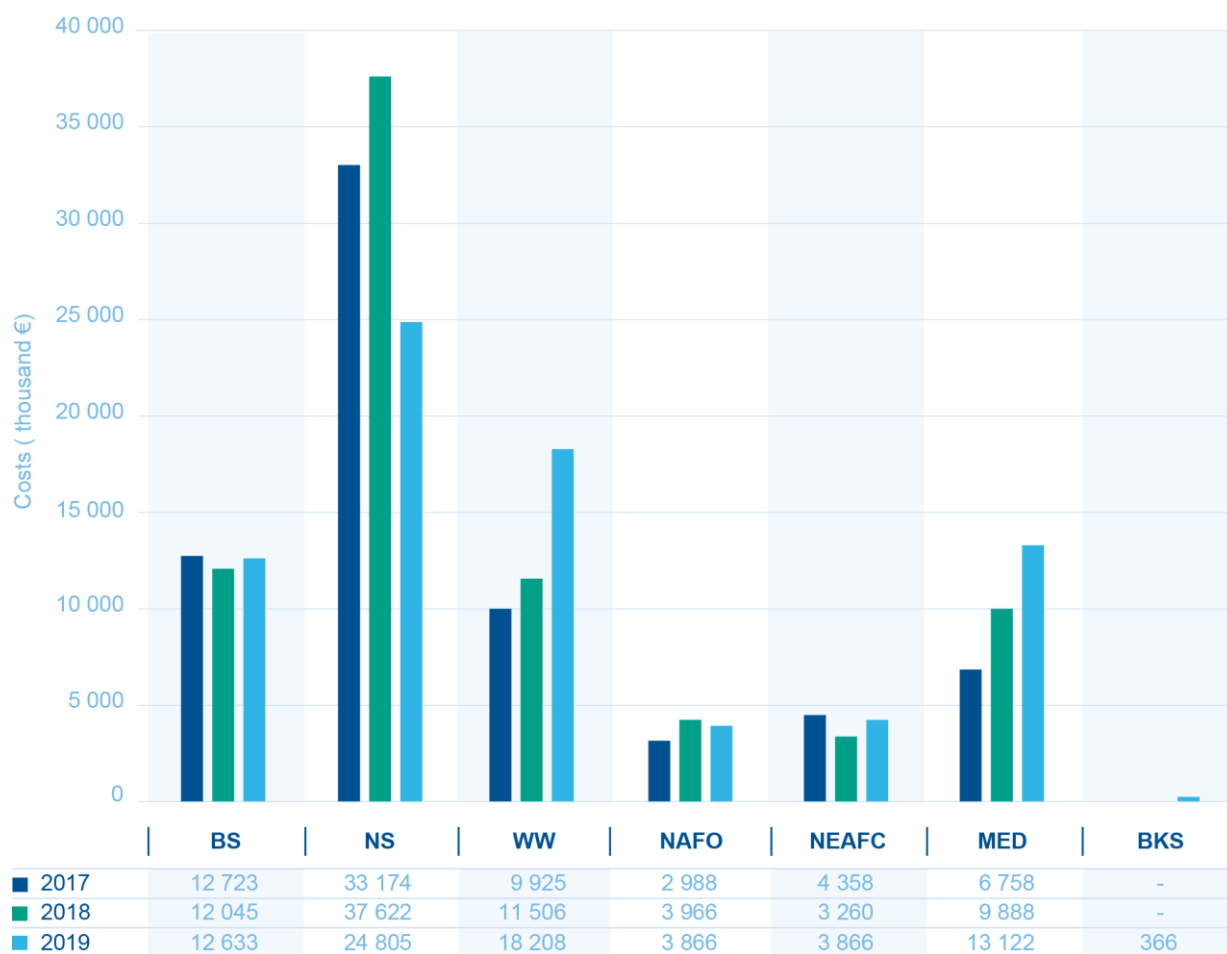
The assessment reports provide conclusions and important recommendations for developing the JDP framework further or for ensuring continuity, where activities already have a desired output and outcome.

The JDP assessment reports of 2020 JDPs were provided to the Commission, Member States and the European Parliament.

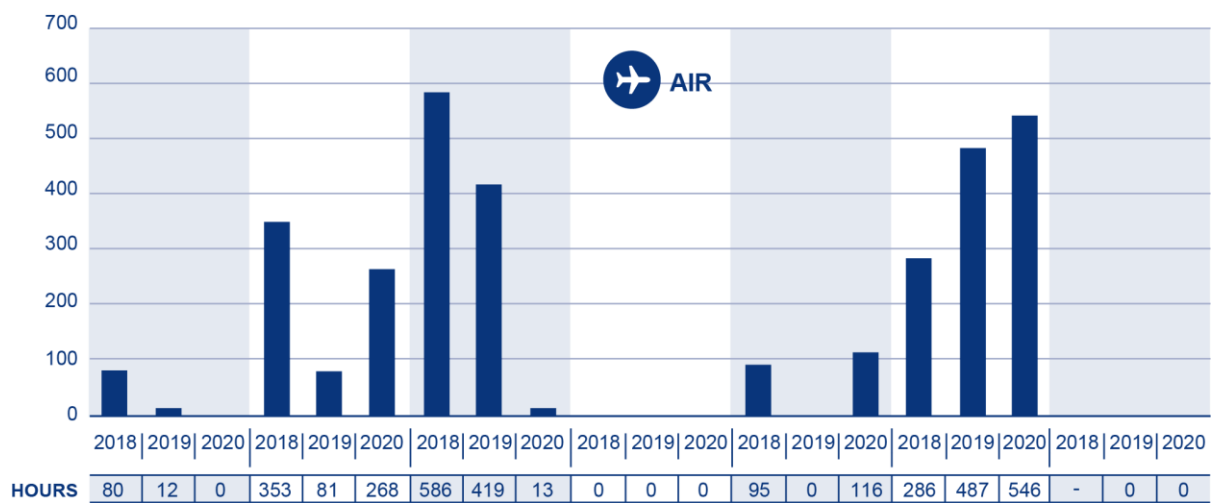
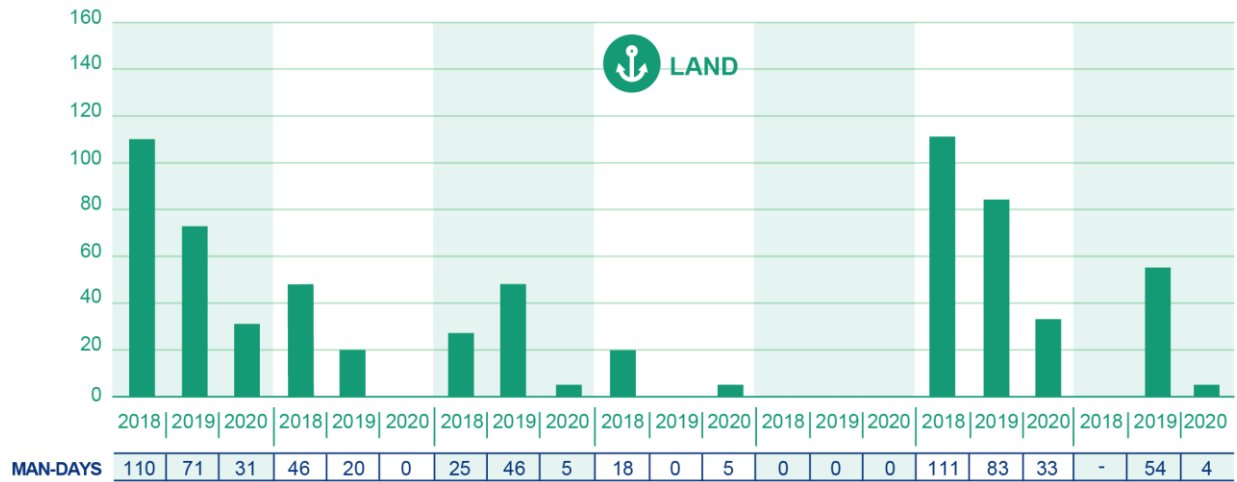
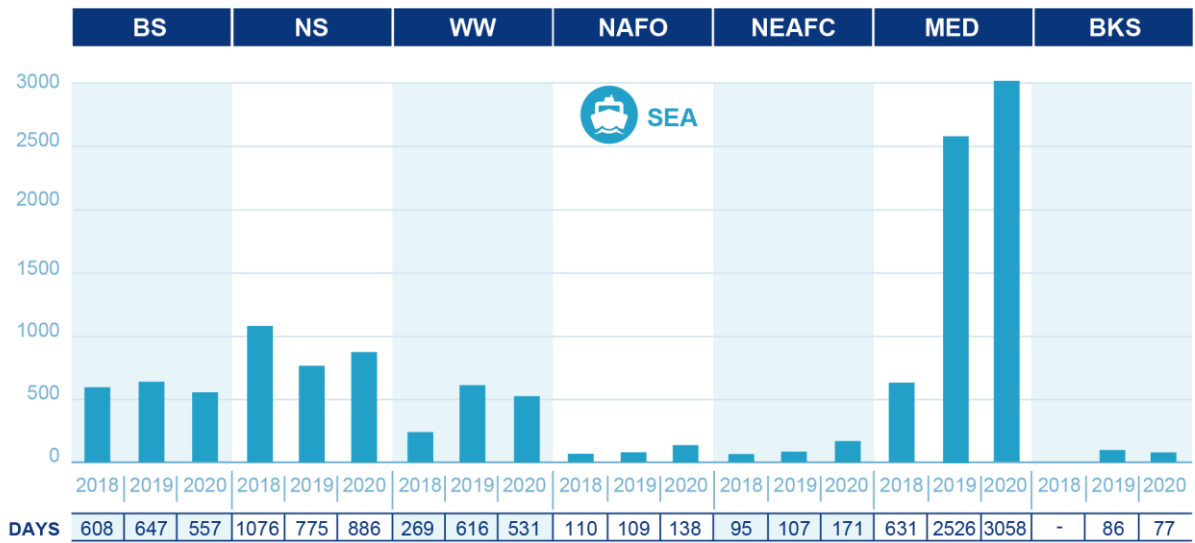
Cost Evaluation

In 2021, EFCA conducted the 7th assessment of JDP costs incurred in 2020. The same model developed in 2013 through the Administrative Board Focus Group was used, with some modifications introduced in 2014. The cost of control activity is estimated by unit of time for each type of asset (patrol vessel, aircraft or car) considering labour of inspectors and crew, fuel consumption, maintenance, depreciation and insurance. The model uses different sources for the estimation of standard costs like salaries (Eurostat) or fuel price. When not available for the year of the estimation, an average annual increment is used. Unit costs are then multiplied by the control effort reported by Member States.

JDPs total costs during the period 2017-2019 (thousand €)



Control effort deployed in the different JDPs for 2018, 2019, 2020



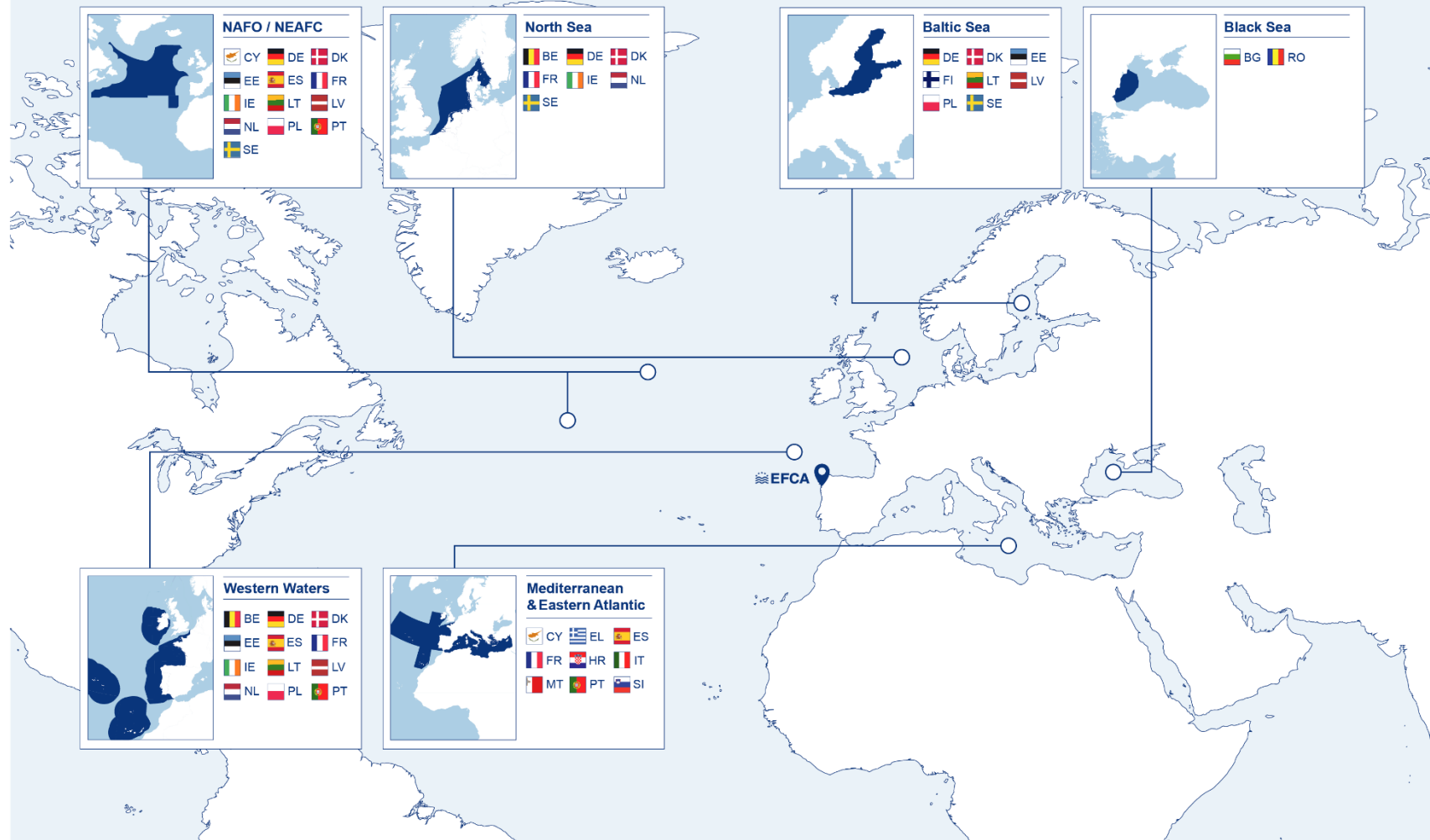
The global cost of €71 million in 2020, compared to the cost of the previous year, shows a slight overall decrease the Baltic Sea (14%), North Sea (7%), Western Waters (10%), NAFO (20%) and Mediterranean Sea (10%). The cost increased for the NEAFC (35%), due to an overall increase of control effort at sea. The cost of the Black Sea JDP in 2020 and 2019 are very similar (increase of 1% in the recent year).

The control effort deployed in land in 2020 was generally lower in all JDP, with the exception of the NAFO JDP. The lower effort at land 2020 is likely a result of sanitary measures related with COVID-19, applicable in 2020. For some JDPs this decrease was compensate with an increase of sea control activities, mainly for the Mediterranean, North Sea and NEAFC.

Assistance to Member States through Operational Plans

EFCA may consider the implementation of operational plans, in accordance with Article 16 of its Founding Regulation on the request of at least two Member States to coordinate their control means in a specific operation and/or area. In 2021 no such requests were made as all activities were managed under the JDP scheme.

Implementation of JDP in EU Waters and International Waters in 2021



2. Risk assessment and data analysis

EFCA has developed and applied methodologies in coordination with the Member States to improve the cost-effectiveness on JDP implementation considering it is based on an assessment of the risks of non-compliance. Additionally, EFCA updated the guidelines on methodologies to derive indicators of compliance for specific fisheries.

In cooperation with the Member States concerned, EFCA conducted an evaluation of compliance in the framework of the landing obligation. Equally, EFCA has also supported the European Commission and the Member States in the proceedings of the expert group on compliance³³.

Ensuring the availability and quality of fisheries related data is essential for EFCA activities. Maintenance and enhancement of the services facilitating access to data on fishing activities and control continues to be a key component of EFCA's business. This includes several operational systems: VMS, EFCA Integrated Maritime Service (EFCA IMS), ERS, Jade and FISHNET.

3. International dimension: compliance with international provisions

In line with the CFP basic regulation³⁴, the remit of EFCA, the Working Arrangements on EFCA's international activities between the European Commission and EFCA³⁵ and on request from the European Commission, the Agency may assist the Union to cooperate with third countries and international organisations dealing with fisheries, including RFMOs, in order to strengthen operational coordination and compliance.

The Working Arrangements between DG MARE and EFCA aim to organise cooperation whilst ensuring that the Agency operates within the mandate given by the legislator. In this respect, an "International relations strategy" is prepared by the Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE), presented yearly to the Administrative Board of EFCA and embedded in the Agency SPD.

During this period, EFCA's activities have covered the following tasks:

- Provided support to the Commission as regards the activities of the Regional Fisheries Management Organisations, such as NAFO, NEAFC, ICCAT³⁶ and GFCM³⁷ and cooperation with UK under the Trade and Cooperation Agreement.
- Organised seminars on operational coordination and/or capacity building involving RFMOs, and third countries.
- Promoted exchanges with third country inspectors on board of EFCA chartered OPV, namely with UK and Norway.
- Provided assistance, inter alia, to:
 - Coastal States in the North Atlantic,
 - European Union in their collaboration with ICCAT and GFCM Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties.

³³ Article 37(2) of the CFP basic regulation: "The expert group on compliance shall be composed of representatives of the Commission and the Member States. At the request of the European Parliament, the Commission may invite the European Parliament to send experts to attend meetings of the expert group. The Agency may assist the expert group on compliance meetings as an observer."

³⁴ Article 30 of the CFP basic regulation: "The Union shall, including through the European Fisheries Control Agency ("the Agency"), cooperate with third countries and international organisations dealing with fisheries, including RFMOs, to strengthen compliance with measures, especially those to combat IUU fishing, in order to ensure that measures adopted by such international organisations are strictly adhered to".

³⁵ AB Decision 20-II-6

³⁶ International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna, <https://www.iccat.int/en/>

³⁷ General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean, <http://www.fao.org/gfcm/en/>

- Assisted the Commission and the Member States in the implementation of the Regulation (EC) 1005/2008 to fight against the IUU fishing³⁸, e.g. providing support in the assessment of third countries performance in the implementation measures to fight IUU fishing, including catch certificates analysis, and assisting the Member States to facilitate the enhancement of the implementation of the fight against IUU in the scope of article 30 of the CFP regulation.
- Contributed to the implementation of EU international projects in the fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance domain, including providing support to prevent and respond to IUU fishing, such as the PESCAO Project (Improved Regional fisheries governance in Western Africa)³⁹.

4. Coast Guard Functions and Capacity Building

This strategic area provides for cooperation on coast guard functions with other European agencies to support Member States national authorities carrying out coast guard functions. Within the framework of the Tripartite Working Arrangement (TWA)⁴⁰, EFCA cooperates⁴¹ with the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) and the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) to support national authorities an EU level and, where appropriate, at international level by

- Sharing information.
- Provision of surveillance and communication services.
- Supporting capacity building actions, including the drafting and management of a Coast Guard Handbook.
- Enhancing the exchange of information and cooperation on coast guard functions including by analysing operational challenges and emerging risks in the maritime domain.
- Sharing capacity including inspections and chartered assets by planning and implementation of multipurpose operations including drills with Member States and/or EU agencies.
- Supporting the Union and/or Member States, where possible in cooperation with other EU agencies, implementing specific projects falling under the coast guard functions in third countries.

The implementation of these actions is based on the Annual Strategic Plan agreed between the three agencies, (EMSA, FRONTEX and EFCA) under the TWA. It included cooperation actions between agencies in support to Member States authorities, comprising the organisation of seminars and workshops. EFCA also involves Member State authorities and promotes the implementation of multipurpose operations in the areas where a JDP is implemented (e.g., Black Sea MMO).

An important achievement in 2021 was the agreement between the three agencies on a new and reinforced TWA, which entered into force on the 18 March 2021 and replaced the first TWA signed in 2017. EFCA, as chair of the TWA Steering Committee during the first half of 2021, successfully led the negotiations to agree on the new TWA.

EFCA provided support to the Commission and in cooperation with Frontex and EMSA led the preparations involving Member States national authorities as regards the Practical Handbook on European Cooperation on Coast Guard Functions. The Handbook was adopted in July 2021 by the European Commission through a recommendation⁴².

³⁸ Council Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008 of 29 September 2008 establishing a Community system to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, amending Regulations (EEC) No 2847/93, (EC) No 1936/2001 and (EC) No 601/2004 and repealing Regulations (EC) No 1093/94 and (EC) No 1447/1999. Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EU) No 202/2011 (OJ L 57, 2.3.2011, p. 10)

³⁹ Grant agreement signed on 16 March 2018.

⁴⁰ Tripartite Working Arrangement (TWA) between the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex), the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) and the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) revised on 18 March 2021.

⁴¹ Administrative Board Recommendations on EFCA Five-Year Evaluation (Recommendation 8), 21 June 2017, <https://www.efca.europa.eu/en/content/external-evaluation-2017>

⁴² https://ec.europa.eu/oceans-and-fisheries/publications/handbook-european-cooperation-coast-guard-functions_en

The cooperation supports the implementation of the European Union Maritime Security Strategy⁴³, where the three agencies are contributing to the implementation of the European Coast guard initiative as well as some specific activities to the EU blue economy report.⁴⁴

EFCA promotes cooperation with other EU agencies, such as EU SATCEN, EUSPA, ESA, EDA and EUROPOL, in areas and projects related with fisheries control. To this end, EFCA has been assessing the added value of innovative vessel detection and earth observation (EO) technologies in support of maritime surveillance and fisheries control activities.

In line with its Founding Regulation, EFCA continued to enhance its work on surveillance technologies for control and inspection and chartered the equipment (capacities) that is necessary for the implementation of the joint deployment plans. New technologies could offer a sustainable operational solution for improving MCS measures and their efficiency. The technologies encompass satellite and aerial monitoring including through RPAS.

The chartered capacities by EFCA had to be augmented with one additional multipurpose offshore patrol vessel for fisheries control, through a framework contract for a fisheries patrol vessel based on the demands and additional funds provided in relation to the EU – UK Trade Cooperation Agreement. This ad-hoc need was addressed on time thanks to the EMSA-EFCA Service Level Agreement (SLA) in place, thus making possible to charter an additional OPV, Aegis, still in 2021, which was primarily deployed in the areas adjacent to UK waters.

Also, based on a bilateral SLA, EFCA continued to benefit from EMSA Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS) services on board EFCA chartered OPV Lundy Sentinel, which contributed not only to the monitoring, control and surveillance, but also to ensure higher level of safety and security during the mission.

EFCA, thanks to the existing interinstitutional framework contract for air surveillance with Frontex, managed to charter air surveillance services under the PESCAO project and was exploring options to deploy these means in JDP related areas in cooperation with the MS concerned.

The inter-agency cooperation improved synergies between maritime policy, maritime spatial planning, maritime security and fisheries control as well as contributed to the EU Green Deal initiative and the sustainable blue economy.

Moreover, EFCA has continued the development and update of the different training material to be used by Member States, with the objective of contributing to the creation and implementation of a Sectoral Qualification Framework (SQF) for the European Union cooperation on coast guard functions including fisheries control and inspection⁴⁵. In that regard, the EFCA e-learning platform⁴⁶ has helped contribute to a level playing field and a harmonised methodology of inspections.

The training courses delivered by EFCA cover, in line with its mandate, control aspects of the CFP and the relevant international instruments. Subject to budget availability, the training is mainly addressed to the following audience:

- training the trainers (EU Member States and third countries officials),
- JDPs inspectors: exchange of experiences,
- training related to IUU fishing: basic and advance (EU and third countries officials).

In the context of the European coast guard functions joint training courses are organised with other EU agencies. In addition, on request of the EU Member States, EFCA also provides training to inspectors before their first deployment and participates in national trainings.

⁴³ Council conclusions on the revision of the European Union Maritime Security Strategy (EUMSS) Action Plan (26 June 2018), doc.10494/18.

⁴⁴ The EU blue economy report 2021 - Publications Office of the EU (europa.eu)

⁴⁵ Administrative Board Recommendations on EFCA Five-Year Evaluation (Recommendation 2), 21 June 2017, <https://www.efca.europa.eu/en/content/external-evaluation-2017>

⁴⁶ Administrative Board Recommendations on EFCA Five-Year Evaluation (Recommendation 2), 21 June 2017, <https://www.efca.europa.eu/en/content/external-evaluation-2017>

1.2.1.1 JOINT DEPLOYMENT PLANS, OPERATIONAL PLANS AND PILOT PROJECTS (OBJECTIVE 1)

OBJECTIVE 1							
Implementation of JDPs and assistance to the Member States and the Commission in EU and International Waters							
EXPECTED RESULTS							
1. Improved compliance, level playing field and cost-effectiveness in the EU and International waters 2. Increased synergies and transparency between the participating Member States 3. Support to the EU in relation to RFMOs and third countries in the North Atlantic, Mediterranean and the Black Sea 4. Assistance to Member States, Regional Bodies, and the European Commission in the implementation of the CFP, including the landing obligation							
PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	TARGET 2021			ACHIEVED 2021			
By JDP:		NS	BS	WW	MED	BIS	NAFO-NEAFC
1. Percentage of control and inspection means deployed in accordance with the JDP schedule (% of total planned)	90%	93%	69%	100%	76%	67%	97%
2. Percentage of inspections at sea on vessels belonging to the two highest risk fleet segments per JDP regional area ⁴⁷	60%	90%	78%	64%	90%	58%	n.a.
3. Workshops attendees satisfaction rate	Attendees satisfaction (good or very good >80%)	67%	81%	93%	91%	100%	81%
MAIN OUTPUTS							
Planned				Achieved			
1	Implementation of JDP decisions for North Sea, Baltic Sea, Western Waters, Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea and NAFO / NEAFC and support to international cooperation (e.g. UK)						Yes
2	Guidelines and best practices on standardisation of inspection procedures						Yes
3	Standard procedures and guidance documents on the application of the rules of the CFP, including modern and more effective and efficient control techniques (e.g. REM).						Yes
4	Assessment reports of the regional control operations (JDP and operational plans), including the definition of major risks for the control activities						Yes
5	Implementation of strategic risk assessment for the different regional areas at fisheries level (gear, area and species)						Yes

⁴⁷ Performance indicator not applicable to NAFO/NEAFC.

6	Exchange of target vessels between Member States at the tactical level of coordination	Yes
7	Estimation of compliance level by region	Yes
8	Support to the regionalisation process	Yes
9	At least one workshop for Member States Union inspectors (by region) delivered	Yes
10	Operation of chartered and other control platform(s) of EFCA	Yes

The target value of the indicator “Percentage of control and inspection means deployed in accordance with the JDP schedule (% of total planned)” was not achieved for the Baltic Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Black Sea JDPs due to the low number of executed inspector exchanges. This was related with the travel restrictions and MS internal safety protocols in place due to the COVID-19 measures. The deployment of fishing sea and air means took place according with the JDP commitment.

The implementation of JDPs follows a risk-based approach. For the North Sea, Baltic Sea, Western Waters and the Mediterranean JDPs, the percentage of sea inspections conducted in 2021 on the fleet segments of higher risk levels was higher than 60% in accordance with established KPI. Likewise, the Black Sea JDP was very close to reach the KPI target and by the end of 2021, it reached 58%. In this case, the two MS concerned focus their effort also on inspecting additional fleet segments which are catching other species within the scope of the JDP.

The satisfaction rate of the attendees of the North Sea JDP training was below the 80% target. This event was conducted as a webinar and the evaluation was based on less than 50% of the workshop attendees (9 out of 20 attendees), who were not fully satisfied with the selection of topics presented for the training. The North Sea training was focused on relevant regulations in place, including the LO and the establishment of real-time closures, and as well, important monitoring, control and surveillance elements for the 2022 JDP implementation.

1. Improved compliance, level playing field and cost-effectiveness in the EU and International waters

In 2021, EFCA continued coordinating six JDPs (Baltic Sea, Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea, North East Atlantic (NAFO/NEAFC), North Sea and Western Waters). The JDPs were implemented through joint campaigns in accordance with the plan adopted by the respective Steering Groups (SG). EFCA organised several meetings for each SG and joint SG meetings, to address respectively regional or common aspects of several regions. The SG had a more detailed discussions on the JDP assessment at the meetings in the second quarter, and discussions on JDP planning for the following year took place at the meetings of September/October. All the meetings were conducted by video conference and are outlined below.

The main horizontal aspects discussed at the Steering Group level were related with the EFCA chartered means deployment and the establishment of the EFCA pool of Union inspectors. In 2021, additional funds were granted to EFCA to enhance its control and coordination means to strengthen compliance with the CFP and to address control challenges in the context of the extended maritime border between the EU and UK waters. The additional funds allocated to EFCA were dedicated to provide adequate means for the fishing control activities at sea by EFCA, as regards the fulfilment with the international obligations of the EU *vis-à-vis* third countries which were translated, among other measures, in a deployment of two OPVs during 2021. To address this increase it was agreed to establish a pool of Member States Union inspectors that would be deployed at EFCA OPVs. The concept was presented to the JDP Steering Groups in dedicated meetings.

EFCA also organised an extraordinary Baltic Sea Steering Group meeting to discuss the compliance indicators of misrecording of unsorted landings of small pelagics (herring and sprat), and misrecording of salmon catches and sea trout, developed based on data collected in dedicated specific actions to address these threats. The estimates of misrecording indicators related to the number of fishing trips with misrecording and to catches weights that are misrecorded were presented. The shortfall of the estimates was addressed and recommendation for improvements discussed. This resulted in an increase of control effort in the specific actions conducted in 2021 to address these threats, which will

improve the certainty of future estimates. Considering the caveats related to the computation of the indicators and its dependency of the representativeness of the reference data (i.e., data obtained from inspections), the Baltic Sea Steering Group acknowledged the need to improve the compliance level of the small pelagic and salmon fisheries.

Since the Med JDP provides a critical contribution in the implementation of the international obligations for the EU, particularly in the framework of the ICCAT, EFCA organised extraordinary technical meetings with the Med SG and MS experts to discuss a common understanding of existing control rules for BFT farming in light of ICCAT Rec. 19-04, as laid down in Annex V of the Med JDP.

EFCA Steering Group meetings		
Meeting	Dates	JDP
Assessment of 2020 and planning 2021 JPD activities	27 January	NAFO/NEAFC
Extraordinary meeting to analyse compliance indicators of misrecording of herring and sprat and salmon as sea trout	24 March	Baltic Sea
Evaluation of the Virtual Coordination Network to address the EU-UK TCA and planning for 2022 VCN	13 April 27 September	Joint North Sea and Western waters
2021 JDP state of play and 2020 assessment JDP reports	29 April	NAFO/NEAFC
	12 May	Western waters
	18 May	Mediterranean
	25 May	North Sea
	26 May 22 June	Baltic Sea Black Sea
Joint EU SG meeting to address horizontal aspects, in particular the way forward, specifically with regard to the EFCA chartered means deployment and the establishment of the pool of Union inspectors	30 June	All JDPs
2021 JDP state of play and 2022 JDP planning	10 September	Western waters
	13 September	NAFO/NEAFC
	14 September	Baltic Sea
	16 September	North Sea
	4 October 6 October	Mediterranean Black Sea
Joint EU SG meeting to address horizontal aspects, such as the implementation plan of the 2020 JDP Assessment Reports recommendations and an update of the e-ISR working group	25 October	Joint Western waters, North Sea and Baltic Sea
JDP state of play, terms of reference for BFT farming investigations and specific provisions on the LO regarding Mediterranean swordfish	2 February	Mediterranean
Reflections on Annex V of the JDP and clarifications on BFT-ROP	31 May	Mediterranean
2021 JDP BFT campaign related procedures – at-sea releases operations and bad weather clause	1 July	Mediterranean
Terms of reference for BFT farming investigations and specific provisions on the LO regarding Mediterranean swordfish	16 February	Mediterranean
	19 April	
Joint EU SG meeting to address horizontal aspects, EFCA chartered means deployment for 2022 and the EFCA pool of Union inspectors	7 December	All JDPs

In 2021 all JDPs were implemented in accordance with the plan adopted by the respective Steering Groups. Some activities had to be adjusted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In order to improve compliance, promote the level playing field and cost-effectiveness, EFCA ensured interaction with Member States on operational matters through permanent exchange of information within the TJDGs mainly via videoconference.

A continuous effort has been maintained to ensure smooth operational implementation of the respective JDP activities. The coordination of the implementation of the control activities was carried out by the respective TJDG with the close and direct involvement of the respective MS fisheries control authorities. TJDG meetings were arranged by EFCA, and regular contact was ensured via videoconferences to discuss matters within the scope of the relevant JDPs.

EFCA also worked to ensure smooth coordination and data exchange within the framework of the JDPs adopted. The results achieved within the scope of both JDPs are presented in Annex I.

As in the previous years, the organisational arrangements of the joint campaign coordination were based on the permanent exchange of operational information, coordinated deployment of control assets, planned exchanges of inspectors at sea and in landing ports.

The coordination of the implementation of the control activities was carried out by the respective Technical Joint Deployment Groups with the involvement of national coordination centers on a day-to-day basis. The TJDGs maintained regular contact through video conferences to address matters related with joint control operations, particularly in the context of specific actions / specific campaigns. The implementation of specific actions / specific campaigns aimed to enhance the focus of control activities on fleet segments in periods and areas that were identified in the results of respective regional risk analysis as requiring some risk treatment measures. In 2021, the coordination of control activities from the EFCA premises in Vigo was very limited due to travel restrictions and other sanitary measures related to COVID-19. Nevertheless, the virtual coordination facilitated by the available systems also showed to be efficient and allowed good communication and coordination of all regional control means.

Baltic Sea

For the Baltic Sea, as agreed with the Steering Group, a total of 9 specific actions were implemented, corresponding to a total of 101 weeks⁴⁸, which is close to the double of the total duration of the specific action conducted in the Baltic Sea in the previous year (55 weeks). New elements were introduced in the 2021 Baltic Sea JDP, such as the control of acoustic deterrence devices and the control and monitoring of the recreational fisheries of cod in the Western Baltic and the eel marine fisheries. The work initiated in previous years, in particular the monitoring and control of the implementation of landing obligation in demersal fisheries, the monitoring of cod by-catches and temporal closures, unsorted landings of small pelagics and salmon fisheries, were also a priority in 2021. An overview of the 2021 specific actions of the Baltic Sea JDP is presented below.

Baltic Sea Specific Actions (BSA) ⁴⁹				
BSA1	Purpose: Monitoring (1) non-compliance with the LO, in particular discarding of cod (below minimum size (BMS)) and of plaice (BMS and legal size catch (LSC)), and (2) misrecording of those catches, including misrecording of plaice for flounder.			
	Otter trawlers with mesh size \geq 105mm targeting demersal species	22 - 24	January - February	DE, DK, PL, SE
		25 - 27		DE, DK, LT, LV, PL, SE
	No. inspections: 36	No. sightings: 157		No. infringements: 0
Additional information: In total 5 last hauls have been reported in the period on the relevant fleet segments. The catch consisted of plaice 50%, cod 49% and below 1% of other species. On those last hauls only 1kg of plaice was found to be below minimum size. Additional analyses were conducted, where the cod ratio verified by inspectors at sea (2020 data same period of 2021 specific action) was compared with the logbook information or the information arising from the landing inspection (2020 and 2021 data), indicating that the cod ratio at land was lower the ratio observed at sea inspections.				
BSA2	Purpose: Monitoring compliance with the closures of the fisheries for cod.			
	Otter trawlers with mesh size \geq 105mm, gillnetters with mesh size	22 - 23	February – March	DE, DK, PL, SE
		24	June – July	

⁴⁸ Specific actions may take place simultaneously.

⁴⁹ The numbers of inspections presented only concerned control activities conducted within the scope of the specific actions on the concerned fleet segments, area and period.

Baltic Sea Specific Actions (BSA) ⁴⁹				
	≥110mm and longliners targeting demersal species	25 – 26	May – August	DE, DK, LT, LV, PL, SE
				DK, LT, LV, PL, SE
	No. sea inspections: 62	No. sightings: 1	No. infringements: 1	
	<p>Additional information: The specific action was composed of three different periods. In the first period MS reported 38 inspections at sea, of which 16 inspections were carried out in sub-divisions 22-23 on gillnets. No suspected infringements were detected. At the time of the closure there was no activity of trawlers observed across the whole closed area. MS reported 21 sightings from the area, all were related to vessels operating with passive fishing gear.</p> <p>The second period, in June and July in subdivision 24, only 4 inspections happened at sea with no detection of infringements.</p> <p>The third period was well covered by inspection means present in the area. There were no infringements detected during this period.</p>			
BSA3	Purpose: Monitoring the misrecording of salmon and sea trout, including by small vessels			
	Gillnetters with mesh size ≥ 157 mm targeting salmon	22 – 29	January - May	DK, FI, PL
	Longliners targeting salmon		November - December	DK, FI, LT, LV, PL
	No. inspections: 223	No. sightings: n.a.	No. Infringements :2	
<p>Additional information: The specific action concerned two periods. The first period includes the core period of the fishery and 6 Member States reported 212 landing inspections on vessels from the concerned fleet segments, where almost 9.800 specimen of salmon were observed by inspectors.</p> <p>In the second period, the fishery on salmon was rather low and 11 ashore inspections were conducted with no sea trout were reported.</p> <p>The data collected in the scope of this specific action is used to estimate indicators of misrecording of species.</p>				
BSA4	Purpose: Monitoring the misrecording of herring and sprat.			
	Pelagic trawlers	22 – 27	March – April October - December	DE, DK, LT, LV, PL, SE
		22 - 27		DE, DK, EE, FI, LT, LV, PL, SE
		28 - 32		
No. inspections: 229 (with samplings)	No. sightings: n.a.	No. infringements: 15		
<p>Additional information: The agreed sampling methodology for unsorted landing of small pelagic was promoted and used when feasible. The data collected during the specific action was used to estimate indicators of misrecording of species. By-catch of flounder was observed in 26 cases mainly in spring. In four of those cases, flounder reached or exceeded 30% of the catch, which are unusual records.</p>				
BSA5	Purpose: Monitoring of fishing activities in closed seasons of salmon, before and after the fishing season (June-July).			
	Fixed gears targeting salmon	22 – 32	May and August	FI, SE
	No. inspections: 126	No. Sightings: 2	No. infringements: 1	
<p>Additional information: SE reported the deployment of inspection teams ashore and fishing patrol vessel presence in subdivision 31. The focus for the patrol was on gear inspection with 28 inspections out of 30. FIN reported 96 gear inspections.</p>				
BSA6	Purpose: Monitoring compliance with the provision of the use of acoustic deterrent devices (ADD) for vessels with an overall length of 12 m or more fishing with bottom-set gillnet or entangling net, under the conditions as specified in Annex XIII Part A of the Technical Measures Regulation (including to identify control methods).			
	Gillnetters >12m	24	May	DE, DK, PL, SE
	No. inspections: 4	No. sightings: 1	No. infringements: 0	
<p>Additional information: The number of fishing vessels falling under the obligation of acoustic deterrence devices is very low and the obligation is valid in a relatively small area. 5 fishing patrol vessels were active in the area and period concerned of the specific action corresponding to a total of 27 patrol days, but no infringements were detected.</p>				
BSA7	Purpose: Monitoring the misrecording of salmon.			
	Fixed gears targeting salmon	31	June - July	FI, SE

Baltic Sea Specific Actions (BSA) ⁴⁹				
	No. inspections: 24	No. sightings: 0	No. infringements: 8	
	Additional information: SE and FI focused on sea inspections for that action. No landing inspection reported.			
BSA8	Purpose: The use of illegal gear in the fisheries for eel, and compliance with the closure of the fisheries for eel.			
	Eel fisheries in marine waters	22 – 27	August / November	DE, DK, PL, SE
	DK reported 16 gear inspections and illegal gear detected on 5 of those inspections. Member States reported 829kg eel inspected at 5 landings and one inspection at sea with 5kg.			
	No. inspections: 17	No. sightings: 0	No. infringements: 5	
	Additional information: It was the first time a dedicated action on eel fisheries was conducted. Eel was confirmed on fishing vessels during 2 LH, one with 1.15kg and another (a demersal trawler) with 227kg. 5 suspected infringements related with illegal gear were detected.			
BSA9	Purpose: Monitoring compliance with the bag-limit reduction during the closure in the recreational fisheries for cod in subdivisions 22 – 24; and monitoring and reporting on outcome by coastal MS of the restriction to 6 nm for recreational fishing for COD in division 24.			
	Recreational fisheries targeting cod	22 - 24	15 February – 15 March	DE, DK, SE
	No. inspections: 0	No. sightings: 0	No. infringements: 0	
	Additional information: It was the first time a dedicated action on cod recreational fisheries was planned but no control activity was reported by MS, within the scope of this specific action			

To ensure an adequate coordination for each specific action the TJDGs adopted an operational plan where a set of objectives and tasks were explained from an operational point of view. Additionally, before the start of each specific action, EFCA organised a briefing with the Member States inspectors scheduled to be involved in the respective specific actions, where the purpose and main expected outcomes of the given specific action were highlighted. The TJDGs confirmed the added value of these briefings for the implementation of the planned joint control activities.

In the specific action aiming to monitor the compliance with the provision of the use of acoustic deterrence devices (BAS06), are related with the a new delegated act, Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/967. EFCA organised two workshops with Baltic Sea, North Sea and Western Waters control experts (14 April and 9 December) to address control measures related with the Acoustic Deterrent Devices. The workshops were an opportunity to share knowledge, best practices and develop a common understanding on how the regulation⁵⁰ related to Acoustic Deterrence Devices could be approached by inspectors in a harmonised manner (further details under *Standardization*, below in this section).

The deployment of control assets for the JDP in the Baltic Se was in general in line with the commitment as agreed in the JDPs decision. Some Member States kept adapting to a changing pandemic situation which resulted in some periods where reported activities were low. In 2021 there was no EFCA OPV presence in the Baltic Sea.

North Sea

The North Sea JDP was implemented as planned. A total of 9 specific actions, corresponding to a total of 89⁵¹ weeks were conducted. New elements were considered or reinforced in the 2021 related with fisheries restrictive measures in place for reduction of the impact on the marine environment, including the measures for protection of sensitive species and habitats, closed areas for the protection of sensitive habitats and measures for Marine Protected Areas (MPA). In 2021, for the first time, the North Sea JDP included specific action where the focus was to monitor the compliance with the provision of the use of acoustic deterrence devices (ADD). This was and activity also included in Baltic Se and the Western Waters JDPs, and additional work on this matter is further explained above under the Baltic Sea JDP and under *Standardization*, below in this section.

⁵⁰ Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/967

⁵¹ Several specific actions may take place simultaneously.

Other elements, such as the monitoring of the implementation of the landing obligation on fisheries identified of high risk and the use of illegal gears, that were already in place in previous years, continue to be the focus of the specific actions conducted in 2021. In 2021, a total of 10 real-time closures were established in the North Sea and Skagerrak, of which 8 correspond to closures triggered by the abundance of juveniles of demersal species⁵² and the remaining 2 correspond to closures due to abundance of northern prawns juveniles⁵³. EFCA provided a coordination role for the established real-time closures by announcing to all Member States concerned, depicting the closed area in EFCA IMS for the corresponding period, and keep up to date a dedicated page on the EFCA website where the links to Member States and Third Countries' websites on real time closures are available. An overview of the 2021 specific actions of the North Sea JDP is presented below.

Similarly to other JDPs, for the North Sea, for each specific action an operational plan where a set of objectives and tasks were explained from an operational point of view were prepared, and before the start of each specific action, EFCA organised a briefing with inspectors of the Member States involved in the respective specific actions. At these briefings the purpose and main expected outcomes of the given specific action were highlighted and the details of the operational activities were discussed to ensure a common understanding and implementation. This is an important element to ensure an adequate coordination for each specific.

An important element of the 2021 North Sea JDP, as well as of the Western Waters JDP, concerns the new situation of UK as a third country. Those elements are further detailed below in this section (see *JDP activities related with UK vessels*).

North Sea Specific Actions (NSA) ⁵⁴				
NSA1	Purpose: Detecting misreporting of area of sole between divisions 4.c and 7.d.			
	Beam trawlers, mesh size ≥ 80 and < 120 mm	4.c (7.d)	January	BE, FR
	No. inspections: 2	No. sightings: 15	No. infringements: 0	
	Additional information: Targets previously identified by Member States based on automated data cross checks were considered for inspections. The concerned fishing activity usually takes place in UK waters.			
NSA2	Purpose: Detecting the use of illegal gear in the fishery for sole.			
	Beam trawlers, mesh size ≥ 80 and < 120 mm	4.c	March - May	BE, DE, NL
	No. inspections: 32	No. sightings: 0	No. infringements: 3	
	Additional Information: Inspection tactics including long range boardings conducted by one Member State provided very good results, where 1 suspected infringement related with fishing with illegal net attachments and 2 related with the use of illegal mesh size (i.e. <80 mm) were detected, during sea inspections.			
NSA3	Purpose: Monitoring discarding of plaice (below minimum conservation reference size), including associated reporting obligations.			
	Beam trawlers, mesh size ≥ 80 and < 120 mm	4.c	April – May	BE, DE, NL
	No. inspections: 28	No. sightings: 0	No. infringements: 0	
	Additional information: No last hauls were conducted during this specific action due to the national COVID-19 protocols in place that prevent this activity for safety reasons. Because of the lack of last hauls, the planned follow-up landing inspections were neither performed. To overcome this situation, one Member State did visual estimation of the catch composition (legal size catch / below minimum size) in the last haul. These estimated quantities were crosschecked with logbooks data.			

⁵² Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 783/2011 of 5 August 2011 amending Regulation (EU) No 724/2010 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of real-time closures of certain fisheries in the North Sea and Skagerrak

⁵³ Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2201 of 1 October 2019 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1241 of the European Parliament and of the Council with detailed rules for the implementation of real-time closures for Northern prawn fisheries in the Skagerrak

⁵⁴ The numbers of inspections presented only concerned control activities conducted within the scope of the specific actions on the concerned fleet segments, area and period.

North Sea Specific Actions (NSA) ⁵⁴			
NSA4	Purpose: Monitoring compliance with restrictive measures in place for fisheries in Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), in particular as pursuant to Council Directive 92/43 EEC with regard to (1) the Dogger Bank and Cleaver Bank MPAs, and (2) the Bratten Natura 2000 site.		
	Otter trawlers, seiners and beam trawlers targeting demersal species	4.b	June – July
	Otter trawlers and seiners targeting demersal species	3.a	October
	No. inspections: 0	No. sightings: 13	No. infringements: 0
<p>Additional information: Regarding the Cleaver Bank, the EFCA OPV Lundy Sentinel was in the North Sea for two weeks during the period of the specific action, prepared to produce statements to attest sightings, as well as any additional evidence such as a photograph or RPAS footage if available, in case the fishing activity in the MPA was confirmed to be illegal by the coastal Member State FMC. Most of the contact from the OPV Lundy Sentinel was with the NL FMC, because the majority of the EU territory covered by the MPA is in the NL EEZ. In all cases the vessels were fishing legally.</p> <p>The Bratten MPA is situated exclusively in the SE EEZ. The Bratten MPA is complicated to monitor because within the outline identified area there are 18 subareas where fishing restrictions apply. There were no incursions detected through the automated monitoring, or through aerial sightings.</p>			
NSA5	Purpose: Monitoring (1) the level of high grading (legal size catch) in the Northern prawns fishery , and establishing sampling for the purpose of real-time closures (in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2019/2201); and (2) catches below minimum conservation reference size in demersal fisheries		
	Otter trawler and seiners with mesh size ≥ 35 and < 70mm	3.a	July - August
	Otter trawler and seiners with mesh size ≥ 90mm		
	No. inspections: 17	No. sightings: 0	No. infringements: 0
<p>Additional information: There were 17 sea inspections on the relevant vessels, and for 2 vessels with Northern prawns catches on board were observed.</p> <p>Over the year outside of this action there were 15 inspections on vessels in the relevant segment, which triggered the establishment of 3 real-time closures for Northern prawns.</p>			
NSA6	Purpose: Detecting misreporting of area of cod, hake anglerfish and plaice between divisions 3.a and 4.b.		
	Otter trawlers and seiners with mesh size ≥ 120mm	3.a, 4.b	August - September
	Outcome: DK, DE and NL deployed their assets in the area. NL had a DK inspector on board.		
	No. inspections: 4	No. sightings: 0	No. infringements: 0
Additional information: DK, DE and NL all deployed their assets in the area. NL had a DK inspector on board to form a joint team at sea.			
NSA7	Purpose: Monitoring compliance with the provision of the use of acoustic deterrent devices (ADD) for vessels with an overall length of 12 m or more fishing with bottom-set gillnet or entangling net, under the conditions as specified in Annex XIII Part A of the Technical Measures Regulation (including to identify control methods).		
	Gillnets and trammel nets	3.a, 4	August - September
	No. inspections: 1	No. sightings: 0	No. infringements: 0
	<p>Additional information: DK, NL and BE all inspected vessels in the relevant fleet segment during the period, however only one vessel fitted the criteria to possibly be obligated to use acoustic deterrent devices, which was inspected. The acoustic deterrent devices were not on board, because the requirements on mesh size excluded the vessel from needing the use acoustic deterrent devices after all.</p> <p>There were a further 7 inspections related to the fleet segments where they were not required to use ADD however on 3 occasions suspected infringements were detected related to the tagging of gear.</p>		
NSA8	Purpose: Monitoring of high-grading and sampling for the purpose of establishment of real-time closure (RTC).		
	Otter trawler ≥ 70	4.b. and 4.c	August - October
	Otter trawlers ≥ 90	3.a.	

North Sea Specific Actions (NSA) ⁵⁴			
	No. inspections: 61	No. sightings: 0	No. infringements: 0
	Additional information: The Member States concerned conducted 61 sea inspections on vessels from the relevant fleet segment, of those 39 included a LH. This accounts for 64% of the total sea inspections conducted during the specific action's period. One LH resulted in 1 real-time closure established during the period of the action. No suspected infringements were detected related with higrading practices during the sea inspections. However, 5 suspected infringements were detected related with other non-compliance matters.		
NSA9	Purpose: Monitoring discarding of herring and associated risks of misrecording of catches.		
	Refrigerated sea waters tank vessels -Midwater trawlers and midwater pair trawlers	3.a	September - October
			DE, DK, SE
	No. inspections: 1	No. sightings: 0	No. infringements: 0
	Additional information: Inspections at sea on refrigerated sea waters tank vessels has proven very difficult to carry out, therefore no boardings took place, which prevent to verify the recording of herring in the logbooks during sea inspections. During the specific action, 1 land inspection/sampling was carried out on a vessel from the fleet of refrigerated sea waters tank vessels fishing in the Skagerrak area.		

As regards the deployment of control assets in the North Sea, it should be highlighted that in general the Member States complied with the commitment as agreed in the JDP decision. Member States adapted to the COVID-19 situation, resulting on periods when the reported activities were low. Considering the risk associated with the Trade and Cooperation Agreement between EU and UK, there was an almost permanent presence of EFCA OPV in Northe Sea / Western Waters area.

Western Waters

In the framework of the Western Water JDP, 14 specific actions were implemented corresponding to 151⁵⁵ weeks, which is almost the double of the total duration of the specific actions conducted in 2020 (89 weeks). The focus of the JDP was on the implementation of the landing obligation, both on monitoring and control illegal discards and on the compliance with the reporting obligations of legal discards. Other elements, such as the use of illegal gear and the misrecording of area or catch quantities, together with the new elements related with the fisheries restrictive measures in place for reduction of the impact on the marine environment, were also key aspects covered by the Western waters JDP. The elements previously presented for the Baltic Sea JDP concerning the monitoring and control of the use of acoustic deterrence devices were also a novelty in the 2021 Western Waters JDP. An overview of the 2021 specific actions of the Western Waters JDP is presented below.

Western Waters Specific Actions (WWA) ⁵⁶			
WWA1	Purpose: Identifying the use of illegal mesh size / attachments in beam trawlers.		
	Beam trawlers (≥ 80 and < 120 mm)	7	January and November
			BE, IE
	No. inspections: 15	No. sightings: n.a.	No. infringements: 0
	Additional information: This action was planned for two periods in the year. In the first period, the EFCA OPV Lundy Sentinel was deployed for two weeks in the north Celtic Sea, with a joint team composed of IE and ES inspectors. In the second period, particularly IE dedicated resources to the action, and provided a list of vessels of interest. No infringements related with fishing gears were found but 2 suspected suspected infringements related with the obligation of recording of catches were detected.		
WWA2	Purpose: Monitoring of illegal discarding of mackerel and associated misrecording in subarea 6 and 7 (excluding division 7/d) and horse mackerel in subareas 6 and 7, during the fishing season.		

⁵⁵ Several specific actions may take place simultaneously.

⁵⁶ The numbers of inspections presented only concerns control activities conducted within the scope of the specific actions on the concerned fleet segments, area and period.

Western Waters Specific Actions (WWA ⁵⁶)				
	Freezer trawlers and RSW tank vessels - midwater trawl and midwater pair trawl	6, 7	February – mid-March	DE, FR, IE, NL, PL
	No. inspections: 1	No. sightings: 8	No. infringements: 0	
	Additional information: NL, IE and EFCA patrol vessels' deployments contributed with 53 sea-days in divisions 7.d and "rest of 7". The patrols were impacted to bad weather this time of the year and the sea activity was essentially limited to sightings (one sea inspection was conducted). There were 8 aircraft deployments, one of them was deployed in the Channel (BE), the other seven were IE deployments in divisions 7.a, 7.g, 7.k.2 and 7.j.2. Overall, 8 sightings were done of the relevant fleet segment. These concerned the sightings on the pelagic fleet were mainly on third country (NO) FV activities in the blue whiting fishery.			
	Purpose: Monitoring of possible discarding of MAC in mixed fishery and misrecording of MAC.			
WWA3	Polyvalents - bottom trawl and bottom pair trawl	7, 8 and 9	March - April	ES, FR, PT
	Polyvalents - purse seine and lines	8 and 9		
	No. inspections: 290	No. sightings: 98	No. infringements: 19	
	Additional information: Overall, ES, FR, IE and EFCA patrol vessels' deployments contributed with 69 sea-days in subarea 7 and divisions 8.c and 9.a. In the North Western Waters, IE, FR and EFCA reported large number of sightings in the operational area. Also, there were 10 IE aircraft deployments in the North Western Waters. Regarding the southern area, ES and FR jointly deployed 23 days of activity. The sea inspectors' teams conducted 32 inspections on fishing vessels with MAC on board. There were 8 suspected infringements detected on 7 fishing vessels, of which 6 were on the regional list of high-risk fishing vessels. Additionally, there were 3 last haul inspections conducted. There were no aircraft deployments in south western waters operational area. There were 257 inspections ashore undertaken to fishing vessels with mackerel catches within the specific action period, all in ES. In total, there were 12 suspected infringements detected on 12 FV.			
WWA4	Purpose: Monitoring of misreporting during the period of the specific action and assessing the trends over the year; of haddock and cod catches by trawlers between areas 6 and 7 and between 7.a and 7.g, of haddock catches by seiners between areas 7.a and 7.g, and of SOL catches by beam trawlers between areas 4.c and 7.d and between 7.g and 7.j.			
	Trawlers	6 and rest of 7	May - June	BE, ES, FR, IE
	Seines	Rest of 7	March – May	FR, IE, NL
	Beam trawlers (≥ 80 and < 120 mm)	7.d and rest of 7	March - May	BE, IE
No. inspections: 19	No. sightings: 102	No. infringements: 0		
Additional information: The fisheries monitoring centers of the concerned Member State performed analyses to ascertain the possible level of misrecording of area. In the case of sol, in the Channel there were no instances where the behaviour was observed. At the time the vessels were deployed, there was no crossing between the Channel and the North Sea. Similarly, in the Celtic Sea there were no instances where it was suspected that vessels were misreporting between the areas. Regarding haddock the fishing activity was by vessels working only in one area, so there were no vessels identified for inspection.				
WWA5	Purpose: Detecting misrecording of anglerfish catches.			
	Beam trawlers (≥ 80 and < 120 mm)	rest of 7	March – April / October - November	BE, IE
	Gillnets	6	March – April / October - November	DE, ES, IE
	Trawlers (< 120 mm)	rest of 7	May - June	BE, ES, FR, IE
No. inspections: 73	No. sightings: n.a.	No. infringements: 3		
Additional information: Sea and land inspections were conducted on the relevant fleet segments. In some cases, the sea inspections conducted were limited to gear checks and the verification of catches onboard could not be conducted. This was due to COVID-19 protocol in places, that prevent longer permanence on board and access to close spaces. The EFCA OPV contributed with 16 sea inspections.				
WWA6	Purpose: Monitoring of recording of <i>de minimis</i> assess compliance with LO provisions and misrecording of catches of anchovy.			
	Polyvalents - purse seines	8 and 9	April - May	ES, PT

Western Waters Specific Actions (WWA ⁵⁶)			
	No. inspections: 92	No. sightings: 0	No. infringements: 4
	Additional Information: The reported activities were concentrated on the anchovy fishery in ports from Cadiz in the south and Bay of Biscay in the north. This year the fishery was very sporadic. Nevertheless, 87 inspections ashore were conducted, and 4 suspected infringements were detected. The inspections at sea did not detect any case where <i>de minimis</i> (DIM) was recorded.		
	Purpose: Detecting illegal discarding of species subject to LO, with associated risk of misrecording, including non-compliance with recording obligations of legal discards.		
WWA7	Seines	7.d, rest of 7	April - May BE, FR, IE, NL
	Beam trawlers (≥ 80 and < 120 mm)	7.a, rest of 7	April – May / November BE, FR, IE
	Bottom trawlers (< 120 mm)	6.a, 7.a, 7.d, and rest 7	April – June / November BE, ES, FR, IE
	No. inspections: 302	No. sightings: 139	No. infringements: 0
Additional information: This specific action includes elements of air surveillance, sea and land inspections. Some of the sea inspection conducted incorporated a last haul (20 in total during the periods of the specific action) conducted by IE, FR and EFCA patrols			
WWA8	Purpose: Detecting of illegal discarding, non-compliance with recording obligations of legal discards and misrecording of hake by bottom pair trawlers		
	Bottom trawls (≥ 70mm and < 100mm)	8	May - June ES, FR
	No. inspections: 15	No. sightings: n.a.	No. infringements: 1
Additional information: There was one ES patrol vessel deployed for two weeks in division 8.c during the specific action. Inspections were conducted on the relevant fleet segment, but no last hauls were performed. Regarding the misrecording of hake by bottom pair trawlers, only 4 vessels belong to the concerned fleet segments were identified, and 8 inspections were carried out ashore. One of the vessels was found to be non-compliant with the recording of hake.			
WWA9	Purpose: Monitoring of possible misrecording of albacore <i>de minimis</i> DIM, and misrecording of albacore catches, and possible misrecording of bluefin tuna.		
	Midwater trawlers targeting albacore	7 and 8	July - August ES, FR, IE
	No. inspections: 67	No. sightings: 75	No. infringements: 4
Additional information: In total 50 inspections at landing were conducted, which resulted in 4 suspected infringements related with misrecording of albacore. Two additional suspected infringement related with reporting obligations but not related with albacore catch recording were detected. The 3 Member States involved deployed a total of 28 days at sea, conducting a total of 17 sea inspections. No issues regarding misrecording albacore were detected during the sea inspections, but others suspected infringement were identified. No LH were performed on the sea inspections.			
WWA10	Purpose: Monitoring of possible discarding of herring and associated risks of misrecording of catches; including misreporting of area for herring between 7.d and rest of 7.		
	Refrigerated sea waters tank vessels and polyvalents - midwater trawl and midwater pair trawl	6 and rest of 7	September DE, FR, IE
	Freezer trawlers - midwater trawl and midwater pair trawl	7.d and rest of 7	December DE, FR, NL
	No. inspections: 1	No. sightings: 0	No. infringements: 0
Additional information: In the first period of the specific action, the herring fisheries were mainly in UK waters and landing in UK ports, which limited the action within the JDP scope. Aerial means were deployed but due to the absence of fisheries in EU waters no sighting were conducted. The second period of the specific action was focused on the freezer trawler vessels and coincided with intense fishing activity in the Channel, division 7.d. Regarding the misreporting of area for herring between 7.d and rest of 7, based on AIS/VMS analyses, there were no instances of mis recording of area between 7.d and rest of 7. No records of ashore inspections with weight verifications or sampling of the catch on board these vessels upon landing were reported.			

Western Waters Specific Actions (WWA ⁵⁶)				
WWA11	Purpose: Detecting illegal discarding and non-compliance with recording obligations of legal discards (specifically Gulf of Cadiz and Portuguese waters of 9.a).			
	Bottom trawls and bottom pair trawls (≥ 55 and <70 mm) targeting mixed pelagic / demersal	9	September - October	ES, PT
	No. inspections: 24	No. sightings: 4	No. infringements: 4	
	Additional information: An FPV was deployed for two weeks in the area (division 9.a), with inspectors of the two relevant Member States deployed in a joint team for that period. Exchange of the regional target vessel list resulted in several sea inspections conducted on designated high-risk vessels. No LH inspections and follow up inspections ashore were conducted.			
WWA12	Purpose: Monitoring of recording of JAX <i>de minimis</i> (DIM)or discards (DIS) in logbooks to assess non-compliance with the LO.			
	Polyvalents - purse seine	9 and CECAF	September - October	ES, PT
	No. inspections: 1	No. sightings: n.a.	No. infringements: 0	
	Additional information: There was only one inspection at sea in the context of the specific action and no last haul was reported. An FPV was deployed or two weeks in the area operations (division 9.a) and inspectors of the two relevant Member States were deployed in this joint team at sea for that period.			
WWA13	Purpose: Monitoring of the possible use of illegal devices to reduce gear selectivity in the Gulf of Cádiz and Algarve.			
	Polyvalents - bottom trawl and bottom pair trawl	9	October – November	ES, PT
	No. inspections: 0	No. sightings: 27	No. infringements: 0	
	Additional information: There was a biological stop during October for the Spanish fleet which excluded them from the action for that period. There were no further patrol assets reported as being deployed to the area during the period of this action (the Gulf of Cádiz and Algarve).			
WWA14	Purpose: Monitoring compliance with the provision of the use of acoustic deterrent devices (ADD) for vessels with an overall length of 12 m or more fishing with bottom-set gillnet or entangling net, under the conditions as specified in Annex XIII Part A of the Technical Measures Regulation (including to identify control methods).			
	Gillnets (anchored and drift) and trammel nets	7.defghj	May	DE, ES, FR, IE, PT
	No. inspections: 0	No. sightings: n.a.	No. infringements: 0	
	Additional Info: FR and IE deployed an FPV to the area, but no sea inspections were conducted within the scope of this specific action. All Member States involved shared their lists of FV with “unknown” deployment of ADD in the gear. One inspection ashore (not a control tool planned for this specific action) was carried out and a gear using ADD was inspected presenting a lower number of pingers than the legally required. The inspection ashore provided some information regarding the use of ADD in the gear. However the regulation only applies to inspections at sea, as the gear has to be in use.			

Considering the risk associated with the Trade and Cooperation Agreement between EU and UK, there was an almost permanent presence of EFCA OPV in the concerned Western Waters / North Sea.

Due to the COVID-19 restrictive measures the execution of exchanges of inspectors faced some difficulties and the execution rate is low for all JDPs. The deployment of EFCA OPVs Lundy Sentinel and Aegis contributed to the improvement in 2021 of the execution related with exchanges of inspectors. Most of the Member States ensured the availability of their inspectors in the joint inspection teams during the EFCA's chartered OPV's missions in the JDPs in the North Sea Western Waters areas, NAFO and NEAFC.

Mediterranean Sea and Eastern Atlantic

The Member States operational effort for fisheries control inside the JDP increased in 2021, as their seaborne and airborne means were deployed over the commitments agreed in the JDP Decision, contributing to ensure a level playing field, a higher inspection rate as well as the coordination and assistance for better compliance.

In addition to the available seaborne means of the Member States, EFCA added additional capacity with the deployment of its chartered OPV “Lundy Sentinel” with RPAS on board. Two EFCA Union inspectors were deployed on board Lundy Sentinel, to perform inspections in the international waters of the Eastern Atlantic in the framework of the ICCAT JSII.

The SG meetings of 2021 followed up the implementation of the JDP and focused on the preparation of the 2022 JDP based on the outcomes and recommendations of the regional risk assessment exercise organised by EFCA on 8-10 September.

In 2021, seven specific campaigns were carried out in the framework of the Mediterranean JDP, whereas six were dedicated to specific periods and fisheries (MSC1 to MSC6, in table below), and one concerned an all-year specific campaign in fisheries restricted areas (FRAs) (MSC 7, in table below). The specific campaigns MSC1 to MSC6 were organised by EFCA using EFCA’s ICT, successfully hosting Member States representatives through an EFCA Virtual Coordination Centre. In preparation to each of these specific campaigns, operational plans were discussed and completed with the TJDG one month ahead of each specific campaign starting date. In addition to a kick-off meeting at the start of the specific campaign to introduce participants and the planned activities, EFCA also organised tailored made operational workshops, focusing specifically on the legislation in force and technical aspects of the fisheries targeted by the specific campaign.

Mediterranean specific campaigns							
	MSC1: Mediterranean Swordfish	MSC2: Strait of Sicily	MSC3: Bluefin tuna	MSC4: Adriatic Sea	MSC 5: Gulf of Lion	MSC 6: Eastern Mediterranean	MSC7: Spatial closures
Period	I: 16 February - 15 March II: 24 August - 20 September	16 – 29 April	18 May – 26 July	04 – 17 October	15 – 28 October	03-30 November	All year
Objectives	To monitor the respect of the applicable closure period for the Mediterranean swordfish (Med-SWO) fisheries (1st period of the campaign), and to monitor the activity of longliners targeting Med-SWO (2nd period of the campaign).	To monitor trawling activity, including monitoring and control of third countries in the framework of the international Joint Inspection and Surveillance Scheme outside the waters under national jurisdiction in the Strait of Sicily.	To monitor the activity of purse seiners (including farms and towing/supporting/auxiliary/processing vessels) and traps under the framework of ICCAT Joint Inspection, in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean	To monitor the respect of the temporal and spatial closures applicable to fishing activities by the demersal and small pelagics fleets, in the Adriatic Sea.	To monitor compliance of fishing vessels operating inside the Fisheries Restricted Area in the Gulf of Lion, and within its boundaries.	To monitor the activity of all fishing vessels targeting demersal stocks in the Eastern Mediterranean.	To monitor the activity of all fishing vessels inside the GFCM FRAs in the Mediterranean Sea
MS participating	CY, EL, ES, FR, HR, IT, MT	IT, MT	CY, EL, ES, FR, HR, IT, MT, PT, SL	HR, IT, SL	ES, FR	CY, EL, IT	CY, EL, ES, FR, HR, IT, MT
Number of inspections	972	68	1860	153	47	138	n/a
Number of sightings	66	16	257	27	0	6	n/a
Number of suspected infringements	48	5	117	10	0	16	11

During the implementation period of the specific campaigns MSC1 to MSC6, operational briefings were organised on a regular basis, where EFCA and the Member States experts participating exchanged information on the status and dynamics of the fishery, patrol means activity and intelligence gathered.

EFCA had continued collaboration with EMSA and Frontex within the context of the EU inter-agency coast guard cooperation by providing the services and information available at the agencies to support

national authorities. Among the services used to support the specific campaigns it must be highlighted EFCA-IMS, an application that provides an integrated maritime picture based on the real-time integration of Vessel Monitoring System (VMS), Automatic Identification System (AIS) and other maritime related data and tools. With Frontex the cooperation was ensured through the exchange of possible sighting reports of fishing vessels spotted by the national assets deployed in Frontex Joint Operation and by Frontex Surveillance Airplanes (FSA).

In support of the specific campaign MSC6, IT deployed its OPV “Bruno Gregoretti” in the Eastern Mediterranean, facilitating the exchange of inspectors at sea. EFCA allocated two EFCA Union inspectors who joined teams of IT, CY and EL inspectors on board. The possibility of this exchange of inspectors at sea was very welcomed by all participants involved, proving to be of high relevance for the promotion of an uniform level of inspections and exchange of best practices.

The MSC7 was distinct from all the other specific campaigns since it was planned to allow for the permanent remoted monitoring of the activity of fishing vessels inside the GFCM FRAs (eight in total) in the Mediterranean Sea. This campaign also provided specific support to the joint inspection and surveillance activities coordinated by the joint coordination team during the specific campaigns MSC 2, 4, 5 and MSC 6. To support the permanent monitoring of these areas, a “speed anomaly over period” ABM type was used. This ABM was further tailored to the needs of Member States and according to the FRA’ specificities.

Since the beginning of 2021, the concerned Member States received ABM alerts regarding the activity of their fishing vessels inside the FRAs, namely in the areas that fall outside the areas of sovereignty or jurisdiction of the Member States (where this configuration is applicable). Overall, 158 ABMs were created. Throughout the year, the TJDG was regularly informed on the state of play of this campaign (via email, IMS and TJDG meeting), in particularly on the number of fishing vessels for which alerts were triggered. The analysis of alerts received, was followed up by the concerned Member States, leading to the detection of 11 suspected infringements (six in Jabuka/Pomo Pit FRA, four in the Strait of Sicily and one in the Gulf of Lyon).

Black Sea

Steering Group meetings in the context of the Black Sea SG provided an overview of 2021 JDP activities and MMO related elements. The meetings also focused on the preparation of the 2022 JDP based on the outcomes and recommendations of the regional risk assessment exercise organised by EFCA on 14 September.

From 6 to 15 December, EFCA coordinated the Black Sea specific campaign through the EFCA Virtual Coordination Centre (VCC). This was implemented in accordance with the Black Sea JDP decision, by means of a coordinated programme of control at sea and at land and covered fishing activities related to turbot.

Operational briefings were organised daily to provide a debriefing of the activities carried out, to review the current situation of fishing activities at sea, by identifying possible vessels of interest, areas of activity for the patrol means, discuss joint recommendations, planning and other related information (fishing situation, intelligence, previous inspections, potential non-compliances, etc.).

Table below shows the main outcomes of the campaign in terms of inspection and surveillance activities carried out.

Black Sea specific campaign	
Period	6 December to 15 December
Objectives	To monitor the activity of gillnetters targeting turbot (<i>Psetta Maxima</i>), with particular attention given to the non-compliance with the landing obligation (LO) and associated misrecording and specific emphasis in control at landing.
MS participating	BG, RO
Number of inspections	111
Number of sightings	2
Number of suspected infringements	0

In terms of the inter-agency cooperation, 8 Copernicus satellite pictures were delivered and analysed during the campaign, 5 covering RO waters, and 3 corresponding to BG waters.

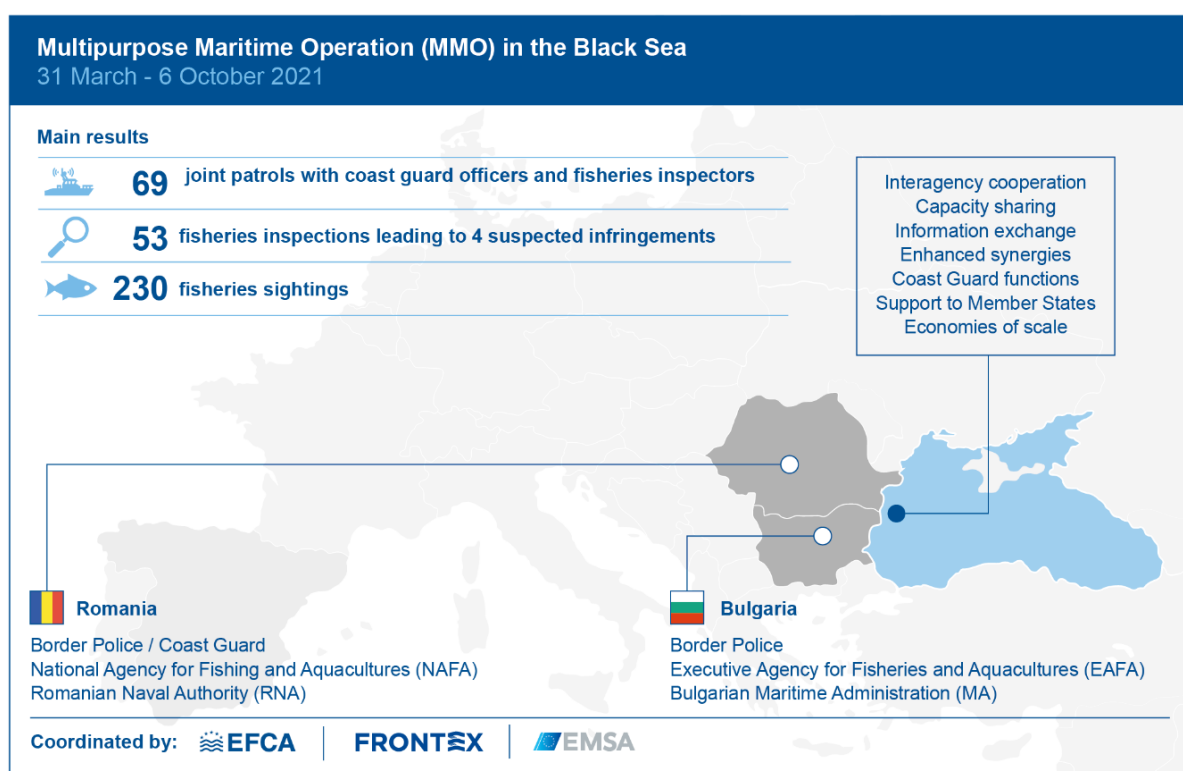
It is worth noting the effort put in place by all concerned Member States to implement all the specific campaigns planned in the framework of the 2021 Med and Black Sea JDPs, despite the COVID-19 challenges.

Support to RO and BG - Black Sea Multipurpose Maritime Operation

In the light of the inter-agency cooperation in the area of capacity sharing, EFCA as part of EU cooperation on CG functions in cooperation with EMSA and EFCA took part in MMO led by Frontex in order to support BG and RO national authorities in the Black Sea. EFCA was in close contact with fisheries control authorities of RO and BG in order to provide support the context of MMO.

In this regard, Frontex and EMSA's assets and services were shared in a joint operation in order to increase surveillance and fisheries control capacity in the area. Therefore, these EU agencies and RO and BG authorities (fisheries and border control communities) agreed on the implementation of coordinated multipurpose maritime operational activities in the Black Sea focused on combating illegal immigration, illegal fishing activities and marine pollution as well as addressing other CG functions. The main results of the MMO are summarised as follows for the period from 31 March to 6 October 2021⁵⁷:

- 69 joint patrols with fisheries inspections
- 53 fisheries inspections leading to 4 suspected infringements
- 230 fisheries sightings



Support to Cyprus in the scope of the JDP

EFCA in cooperation with EMSA and RPAS contractor were having very intensive preparational measures in order to set the ground to provide additional operational support as requested by CY in the context of the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Joint Deployment Plan, through deployment RPAS for fisheries surveillance.

⁵⁷ The implementation period for FRONTEX business area of MMO Black Sea 2021 was 31 March 2021/13:00 LT (+3 UTC) – 06 October 2021/ 13:59 LT (+3 UTC). While each agency maintained the implementation period as approved in the ToR.

NAFO-NEAFC

The European Union continued to be committed to having inspection presence in the NAFO and NEAFC Regulatory Areas, based upon the number of EU fishing vessels operating in these areas. EFCA coordinated together with relevant Member States and the European Commission the implementation of control operations in the NAFO and NEAFC areas, which included the deployment of control assets, as sea patrols, air surveillance, and NAFO and NEAFC inspectors aboard of patrol vessels and in mixed teams ashore. The participating Member States coordinated efficiently the deployment of their control assets as agreed in the respective JDP decision, to the extent possible considering the COVID-19 sanitary measures. Some Member States missions were cancelled due to the COVID-19 situation and technical problems. EFCA chartered OPV Lundy Sentinel was deployed in NAFO and NEAFC Regulatory Areas (4 sea going missions) in order to fulfil the EU commitments.

In 2021, no mixed team were deployed for inspection of fishing vessel landing fish from NAFO Regulatory Areas (NAFO RA) in a EU port. However, in one case, on request from EE, a landing inspection of EE vessel landing in PT port was coordinated by EFCA remotely.

In the context of the JDP, EFCA continued to contribute to the standardised assessment of risk for NAFO vessels landing in the ports of Member States, performed by the flag Member State or by EFCA for the vessels of other Contracting Parties. Earlier in 2021, a final version of the Post-Activity Risk Assessment (also known as PARA) criteria was endorsed by the Steering Group and implemented by EFCA and Member States as a key document to assist the land inspections. When requested, EFCA also provided assistance to Member States in PARA preparation. As for the other JDPs, EFCA updated fact sheets for each NAFO Division and target species with information on legislation in force, average catch composition and status of the exploited stocks.

In collaboration with the Member States, EFCA continued the work on the vessel profile sheets with key information of vessels operating in the NAFO RA. The aim of the PARA, the fact sheets and the vessel profile sheets is to provide consistent support to assist the inspection.

Additionally, the strategic risk assessment developed for the NAFO fisheries was consolidated and, towards the end of 2021, the process to develop NEAFC risk assessment was initiated in close collaboration with Member States and the European Commission. Further details on this activity are presented under *Objective 2.1. Improved Risk Management Strategy and identification of possible minimum common standards for national risk assessment systems.*

EFCA continued the work on the development of NAFO port inspection guidelines to be followed during landings from vessels fishing in NAFO RA, which were in 2021 endorsed by Steering Group.

JDP activities related with UK vessels

When planning the 2021 JDPs, in 2020, the Steering Groups of the North Sea and Western Waters JDPs agreed to put in place an enhanced level of coordination to focus on the control issues that might arise in the context of Brexit. At that time, it was not clear what sort of Brexit would evolve from the negotiations with the UK but there was clear agreement that there would be fishery control changes and challenges, which should be addressed in a coordinated manner and with a common approach. The proposals on enhanced cooperation were included in the North Sea and Western Waters JDP Decisions for 2021, and took into account the outcomes of the risk assessment workshops conducted at that time where threats associated with control of fishing activity in terms of licencing, access to resources displacement of fishing effort and gear conflicts were identified. The JDP decisions included the establishment of a Virtual Coordination Network. The purpose of the network was to enhance a common situational awareness picture, to give focus to risks related with the Trade and Cooperation Agreement with UK, which may emerge, and to ensure good coordination and exchange of information.

Throughout 2021, EFCA provided support for the smooth functioning of the VCN by providing regular exchange of information on fleet activity, analysis of fishing effort and incorporating the intelligence information received from the MS. More than 50 VCN related meetings took place in 2021. The integration of the EFCA IMS as a tool to give a complete picture of UK vessel activity, particularly in the transzonal context was significant as the UK was no longer part of the EU wide VMS picture shared within the JDP framework. Additionally, the EFCA IMS was a useful tool allowing for the setting of alarms to inform fisheries monitoring centres of the presence or approach to port of UK registered vessels. On a weekly basis EFCA prepared an overview of the spatial fishing activity in 2021 and a

comparison to 2019 based on VMS data to provide information of possible shifts in effort that deserved special attention regarding monitor and control.

Member States, through the VCN, identified many common challenges relating to UK vessels and their new status when landing in EU ports. To facilitate a better understanding of the control provisions applicable, EFCA hosted a VCN workshop (3 February) with the participation of the EC to bring some clarity to the complex control scenarios which were being encountered by Member States administrations. The output was a useful guide to the provisions applicable and which facilitated a common understanding and approach.

The operational aspects and added value of the VCN as the JDP response to the UK departure from the EU was reviewed twice in 2021. Based on these evaluations the periodicity of VCN meetings was adapted and Member States agreed that it should continue in 2022 in its current format.

As divergences between the UK and EU regulations became more apparent, the VCN considered impacts to control in EU waters. EFCA produced a guidance on UK regulations and where to find them and shared with the VCN MS. Changes of UK regulations, which were notified to the EC, were always communicated to MS at the VCN meetings, and were reviewed in the context of any potential control consequences in EU waters. The VCN was a key channel of communication between the EC, Members States and EFCA concerning UK fisheries related issues.

In 2021, and similarly to the process of previous years, EFCA conducted a risk assessment exercise together with MS experts, in particular re-assessing the main threats and areas already complemented with new information particularly focusing on the estimation of a possible shift of fishing effort and the above mentioned divergencies in the fisheries related regulation between EU and UK. The outcomes of this risk assessment and the experience gained in 2021 through the VCN were the basis for the planning of the 2022 North Sea and Western Waters JDP concerning TCA matters.

Standardisation

In 2021 EFCA used the framework of the JDPs to enhance the standardisation of inspections, in particular through developing best practices and promotion the last haul observation procedures during inspections at sea and the use of standardized risk assessment methodology, applicable regionally and nationally in all EU JDP areas.

The standardisation aspects were addressed through the regional training organised for EU inspectors and during relevant specific actions/ campaigns.

The standardisation of the last haul observation was promoted at all times to the TJDGs and on regional training events. The COVID-19 sanitary measures adopted by Members States and EFCA might have prevent the realisation of last haul observations, in particular when the inspected vessels' conditions do not ensure that the operations are conducted in a safety manner (e.g., reduce/ closed space to conduct a last haul). Nevertheless, and as stated above the number of last haul conducted in 2021 were higher in all JDPs. As it was already the case in 2020, the details of the sampling procedure were reinforced in the North Sea JDP to include the elements of the sampling of demersal species linked with the establishment of Real Time Closures according to EU Regulation No. 724/2010.

Annex V of the Med JDP delivers an agreed common interpretation on specific control procedures for bluefin tuna fisheries. In 2021, several technical meetings took place with the Steering Group and appointed Member States experts, under the frame of the implementation of the international obligations for the EU, particularly as regards ICCAT. These meetings focused mainly in the preparation of the Terms of Reference for BFT farming investigations, in response to the SG agreement in 2020, that all investigations carried out in EU farms shall follow the Terms of Reference for Investigations. The Terms of Reference were adopted on 28 August 2021.

For several fisheries, EFCA and Member States focused on the analysis of data to derive at objective indicators of compliance. For the purpose of alternative benchmarks for the improvement of compliance under the SCIP, a harmonised methodology is in place developed by EFCA in cooperation with Member States.

In closed collaboration with the Member States of the Baltic Sea, North Sea and Western Waters, EFCA is in the process of preparing guidelines for control on Acoustic Deterrent Devices (ADDs). A first draft

of these guidelines was already presented to the Member States at a dedicated workshop that took place in December 2021, where valuable contribution from participants was received. This information will be incorporated in a final version planned to be available in 2022.

The sampling procedure of unsorted landing of pelagic landings are based to the guidelines previously developed by EFCA in collaboration with Baltic Sea Member States.

Compliance Evaluation

In reply to a request from the Baltic Sea Control Expert Group, EFCA published the compliance evaluation with the landing obligation for cod, plaice, herring, sprat and salmon in the Baltic Sea, for the period 2017 – 2018. The executive summaries of the evaluation, as well as, the previous conducted for specific fisheries of the North Sea and Western Waters are available on the EFCA website. More details of the evaluation of compliance are found under *Objective 1, Result 4. Assistance to Member States, Regional Bodies and the European Commission in the implementation of the CFP, including the landing obligation.*

2. Increased synergies and transparency between the participating Member States

The collaboration between Member States continued to be enhanced in 2021 in the framework of relevant JDPs. Regularly organized video conferences and sharing of information through different electronic tools ensured a satisfactory level of understanding of the state of play as regard the planning, implementation and evaluation of executed joint control operation. MS experts and inspectors supported efficiently the coordination of JDP activities at operational level. The considerable Member States participation and the result of the work of the joint teams deployed aboard of EFCA OPVs in 2021 should be highlight. The EFCA OPV patrols organised in cooperation with MS inspectors in the framework of the Mediterranean and Eastern Atlantic, NAFO, NEAFC, Western Waters and North Sea JDPs were a key factor in promoting synergies and maintaining the transparency of sea activities, in particular during in the COVID-19 related restrictions, which, in some cases, reduced MS' sea control effort. There were 22 MS Union inspectors hosted aboard of EFCA chartered OPV Lundy Sentinel in the framework of JDP (for more details please refer to Annex I)

Likewise, there were 9 MS Union inspectors hosted aboard of EFCA chartered OPV Aegis in the framework of JDP (for more details please refer to Annex I):

With regards to sharing information on priority targets for inspections, 20 Member States exchanged information on 3 858 fishing vessels as possible targets in 2021. This information was provided to inspection teams working in the framework of the JDPs in the Baltic Sea, North Sea, Western Waters, Mediterranean Sea and Eastern Atlantic and Black Sea areas. Based on this information 3 341 fishing vessels were inspected as targets (8.1% of the inspected vessels). 125 suspected infringements were reported to be found. The infringement ration for target inspections was 8.9% at sea and 3.1% ashore.

The provision of assistance and expertise to Member States through regional workshops and best practice meetings for the Union inspectors, inspectors and Member States staff

EFCA organised regional workshops trainings and best practice meetings for Union inspectors, inspectors and Member States staff involved in the implementation of joint campaigns. In 2021 almost all these training activities were delivered as webinars through IT communication platforms.

In 2021, 538 fisheries inspectors from attended 13 regional trainings organised in the framework of the JDPs as outlined below. It should be underlined that, in comparison to the years with physical presence trainings, the webinar format has more than doubled the participation to these trainings by Member States' inspectors. These trainings promote the exchange of views between inspectors involved in the respective JDPs, aiming to bring their knowledge up to date with the fishery legislation in force and discuss issues relevant with the JDP framework, in particular the implementation of specific actions/ campaigns. These events are a key step in promoting a regional level playing field. The workshops were well received by participants and where focused mainly on the practical implementation of specific actions/ campaigns and their corresponding operational tasks to ensure an effective and efficient execution of the joint control operations at inspector's level. Special attention was drawn to the importance of targeted inspections, quality and importance of information collected by MS inspectors during the joint operations, which in some cases are used for the evaluation of compliance levels. The

use of the harmonised last haul procedures was promoted together with the follow up inspections ashore as effective control tool in the context of the landing obligation.

EFCA workshop for Member States Union Inspectors		
Topic addressed	Dates	JDP
NAFO JDP implementation concerning sea activities	3-4 March	NAFO
NAFO - NEAFC JDP implementation concerning Fisheries Monitoring Centers (FMC) activities	24-25 March	NAFO-NEAFC
NAFO- NEAFC JDP implementation concerning activities at landing	16 -17 June	NAFO-NEAFC
NS JDP implementation and relevant legislative framework	29-30 September	North Sea
BS JDP implementation and relevant legislative framework	6-7 October	Baltic Sea
WW JDP implementation and relevant legislative framework	17-18 October	Western Waters
MED Regional workshop on SCIP and Mediterranean JDP, and Med-SWO	4 February	MED
Workshop on the Strait of Sicily legal framework	12 April	MED
Workshop on Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna	13 May	MED
Workshop on Mediterranean JDP: MSC1 Swordfish	28 Jul	MED
Workshop on Mediterranean JDP: Adriatic	27 September	MED
Black Sea workshop on the last haul procedure	26 October	Black Sea

In addition to the above, EFCA's coordinators also assisted Member States in 15 national workshops with a total of 269 participants, upon request in the context of the MED JDP.

3. Support to the EU in relation to RFMOs and third countries in the North Atlantic

NAFO – NEAFC technical support to the European Commission

During 2021, within the EFCA sphere of competence and drawing upon professional experience, EFCA provided technical support to the European Commission on NAFO matters and participated in five virtual meetings, as presented below. The role of EFCA was to participate and support the European Commission and Member States with regards to formulating and analysing proposals for NAFO CEM amendments and matters related to fisheries control in the NAFO Regulatory Area. This involved assisting the European Commission in its preparation for the Standing Committee on International Control (STACTIC) intersessional and Editorial Drafting Group (EDG) meetings and providing technical support during the meetings. EFCA also contributed to the preparation of the EU NAFO Annual Report on control activities.

EFCA provided technical support to the European Commission also on NEAFC matters and participated to six virtual meetings, as presented below. The role of EFCA was to participate and support the European Commission and Member States with regards to formulating recommendations and analysing proposed NEAFC Scheme of Control and Enforcement amendments and NEAFC recommendations on management of fisheries resources. This involved assisting the European Commission in its preparation for the PECMAC meetings and providing technical support during the meetings. In 2021 one of the main objectives through PECMAC was to continue to adopt the basis for an ERS system where contracting parties shall report their ERS directly to the NEAFC Secretariat through Fisheries Language for Universal exchange (FLUX). This is a very important element as the EU shall lead this process and be

the first contracting party to exchange ERS data with the NEAFC Secretariat. In this regard EFCA participated in testing of the new user interface for *Active Inspection Presence* and submitted its comments to European Commission.

EFCA also coordinated the preparation of the NEAFC Annual Report on control activities, by collating Member States data and presenting the report at the PECMAC spring meeting.

An overview of EFCA participation on meetings to support the EU in relation to NAFO and NEAFC in 2020 is presented below. All meetings took place by video conference. The outputs from the STACTIC and PECMAC meetings also fed into the NAFO/NEAFC JDP, where Member States were informed on changes to the NAFO CEM and NEAFC Scheme. This is very important in order to maintain a level playing field within the European Union and deliver a high level of control in Union ports and in the Member States Fisheries Monitoring Centres.

Meeting	Dates
Standing Committee on International Control (STACTIC) intersessional meeting	10-13 May
Ad hoc Working Group on STACTIC Participation meeting	25 August
STACTIC ad hoc Working Group on the issue of bycatch, directed fisheries, discards, and consideration of the elements necessary to adopt a landing obligation policy in NAFO meeting	8-9 September
43 rd NAFO Annual Meeting	20-24 September
Editorial Drafting Group (EDG) of the NAFO Control and Enforcement Measures (NAFO CEM) meeting	4 November
NEAFC Permanent Committee on Monitoring and Compliance (PECMAC) meetings	20-21 April 14-16 September 5 November
PECMAC Friends of Chair meeting	11 June
NEAFC Annual Meeting	9-12 November
NEAFC Scheme of Control and Enforcement Editorial Group meeting	14 December

Monitoring Control and Surveillance Working Group (MCSWG)

a) *EU-NO Bilateral MCS WG for the North Sea*

Since Brexit, the UK now joins Norway as a third party to the agreement on shared North Sea demersal and herring stocks. In its support to the European Commission, EFCA plays an active part in the coordination of activities foreseen in the work programme of the working group. Unfortunately, because of COVID-19 much of the planned activities including a joint seminar for inspectors planned to take place in Sweden did not go ahead. Nevertheless, in November and December of 2021, EFCA facilitated the exchange of inspectors from UK and from Norway on two separate EFCA OPV deployments in the North Sea where visiting inspectors took part as observers in an exchange of best practices in inspection. The follow up reports from these missions will be an important output of the work programme of the group for 2021.

b) *Coastal States MCS WG for pelagic stocks*

EFCA supported the European Commission in some initial interactions with the parties in early 2021, however as no agreement was reached by the Coastal States on the pelagic stocks, no MCS working

group activity took place either for the remainder of the year. In December, EFCA participated in support to the European Commission at MS coordination and at the heads of delegation negotiations on new standalone MCS measures for 2022. These discussions did not conclude before the end of the year but there was agreement to try to progress in early 2022.

Support in relation with UK

The Trade and Cooperation Agreement between EU and UK envisaged the establishment of a Specialised Fisheries Committee (SFC), which was still being formalised in 2021. As the UK were no longer part of the JDP framework, EFCA provided a valuable link between the Virtual Coordination Network and the European Commission, highlighting control challenges as they evolved and also a conduit to provide information, responses to queries and state of play relevant to UK related control.

Routine meetings throughout 2021 between the European Commission and EFCA took place to facilitate the exchange of information, such as update from the Commission on licensing and issues related to the implementation of the fisheries control and IUU legislation and update from EFCA on control issues identified at the VCN;

EFCA participated with the Commission at a meeting where UK provided guidance on applicable regulations. As a follow up, EFCA produced a follow up guidance on UK regulations and where to find them and shared with the VCN MS.

Throughout 2021, EFCA addressed several requests from Member States and the Commission for historic AIS and VMS data to assist on Trade and Cooperation Agreement related issues. Hence, data historically shared within the JDP framework and available in EFCA IMS and other information systems were essential and provided to the Commission as requested.

4. Assistance to Member States, Regional Bodies, and the European Commission in the implementation of the CFP, including the landing obligation

Support to the regional Control Expert Groups

EFCA provided assistance to the Member States regional Control Expert Groups (CEGs). EFCA cooperated with the CEGs, which are regional bodies created in the framework of regionalisation, such as BALTFISH, Scheveningen, NWW and SWW CEGs. The work of these groups has been reinforced and enhanced in accordance with the updated Terms of Reference and CEG's workplans for 2021 and 2022. The main areas of activities with the support of EFCA are the common understanding on the application of fisheries related regulations from the perspective of control and inspection, and the implementation of the LO, in particular in the areas of risk assessment, evaluation of compliance and remote electronic monitoring, as outlined below. EFCA's activities in all these areas contribute, directly or indirectly, to the CFP implementation and are, consequently, also relevant to the Green Deal, more concretely to halting biodiversity loss.

The CEG meetings coordinated by EFCA during 2021 are summarised below. All meeting in 2021 were via video conference.

Control Expert Group Meetings	
Meeting	Dates
BALTFISH CEG	4 May
	22 June
	1 December
NWW Control Expert Group	20 May
Scheveningen CEG	25 March
	26 October
South-Western Waters CEG	28 Septembre

Risk Assessment

The risk assessment of non-compliance with the landing obligation was conducted as in previous years both in the JDP and CEGs scope combined (detailed information on the outcome of these exercises is provided under objective 2). The methodology developed by EFCA in collaboration with the Member States was used for these analyses.

LO compliance evaluations

EFCA is coordinating, together with the CEGs, updates of the compliance evaluation reports in relation to the Landing Obligation for certain key species in the Baltic Sea, North Sea and Western Waters for 2018 – 2020.

In 2021, EFCA published the evaluation of compliance for all the Baltic Sea species subject to the Landing Obligation for the period 2017-2018. This evaluation of compliance followed the one conducted previously by EFCA and the BALTFISH CEG for the years 2015 and 2016 for the same area but included an increased number of species and apply those methods used in the first evaluation that, overall, provided more informative results. Additionally, the BALTFISH CEG gave a mandate to EFCA to update of the compliance evaluation for the Baltic Sea using data from 2019-2020. The first draft of this evaluation is planned for 2022.

During 2021, in agreement with the SCHEVENINGEN and NWW CEGs, drafting committees with participations from relevant Member States were created to support EFCA in the preparation of the compliance evaluations reports. EFCA has produced drafts of the North Sea demersal and North Sea and Northern Western Waters pelagic compliance evaluations, for selected species, for the period 2018-2020. These compliance evaluation reports are planned to be completed in 2022.

Concerning demersal fisheries of Northern Western waters and South-Western waters fisheries, in 2021, the NWW and SWW CEG agreed on the scope of compliance the evaluation reports and on the creation of drafting committees. Drafts of the compliance evaluation reports are underway and will be discussed with the respective drafting committees in 2022.

Below is an overview of the compliance evaluations conducted or being prepared by EFCA in collaboration with the CEGs.

Area	In cooperation with	Period covered	Species covered	Completed
Baltic Sea	BALTFISH CEG	2015-2016	herring, sprat, salmon, and cod	2017
		2017-2018	herring, sprat, salmon, cod, and plaice	2021
		2019-2021	herring, sprat, salmon, cod, and plaice	In preparation
North Sea	Scheveningen CEG	2015-2017	cod, sole, plaice, and mackerel	2019
		2018-2020	cod, sole, plaice, prawns, and mackerel	In preparation
North Western Waters	NWW CEG	2015-2017	whiting, hake, haddock, and mackerel	2019
		2018-2020	whiting, hake, haddock, and mackerel, cod, anglerfish, <i>Nephrops</i> , sole, and plaice	In preparation
South Western Waters	SWW CEG	2018-2020	hake, anglerfish, <i>Nephrops</i> , sole and horse mackerel	In preparation

The resulting low levels of compliance with the LO in some fleet segments led to the recommendation by control experts to prioritise the use of Support on Remote Electronic Monitoring (REM) as an efficient control and monitoring tool to improve compliance with the LO.

Support on Remote Electronic Monitoring projects

During 2021, EFCA continued the work to address the requests for assistance in the preparation of Remote Electronic Monitoring (REM) operational plans for pilot projects at regional and national level. Requests from the Regional Groups Control Groups (Scheveningen, North Western Waters, and BALTFISH) and requests for assistance to national projects from DK and CY were implemented during 2021.

The Scheveningen Control Expert Group supported by EFCA submitted a proposal for a joint regional pilot project on REM in the North Sea. On 5 July 2021, the Scheveningen High Level Group endorsed the decision to initiate the implementation of REM Pilot Project in the North Sea, with participation of a minimum of two vessels per Member State. The operational plan for the pilot project was amended accordingly, to reflect the minimum participation. The Scheveningen Control Expert Group met on 26 October 2021 to detail the planning for the implementation of the North Sea REM pilot project. The Control Expert Group agreed on a deadline for identifying vessels (March 2022) and set a timeline for implementing the one-year project starting in October 2022.

Similarly, during the June 2022 Baltfish High Level Group meeting, it was agreed to progress with with the REM pilot project in the Baltic Sea. The majority of the High Level Group members preferred the scenario that each participating Member State select a minimum of two vessels to participate in the pilot project regardless of fleet segment, with exception of FI who do not intend to participate in the project.

Regarding the North Western Waters, the regional Control Expert Group have also made formal requests to EFCA to initiate the drafting of operational plan for the possible implementation of a REM regional pilot project. The work was performed during 2021 and it is expected to be completed for presentation to the High Level Group in the beginning of 2022.

The EFCA REM Working Group composed by Member States representatives and coordinated by EFCA was created originally for the development of the “Technical Guidelines and Specifications for the Implementation of Remote Electronic Monitoring (REM) in EU Fisheries”. The Guidelines were published on the EFCA website in 2019. During the April 2021 meeting of the EFCA Administrative Board it was decided to reactivate the EFCA REM Working Group. The goal would be to assist Member States in the implementation of regional / national pilot projects and consider best practices for REM implementation on fishing vessels, including to provide means to effectively control and enforce the landing obligation at sea and to potentially provide a source of verifiable data. The EFCA REM Working Group reactivation was endorsed by the Administrative Board in the meeting of 14 October 2021.

The composition of the EFCA REM Working group is open to representatives from all Member States and the European Commission under coordination of EFCA. EFCA organises and chairs the meetings of this group. During the first meeting of the EFCA REM WG on 15 December 2021 term of reference of the group were presented, and the workplan of the group and regional subgroups was discussed. From the plenary group, subgroups composed by Member States involved in REM pilot projects were agreed to discuss relevant operational issues at regional level and report to the plenary Working Group for developing general guidelines and standards.

1.2.1.2 RISK ASSESSMENT AND DATA ANALYSIS (OBJECTIVE 2)

❖ Introduction

EFCA control and monitoring activities are based on tactical and strategic risk assessments to ensure a maximum efficiency of the planning and implementation of the control and monitoring operations and an adequate use of available resources. Appropriate data, information systems and analysis are key elements to support the risk assessment.

OBJECTIVE 2		
Promotion of a risk management-based approach and compliance evaluation		
EXPECTED RESULTS		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improved Risk Management Strategy and identification of possible minimum common standards for national risk assessment systems 2. Support the implementation of alternative, compliance-based methodologies for evaluating the effectiveness of control and inspection activities 3. Improvement of EFCA information systems in support of fisheries monitoring and control 4. Improvement of data management in support of fisheries monitoring and control 		
PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	Target 2021	Achieved 2021
1. User evaluation of the ERS, Fishnet and IMS applications	> 90% satisfaction rate from participating MS	94%
2. Regions to which the EFCA risk management methodology applies	5 regions	6 regions
3. Regions to which the EFCA compliance methodology applies	2 regions	3 regions
MAIN OUTPUTS		
Planned	Achieved	
1. Methodology for regional risk management strategy	Yes	
2. Methodology for minimum standards for national risk assessment systems	Yes	
3. Methodology for alternative, compliance-based, benchmarks	Yes	
4. Data Governance Strategy implemented	Yes ⁵⁸	
5. Business requirements for the development of EFCA systems in support of JDPs, EUCG Functions and the fight against IUU fishing	Yes ⁵⁹	

a) Improved Risk Management Strategy and identification of possible minimum common standards for national risk assessment systems

EFCA risk-based management approach of control and monitoring activities is used regionally at three levels during the life cycle of JDPs:

- a) Strategic planning of JDPs: to identify specific objectives for the yearly JDPs campaigns and to guide the deployment of control means.
- b) Risk assessment: to identify priority fisheries / fleet segments where high risk of non-compliance with the current fisheries legislation is estimated. The main threats considered are non-compliance with the landing obligation, non-compliance with recording and reporting obligations, use of illegal gear, non-compliance with technical measures and fishing operations in closed areas/seasons.
- c) Operational level: to facilitate the exchange of best-practice and targets between different Member States at a short-term tactical level.

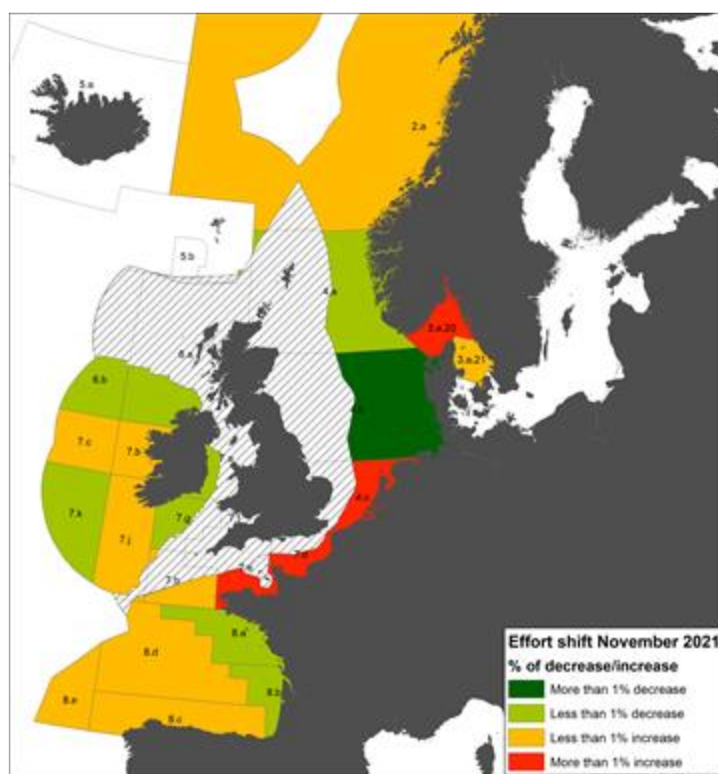
⁵⁸ In 2021, the focus was on the establishment of an EFCA system governance applicable to the operational systems. The aligned of the two frameworks, data and system governance) was considered an important step for an efficient data governance implementation in future years.

⁵⁹ In 2021 progress on implementation of business requirements of EFCA systems in support of the JDPs, EUCG Functions and the fight against IUU fishing were made. The end phase of on-going projects are due in 2022.

Following the same methodology as in previous years and as agreed in the guidelines developed with EFCA in collaboration with Member States⁶⁰, in 2021 Regional Risk Assessments were conducted at fleet segment level for several JDP areas (Baltic Sea, North Sea, Western Waters, Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea and fisheries activities of EU vessels in the NAFO Regulatory Area). Dedicated regional video-conference workshops with participation of risk assessment Member States experts, as listed below, were organised. The two main outcomes of the regional meetings were: a) identification of those fleet segments with the estimated highest risk of non-compliance with the current regulations, and b) a recommended set of possible risk treatment measures to address each of the main threats identified for the fleet segments with the highest risk levels.

On this basis, a series of specific actions addressing main threats in the most relevant fleet segments and implementing some of the risk treatment measures, was agreed for the 2022 JDPs. In the following tables, the two highest levels of risk of non-compliance identified for each priority threat for the different regions and fisheries are presented (a more detailed overview on the risk results by priority threat is available in Annex I). For the pelagic fisheries in the Western Waters and North Sea the highest risk results are presented disaggregated by species, in line with the procedure of assessing the risk of these fisheries.

Additionally to the Regional Risk Assessment workshops mentioned above, in 2021 EFCA organised a dedicated Risk Assessment Workshop with risk experts from the North Sea and Western Waters to address non-compliance threats related with the Trade and Cooperation Agreement between (TCA) EU and UK, as already mentioned in section 1.2.1.1, item 1. *Improved compliance, level playing field and cost-effectiveness in the EU and International waters*. The workshop addressed possible shifts of fishing effort by the EU fleet, changes in the magnitude and location of landings in EU ports due to the TCA, identified the main threats and estimate the risk levels, ending with recommendations of adequate mitigation measures for consideration of the 2022 concerned JDPs.



Estimated effort shift (in %) in ICES areas of EU, Faroe and Norwegian waters in November 2021 compared with November 2019.

In 2021, EFCA initiated a consultation process for developing a Regional Risk Assessment exercise addressing fisheries in the NEAFC Regulatory Area, with the collaboration of risk experts from

⁶⁰ Guidelines on Risk Assessment Methodology on Fisheries Compliance.
<https://www.efca.europa.eu/sites/default/files/Risk%20Assessment%20Methodology.pdf>

concerned Member States and the European Commission. This initial step was focused on defining fleet segments and identifying the main threats. This work will continue in 2022.

In the context of the NAFO Regional Risk Assessment, EFCA defined a new fleet segment concerning non-EU longliners (targeting groundfish species) whose associated risk will be evaluated starting from 2022 together with the already defined fleet segments covering the activities of the EU vessels in the NAFO RA.

Risk Assessment meetings	
NAFO	13-14 April
Baltic Sea	1-2 June
North Sea - demersal	8-9 June
Western Waters and North Sea - pelagics	21-23 June
North Western Waters - demersal	28-29 June
South Western Waters - demersal	1-2 July
Addressing threats related with Trade and Cooperation Agreement between EU and UK	25-26 August and 2 September
Mediterranean Sea	8-10 September
Black Sea	14 September
Annual regional and national risk management meeting	16-17 November
NEAFC preparatory regional risk assessment	7 December

Regional Risk Assessment summary

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

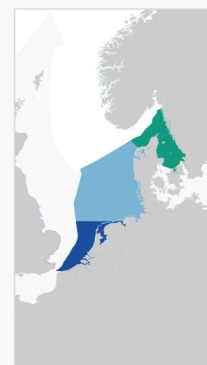
Gear – Mesh size – Fishery	Area	Main target species	Landing obligation	Mis-recording	Illegal gear	Other
Otter trawls ≥ 105 mm	22-24	Demersal species	■	■		■
	25-27	Demersal species	■	■		
Otter and pair trawls ≥ 32 and < 90 mm	22-27	Herring		■		
Otter and pair trawls ≥ 16 and < 32 mm	22-27	Sprat		■		
Otter and pair trawls ≥ 16 and < 105 mm	28-32	Herring		■		
Longlines	22-29	Salmon		■		
Fixed gears	22-32	Salmon		■		■
Gillnets ≥ 110 mm and longlines	22-24	Demersal species				■
	25-27	Demersal species				
Recreational fisheries	22-24	Demersal species				■
Eel fishery	22-32	Eel		■	■	



Level of risk: ■ High ■ Very High

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

Gear – Mesh size – Fishery	Area	Main target species	Landing obligation	Mis-recording	Illegal gear
Otter trawls / Seines ≥ 70 and < 100 mm	4.b	Plaice, Norway lobster	■	■	
Otter trawls / Seines ≥ 120 mm	3.a	Cod	■	■	
Otter trawls / Seines ≥ 90 and < 120 mm	3.a	Cod	■	■	■
Otter trawls / Seines ≥ 35 and < 70 mm	3.a	Northern prawn	■	■	



Level of risk: ■ High ■ Very High

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

Anchovy

Gear	Area	Non-compliance with the LO	Misrecording
RSW tank vessel and Polyvalent - Mid water and mid water pair trawl	rest of 7		■
Polyvalent -Purse seines	8	■	■
	9	■	■



Herring

Gear	Area	Non-compliance with the LO	Misrecording
RSW tank vessel and Polyvalent -Mid water and mid water pair trawl	3.a	■	■
	6		■
	Rest of 7		■

Horse mackerel

Gear	Area	Non-compliance with the LO	Misrecording	Illegal gear
Freezer Trawls -Mid water trawls and mid water pair trawl	6	■	■	
	7.d	■	■	
	Rest of 7	■	■	
RSW tank vessel and Polyvalent -Mid water and mid water pair trawl	6	■	■	
	7.d	■	■	
	Rest of 7	■	■	
Polyvalent - Bottom trawl and pair trawl	7.d	■	■	
	8	■	■	
Polyvalent -Purse seines	8	■	■	
	CECAF	■	■	

Blue whiting

Gear	Area	Non-compliance with the LO	Misrecording	Illegal gear
Freezer Trawls - Mid water and mid water pair trawl	6	■	■	
	Rest of 7	■	■	
Polyvalent - Bottom trawl and pair trawl	8	■	■	
	6	■	■	■

Level of risk: ■ Medium ■ High ■ High

Mackerel

Gear	Area	Non-compliance with the LO	Misrecording
Freezer Trawls -Mid water and mid water pair trawl	6	■	■
	Rest of 7	■	■
RSW tank vessel and Polyvalent -Mid water and mid water pair trawl	6	■	■
	Rest of 7	■	■
Polyvalent -Bottom trawl and pair trawl	7.d	■	■
	Rest of 7	■	■
	8		■
Polyvalent -Purse seines	8	■	■
Polyvalent -Lines	8		■



Sardine

Gear	Area	Non-compliance with the LO	Misrecording
RSW tank vessel and Polyvalent -Mid water and mid water pair trawl	Rest of 7	■	■
Polyvalent -Bottom trawl and pair trawl	7.d	■	■
Polyvalent -Purse seines	8	■	■
	9	■	■

Albacore

Gear	Area	Misrecording
Midwater trawls targeting albacore	7, 8	■
Bait boats, Pelagic Trolling and poles and lines targeting ALB	7, 8, 9, 10, CECAF	■

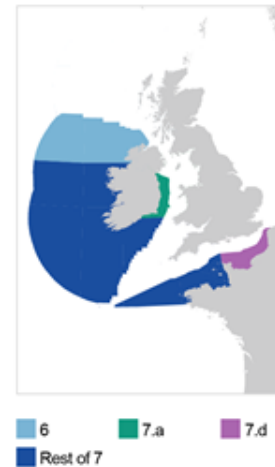
Industrial Fisheries

Gear	Area	Non-compliance with the LO	Misrecording
Industrial trawl ≥ 16 and < 31 mm	3.a, 4	■	■
Industrial trawl < 16 mm	3.a, 4	■	■

Level of risk: ■ Medium ■ High

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

Gear – Mesh size – Fishery	Area	Main target species	Landing obligation	Mis-recording	Illegal gear
Trawls ≥ 120 mm	6	Anglerfish, Cod, Haddock, Hake, Saithe, Whiting	■	■	
	7.a		■	■	
	rest of 7		■	■	
Trawls < 120 mm	6	Anglerfish, Haddock, Hake, Norway lobster, Plaice, Sole, Whiting	■	■	
	7.a		■	■	
	7.d		■	■	
	rest of 7		■	■	■
Beam trawls < 120 mm	7.a	Plaice, sole	■	■	
	7.d		■	■	■
	rest of 7		■	■	■
Seines	rest of 7	Hake, Haddock, Whiting	■	■	
Gillnets	6	Anglerfish, Hake, Saithe		■	
	rest of 7			■	
Trammel nets	7.d	Sole, Plaice	■	■	
Lines	6	Hake		■	
Eel fishery	6, 7	Eel		■	



Level of risk: ■ High ■ Very High

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

Gear – Mesh size – Fishery	Area	Main target species	Non-compliance with the LO	Mis-recording	Illegal gear
Bottom trawls ≥ 70 and < 100 mm	8.c, Rest of 8	Anglerfish, Hake, Norway lobster, Sole	■	■	
Bottom trawls targeting mixed pelagic / demersal ≥ 55 and < 70 mm	8.c	Hake, Norway lobster	■	■	
	9		■	■	■
Beam trawls ≥ 70 and < 100 mm	Rest of 8	Anglerfish, Sole	■	■	
Gill and trammel nets ≥ 100 and < 169 mm	9	Anglerfish, Hake		■	
Longlines targeting black scabbardfish	9	Black scabbardfish		■	
Eel fishery	All	Eel		■	



Level of risk: ■ High ■ Very High

NAFO - Fisheries with the highest risk of non-compliance

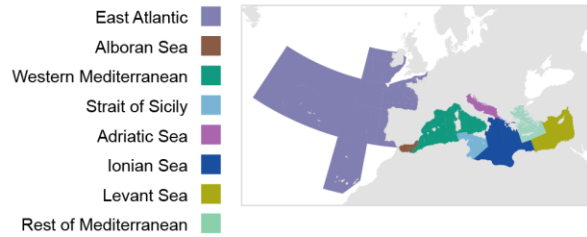
Gear	Main Target Species	Area	Species misrecording	Area misrecording	Non-compliance with move-on rule	Illegal gear
Otter bottom trawlers	Redfish, Greenland halibut	3L	Very High	High		
	Cod, Redfish, Greenland halibut	3M	Very High	Very High	High	High
	Cod, White Hake, Redfish, Green halibut	3N	High	High		
	Redfish, Greenland halibut	3O		Very High		



3L 3O
3M 3N

Level of risk: High Very High

**Mediterranean Sea and Eastern Atlantic*
fisheries with the highest risk
of non-compliance**



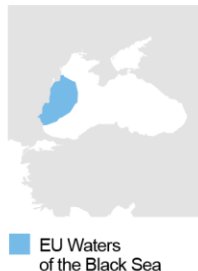
Gear	Area	Main target species	Non-compliance with the LO	Misreporting and/or misrecording	Non-compliance with quota or bycatch limit	Non-compliance with temporal/spatial closures	Non-compliance with the minimum size of BFT/SWO	Non-compliance with general technical and management rules
Trawlers	Strait of Sicily	Deep-Sea Rose Shrimp, Hake, Blue, and Red Shrimp	■	■		■		■
	Ionian Sea	Deep-Sea Rose Shrimp, Hake, Blue, and Red Shrimp	■	■				■
	Aegean Sea	Deep-Sea Rose Shrimp, Hake, Mullus spp.	■	■				
	Western Mediterranean	Deep-Sea Rose Shrimp, Hake, Mullus spp.	■	■	■	■		■
	Adriatic Sea	Deep-Sea Rose Shrimp, Hake, Mullus spp., Norway lobster, Sole	■	■				■
	Levant Sea	Hake, Mullus spp.	■	■				■
Purse seines	Mediterranean without Adriatic Sea	Anchovy, sardine	■	■				
	Adriatic Sea	Anchovy, sardine	■	■	■			
Purse seines (catching vessels)	Mediterranean Sea	Bluefin tuna		■				
Purse seines (farms)	Mediterranean Sea	Bluefin tuna		■				
Purse seines (auxiliary vessels)	Mediterranean Sea	Bluefin tuna		■				
Purse seines (towing vessels)	Mediterranean Sea	Bluefin tuna		■				
Long Llines	Alboran Sea	Seabream, Hake		■				■
Long Lines, hand-liners	Mediterranean Sea	Mediterranean albacore, Bluefin tuna, Mediterranean swordfish		■	■	■	■	■
Trammel nets and gill nets	Western Mediterranean Sea	Hake, Mullus spp., Seabreams		■				
	Adriatic Sea	Pandora, Seabreams, Sole		■				
	Strait of Sicily and Ionian Sea	Hake, Mullus spp., Seabreams		■				
Sport and Recreational fishery	Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea	Mediterranean albacore, Bluefin tuna		■		■		
Lampara	Mediterranean Sea	Dolphinfish						■
Diving	Mediterranean Sea	Red Coral	■	■				

* Covers only bluefin tuna

Level of risk: ■ High ■ Very High

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

Gear	Main target species	Non-compliance with the LO	Mis-recording	Non-compliance with spatial / temporal closures	Fishing without license and authorisation	Use of illegal gears	IUU Fishing activities
Bottom set gillnets (authorised)	Turbot	■	■	■	■	■	■



■ EU Waters of the Black Sea

Level of risk: ■ High ■ Very High

Minimum common standards for national risk assessment systems

EFCA organised an annual meeting with risk experts from Member States to discuss improvements to the regional risk management and to provide support to national risk assessments. The meeting took place via videoconference, on the 17-18 November 2021. EFCA discussed with Member States the result of the analysis of information reported by Member States when conducting their national risk assessment following the requirements of the SCIP. It is expected that the exchange of information and best practices will continue in the future and, as such, EFCA committed to define a way forward, considering additional exchanges with Member States to address specific national and regional needs.

b) Support the implementation of alternative, compliance-based methodologies for evaluating the effectiveness of control and inspection activities

Specific Control and Inspection Programmes

The SCIP makes reference to the requirement for a harmonised methodology for risk assessment, and a methodology to define alternative benchmarks expressed in terms of improved levels of compliance (Art 7 of SCIP). These methodologies were prepared in 2018 by EFCA in cooperation with Member States and finalised in 2019 and now are available on the EFCA website^{61,62}. Considering the developments, mainly concerning progress on established compliance indicators, the documents should be considered live documents, and updated accordingly. These documents are a good basis for the work conducted by EFCA and the Member States when conducting risk assessment and defining alternative compliance benchmarks. Work carried out in 2020 to develop further indicators or to extend existing indicators to other fisheries/areas has resulted in additions to the Guidelines, which after endorsement by the Steering Groups, an updated version was made available online.

Computation of compliance indicators

In 2021 EFCA continued to work with the regional indicators for non-compliance with the landing obligation and for non-compliance with the recording and reporting obligation. The former indicator was based on the analyses on data collected during the last haul programme for estimation of illegal discards in Baltic Sea, North Sea, Western Waters and Mediterranean Sea. The latter indicator, specifically in the Baltic Sea, for i) unsorted pelagic landings, and ii) salmon catches reported as sea trout was based

⁶¹ Guidelines on Risk Assessment Methodology on Fisheries Compliance.
<https://www.efca.europa.eu/sites/default/files/Risk%20Assessment%20Methodology.pdf>

⁶² Guidelines on Indicators to Measure Compliance in Fisheries.
https://www.efca.europa.eu/sites/default/files/Guidelines%20on%20indicators%20to%20measure%20compliance%20in%20fisheries_1.pdf

on data collected during dedicated specific actions. Both analyses were performed by EFCA following previously agreed methodologies.

c) Improvement of EFCA information systems in support of fisheries monitoring and control

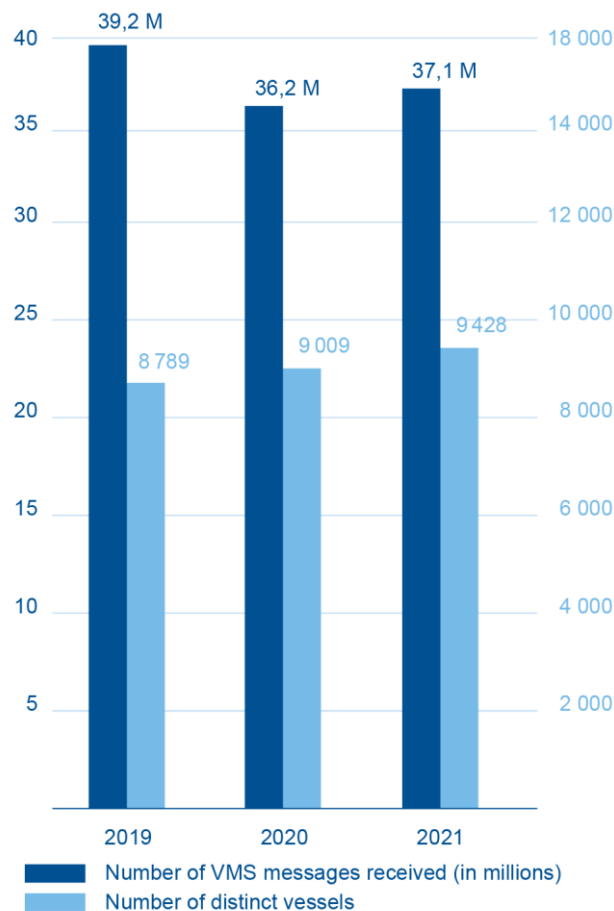
EFCA ensures that good quality data is available for the planning, risks analysis, operational coordination and evaluation of Joint Deployment Plans.

The main data received by EFCA from Member States was:

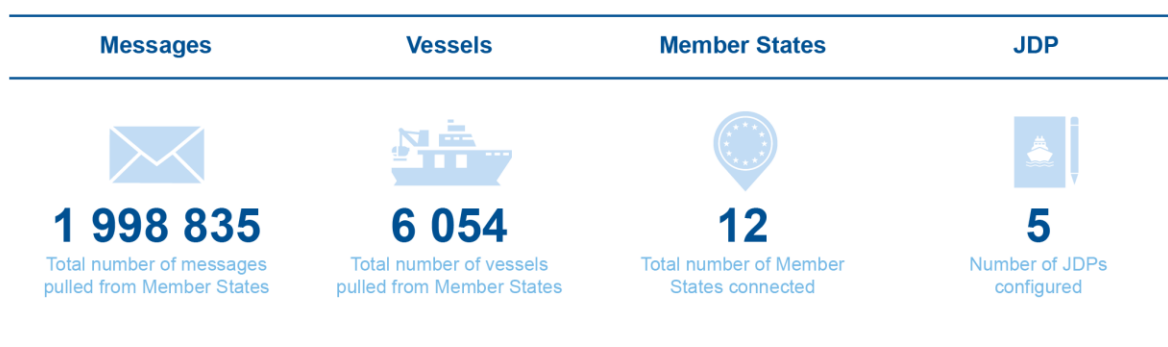
- d) vessel positions (VMS);
- e) electronic logbooks (ERS);
- f) summary of inspection and surveillance reports (*Activity Reports*);
- g) target vessels.

The data flow from Member States to EFCA was monitored on a daily basis. The magnitude of VMS and ERS data exchanged in 2021 can be seen in the graph below. Data transmission incidents were reported back to EFCA and to the Member States concerned. No ERS data was exchanged in the Black Sea JDP. Some standard processes have been developed for the monitoring of the data flow and data quality.

Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)



Electronic Reporting System (ERS)



The processes and manuals used by data quality managers for the monitoring of the VMS and ERS data flow and data quality were regularly improved.

As a follow-up to the adoption of the Data Governance Framework, EFCA has developed a set of tools to track data quality issues and monitor their occurrence in time, with the objective to maintain the rate of issues at the lowest and acceptable level.

Regarding control data (i.e. *Activity Reports*), EFCA continued previous work on quality check, in particular the development of a series of quality reports available in the user interface of EFCA database of JDP inspection and surveillance information (JaDE).

EFCA is continuously collecting and analysing the needs of end users and improving its information systems accordingly. A new version of the VMS application was released in 2021. In addition, the development of a new version of the JADE application was initiated, which should be released by the beginning of 2022.

In 2021, EFCA has progressed on the establishment of a new unified architecture integrating all data domain dealing with fisheries and control data, in particular a data collection hub initialised with a data exchange over FLUX standard has implemented, which is already in use for exchange of VMS data. A project for implementation of a single vessel repository as master data and reference data management system was also launched.

Integrated Maritime Services (EFCA IMS) for fisheries control

EFCA is collaborating with EMSA in the provision of services through a web-based application, which integrates maritime data from several sources. This application offers a way to track vessels in real time, through the integration of vessel positions provided by systems such as VMS, Automatic Identification Systems (AIS) or Long Range Identification and Tracking (LRIT). The EFCA IMS application is used by a large community of Member States users as a support to fisheries control and activities against IUU⁶³ fishing. As the users community increases, EFCA and EMSA have been collaborating in development of a set of standard procedures to improve the governance of the system (incidents management, user access managements, etc.). By the end of 2021, 1167 credentials were issued to users of the fisheries control authorities in Member States, the European Commission and EFCA. This is an increase of 10.8 % compared to 2020. In addition, user feedback suggests that access to the EFCA IMS application by MS authorities has intensified significantly with many users accessing the application on a daily basis.

Furthermore, the use of specific functionalities and services such as Automatic Behavior Monitoring and Copernicus Maritime Services - both imbedded in the EFCA IMS application - are taken on board in various Joint Deployment Plans.

Given the ever-growing EFCA IMS user community, EFCA also provided dedicated training sessions upon request for MS control authorities and the European Commission.

⁶³ More details please see Objective 3 and 4.

As agreed in the North Sea JDP decision, the Real Time Closures established in the North Sea are visible in the EFCA IMS promoting an efficient monitoring and control of fisheries activities in these areas.

d) Improvement of data management in support of fisheries monitoring and control

Data and System Governance

In 2021, the elaboration of a framework for the governance of the EFCA systems managing fishing activity and JDP activity data was completed. It includes five components addressing *Access and Authorisations*, *User Support and Incident management*, *Demand management*, *Training and Communication on demand management*. The implementation of this framework was initiated in 2021, with the assessment and revision of some existing procedures regarding incidents management and user access management.

Considering the linkage between data and system governance and the developments on establishing a system governance framework, the implementation of the data governance followed a reduce pace compared to the initial plans. The alignment of the two frameworks was an important step to ensure a consistent and effective implementation in the future.

Exchange of Inspection and surveillance reports

EFCA is coordinating a working group to facilitate the implementation of a system for the electronic exchange of Inspection and Surveillance reports between EU Member States, Commission and EFCA. The system is based on EU standard for the exchange of fisheries data (FLUX). The main outcomes of the e-ISR WG activities in 2021 have been the production of sample reports which can be used by EU Member States to test that the business rules they have implemented for the validation of e-ISR reports is conformed to the standard. Priority was given to the most common types of inspections: fishing vessel at sea and in port. The analysis for the incorporation of new types of inspection reports in the standard was also performed: fish farms, gear at sea, recreational fishing at sea and shore-based fisheries. Further work is still underway, with an expected entry in production by mid-2023 for the first types of inspection reports.

1.2.1.3 INTERNATIONAL DIMENSION: COMPLIANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL PROVISIONS (OBJECTIVES 3-4)

❖ Introduction

In line with the CFP basic regulation⁶⁴, the remit of EFCA, the Working Arrangements on EFCA's international activities between the European Commission and EFCA has been approved in 2020 by AB Decision 20-II-6. In this regard, considering the availability of resources and COVID-19 restrictions, the Agency continued to assist the Union to cooperate with third countries and international organisations dealing with fisheries, including RFMOs, in order to strengthen operational coordination and compliance.

⁶⁴ Regulation (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 (OJ L 354, 28.12.2013, p. 22); Article 30 of the CFP basic regulation: "The Union shall, including through the European Fisheries Control Agency ("the Agency"), cooperate with third countries and international organisations dealing with fisheries, including RFMOs, to strengthen compliance with measures, especially those to combat IUU fishing, in order to ensure that measures adopted by such international organisations are strictly adhered to".



OBJECTIVE 3

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

EXPECTED RESULTS

1. Support to the EU delegation in RFMOs meetings
2. Support to the EU as regards direct cooperation with third countries without prejudice of PESCAO (under objective 5) and in the context of ICCAT and GFCM and other RFMOs, including through JDPs
3. Assistance to the European Commission in connection with the evaluation mission to third countries as regards IUU Regulation⁶⁵
4. Increased collaboration between Member States IUU competent authorities in the organisation of training sessions, verification process and risk analysis relating to the import of fisheries products to the EU

⁶⁵ To evaluate the performance of third countries

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	Target 2021	Achieved 2021
1. % of RFMOs and third countries to which EFCA assisted on Commission requests ⁶⁶	100%	100%
2. % of analysis of catch certificates and supporting documents provided timely to the Commission ⁶⁷	100%	100%
3. IUU training sessions satisfaction rate	Attendees satisfaction (good or very good) >80%	88%
MAIN OUTPUTS		
Planned	Achieved	
1. Tasks assigned to EFCA in relation to RFMOs and third countries delivered in accordance with approved annual strategy for external dimension	Yes	
2. Pilot projects and cooperation with third countries	Yes	
3. Capacity building delivered to third countries as requested	Yes	
4. Analysis of information and reports of missions in third countries encompassing IUU Regulation	Yes	
5. Training sessions and seminars for Member States IUU competent authorities delivered	Yes	

1. Support to the EU delegation in RFMOs meetings

Throughout 2021 EFCA has continued to closely support DG MARE during the preparation, participation and follow-up of the EUs representation in RFMOs (GFCM, ICCAT, NAFO and NEAFC). This has included providing technical support and contributions to proposals, reporting and the EUs engagement during the intersessional and annual meeting correspondences. Throughout 2021 all meetings were conducted through virtual meetings, which in general required an adapted working regime and increased communications and significant internal EU coordination.

As regards ICCAT, EFCA participated and supported the EU Delegation in the ICCAT related meetings and in number of intersessional meetings and technical working groups concerning monitoring and control issues. EFCA also participated in all relevant technical and coordination meetings with Member States in support of the activities for which they coordinate on behalf of the EU, such as the implementation of the ICCAT Joint Schemes of International Inspection and also providing support in the development of new monitoring and control provisions. EFCA supported MS and the Commission in the full re-drafting of the BFT Management Plan as well as supporting other initiatives and responses to ICCAT on all monitoring and control issues, follow-up and feedback.

An EFCA staff member continued to chair the ICCAT panel that deals with the development and reviewing of Monitoring, Control and Surveillance issues (PWG - Permanent Working Group) and continued to Chair the Technical Working Group for the Electronic Bluefin Catch Document Programme (eBCD TWG), both of which required coordination with the Commission, ICCAT Contracting Parties and the ICCAT Secretariat and its Commission officers. This has also included participation in other global MCS initiatives in which the EU and ICCAT has participated including for example, presenting at the International Seminar on the Agreement of Port State Measures to prevent, deter and eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing in association with FAO and China (11-12 May 2021) and the Meeting of the Parties to the 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures (31 May - 04 June 2021).

⁶⁶ In accordance with the approved annual strategy for external dimension

⁶⁷ In accordance with the approved annual strategy for external dimension

Regarding GFCM, EFCA participated in all technical meetings with the Commission and MS and assisted in the development of proposals in particular those which had monitoring and control. EFCA continued to provide general support to DG MARE as regards control issues following specific requests from the Commission, including but not limited to:

- the drafting of new inspection schemes/pilot programmes and associated Code of Conduct for Dolphinfish fisheries in the Mediterranean,
- developing a catch documentation system for turbot fisheries in the Black Sea and
- horizontal control measures such as on vessel listing measures, amendments to GFCM IUU vessel listing and pilot projects for VMS.

Throughout 2021 technical support was also provided to the European Commission on NAFO and NEAFC matters. Further details on these activities are provided in Objective 1.3. *Support to the EU in relation to RFMOs and third countries in the North Atlantic.*

Below is a summary of dedicated events attended and/or chaired by EFCA staff in relation to our cooperation with ICCAT. The list does not include EU technical meetings, EU coordination, meetings with other ICCAT CPCs and/or Chairs internal meetings and bilateral meetings with the Commission, all of which were conducted online by virtual platforms.

ICCAT Events/ meetings		
Events/meetings ⁶⁸	Dates	Location
Online Reporting Technology Working Group	16-18 February	Online
Intersessional meeting of ICCAT Panel 2	2-5 March	Online
eBCD Technical Working Group	8-9 March 2021	Online
ICCAT Panel on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM)	14-17 June 2021	Online
Intersessional meeting of ICCAT Panel 2	1-2 July 2021	Online
Intersessional meeting of ICCAT Panel 4	6-8 July 2021	Online
Intersessional meeting of ICCAT Panel 1	1-3 September 2021	Online
ICCAT Compliance Committee	13-14 November 2021	Online
ICCAT Annual Meeting	15-23 November 2021	Online

GFCM meetings contributed to and/or attended by EFCA are listed below. Once again this does not include EU technical meetings, delegation coordination and meetings with other GFCM CPCs:

GFCM Events/ meetings		
Events/meetings	Dates	Location
GFCM Compliance Committee	19-21 May 2021	Online
GFCM Annual Meeting	1-6 November 2021	Online

⁶⁸ Meeting and other related events in the scope of NAFO and NEAFC are reported in Objective 1.3. Support to the EU in relation to RFMOs and third countries in the North Atlantic.

2. Support to the EU as regards direct cooperation with third countries, countries without prejudice of PESCAO (under objective 5) and/or, in the context of ICCAT and GFCM and other RFMOs, including through JDPs

EFCA implemented their operational activities through the JDP for the Mediterranean, where the compliance with the different relevant elements of the ICCAT and GFCM International Control Schemes were addressed: level of control activities, planning of means, notification of control means and inspectors, notification of sightings and inspections, etc., in full cooperation with the Commission and the Member States (see Objective 2 point 4. *Assistance to Member States, including to Regional Bodies, and the European Commission in the implementation of the CFP, including the landing obligation*).

The JDP was also used as a sustainable operational platform in relation with third countries in the scope of the GFCM and to promote compliance by the Contracting Parties, for example specific cooperation alongside the Commission was undertaken with Tunisia including on the promotion of best practice, exchange of information on potential non-compliance and the development of a Code of Conduct for Dolphinfish fisheries.

EFCA has finally continued to support the Commission in the implementation of a project in the scope of the WESTMED initiative on the establishment of Fighting Illegal Unreported and Unregulated Fisheries Fishing Regional Academy – e-FishMed

3. Assistance to the European Commission in connection with the evaluation mission to third countries as regards IUU Regulation

EFCA provided support to the Commission with the planned evaluation of third countries regarding the implementation of the Regulation (EC) No1005/2008 (the IUU Regulation)⁶⁹. In this respect, throughout the year, EFCA was requested to support the Commission in the evaluation of 2 countries: Ivory Coast and Panama. Due to the travel restrictions linked with the COVID-19 pandemic, all possible missions were either cancelled or postponed, except the one in Panama to which EFCA participated (from 29 November to 3 December 2021).

In summary, EFCA assisted the Commission with the analysis of a total of 138 Catch Certificates and 78 Processing Statements (Annex IV of the IUU Regulation), in accordance with the figures presented in the following table:

Third country	No of documents analysed		
	CCs	PS	Other documents
Ivory Coast	44	26	(+/-) 100
Panama	94	52	(+/-) 200
Total	138	78	(+/-) 300

EFCA also participated in four IUU Expert Group online meetings organised on 2-3 March, 16 June, 29 September and 24 November 2021 by the Commission where the CATCH IT system, the “Frequently Asked Questions” (FAQs) and the “Common approach to checks and verifications” were discussed with Commission and Member States’ experts. EFCA provided comments and input on these developments based on its experience of analysing catch certificates and supporting documents.

4. Increased collaboration between Member States IUU competent authorities in the verification process and risk analysis relating to the import of fisheries products to the EU

EFCA dedicated specific efforts and attention to the provision of training to Member States to assist them in the proper and uniform application of the IUU Regulation and to further foster cooperation and

⁶⁹ Council Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008 of 29 September 2008 establishing a Community System to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, amending Regulations (EEC) No 2847/93, (EC) No 1936/2001 and (EC) No 601/2004 and repealing Regulations (EC) No 1093/94 and (EC) No 1447/1999 (OJ L 286, 29.10.2008, p. 1).

networking. To this end, the usual annual training cycle comprised of a “Newcomers” training (26-28 January) and an “Advanced level” training (22-23 April) was organised online.

OBJECTIVE 4		
To strengthen compliance through the implementation of EU international projects as regards fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance		
EXPECTED RESULTS		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strengthening of prevention and responses to IUU fishing in the areas concerned 2. Harmonisation of third countries legal framework in accordance with international standards 3. Increased capacity of third countries fisheries inspectors and other officials 4. Improved compliance, level playing field and cost-effectiveness in the areas concerned 		
PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	Target 2021	Achieved 2021
1. Joint regional missions organised with EFCA support	2	3
2. Number of trained officials in the areas covered by SRFC and FCWC	20	194
MAIN OUTPUTS		
Planned	Achieved	
1. Implementation of the activities plan for 2021 in the Multiannual 5-year PESCAO plan	Yes	
2. Annual programme of the PESCAO project for 2022 adopted	Yes	
3. Periodic reports of cooperation delivered to EC	Yes	
4. Training workshops at national and regional level, including dedicated training actions funded by international partners and agreed by the EC	Yes	
5. Exploring the preliminary participation in international projects as the ones under the Blue Economy West Med initiative and the ECOFISH Project in Indian Ocean	Yes	

1. Strengthening of prevention and responses to IUU fishing in the areas concerned

PESCAO

The PESCAO programme was developed in the framework of the Regional Indicative Programme for Western Africa, both on component 1 (peace and security) and 3 (resilience). The Action Document was adopted by the Commission on 28 April 2017 - Decision C (2017)2951. EFCA signed its grant contract with the EU Delegation in Senegal in March 2018. The specific objective of PESCAO is to improve regional fisheries governance in Western Africa through better coordination of national fisheries policies. There are 3 expected results:

- Result 1: A Western African fisheries and aquaculture policy is developed and coordination of regional stakeholders is improved;
- Result 2: Prevention of and responses to IUU fishing are strengthened through improved Monitoring, Control and Surveillance at national and regional levels;
- Result 3: Marine resources management at the regional level is improved, building resilience of marine and coastal ecosystems to perturbations.

In the framework of PESCAO - Result 2, EFCA continued during 2021 to provide technical support to the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission, the Fisheries Committee for the Western Central Gulf of Guinea and their member countries, in a coordinated manner, applying its experience in the EU context.

Coordination with other projects/donors in the region of PESCAO

Coordination with PESCAO partners:

During 2021, EFCA participated to technical meetings organised by FCWC (Heads of MCS: 31 March, WATF 10: 13-17 September, and WATF 11: 29 November-1 December) and SRFC (MCS coordination meeting: 16-18 February).

At these meetings, EFCA provided its expertise and experience in regional cooperation in the field of MCS, stemming in particular from its coordination responsibility in the framework of the EU joint deployment plans. The Agency also provided technical support in terms of the development of the regional vessel monitoring systems, regional observers' programme and Standard Operational Procedures for the FCWC.

EFCA also participated in the ECOWAS-PESCAO Steering Committee held online on 1 April 2021 and presented an overview of its activities in relation to PESCAO Result 2.

Cooperation with other initiatives on maritime security:

The Gulf of Guinea Action Plan 2015-2020 was adopted in March 2015 by the Foreign Affairs Council. This followed the adoption of the Strategy for the Gulf of Guinea in 2014. The Action Plan supports the Central and West Africa Heads of States' decision to reinforce inter-regional cooperation to fight against criminal and illegal activities at sea, and to create the so-called Yaoundé maritime security architecture. Each year, an implementation report is prepared, and EFCA was asked by the European Commission to contribute to the 6th report (2020) with its PESCAO related activities. This contribution was sent on 10 May 2021.

EFCA participated in one online meeting of the G7++ group of friends of the Gulf of Guinea on 23-25 June 2021. The participation of EFCA in this meeting, in particular in the Virtual Working Groups 1 (legal) 3 (Maritime Domain Awareness-MDA), and 4 (training, education and exercises) enabled the identification of possible areas of synergy between PESCAO and these projects/initiatives. EFCA was also invited to present its PESCAO related activities in the Virtual Working Group 5 on Blue Economy on 4 November 2021.

EFCA participated in the preparation of the Grand African Nemo (GANo) exercise taking place from 2 to 7 November 2021 under the Aegis of the Yaounde architecture and with the support of the French navy. At the end of GANo exercise, during the final seminar of Gulf of Guinea heads of navies (8-9 November 2021, Pointe Noire, Congo), EFCA presented its activities under PESCAO Result 2.

Collaborative platform

To facilitate the access to project related documents and the exchange of information between PESCAO Partners, EFCA has made available a specific "PESCAO corner" in its e-learning platform.

Risk Management

EFCA and SRFC organised a pre-briefing before each joint operation with Member States representatives present in the Coordination Centre. The objective was to identify potential targets taking into consideration the analysis made available by EFCA.

2. Harmonisation of third countries legal framework in accordance with international standards

A report on the review of the SRFC and the FCWC member countries' national legal frameworks related to fisheries control and enforcement was updated with the latest legal developments.

The scope of the report comprises the analysis of the legislation of member countries of the SRFC and FCWC and the identification of needs and recommendations in terms of legal updating and/or implementation for each country. It is the reference document for EFCA's contribution to the harmonisation and updating of national legal frameworks in Western African countries covered by PESCAO, with a view to align them with international standards aiming at eliminating IUU fishing activities.

The work on Benin and Togo legislation initiated in 2020 has been finalised, based on recommendations formulated in the legal study updated in 2020. In the absence of feedback from Nigeria, the expert's contract was terminated at the end of August 2021. The work is still on-going with Gambia.

3. Increased capacity of third countries fisheries inspectors and other officials

Despite the global COVID-19 pandemic, EFCA was engaged in several online capacity building activities for third countries both in the SRFC and FCWC regions in 2021. In cooperation with its partners, EFCA organised:

Event	Dates	Place	No of participants	Satisf. % (good/very good)
PESCAO regional/national training on the EU catch certification scheme (EN)	08-09/06	online	26	80%
PESCAO regional/national training on the EU catch certification scheme (FR)	22-23/06	online	22	90%
PESCAO regional training FMC operators (EN)	12-15/07	online	23	100%
PESCAO national training (2 sessions) on inspection (Cape Verde)	19-29/10	online	40	100%
PESCAO national training on inspection (Senegal)	13-16/12	online	19	94%

4. Improved compliance, level playing field and cost-effectiveness in the areas concerned

Operational campaigns

The SRFC organised three joint control campaigns during 2021, with EFCA experts' online participation: "Stingray" (Guinea, Guinea Bissau and Sierra Leone, from 18 April to 2 May 2021), "Sizi" (Cape Verde, Mauritania, Senegal and Gambia, from 24 to 29 August 2021) and "Seydouba Camara" (Guinea Bissau, Guinea Conakry, Sierra Leone, from 20 to 26 November 2021).

The EFCA experts contributed remotely with the provision of EFCA's IMS analysis of satellite images (Copernicus programme). This additional data included information such as vessel location, identification and tracking data (for example AIS). With a view to provide an updated maritime situational picture and consequently ensuring an informed decision as regards the areas of surveillance, the satellite images received were analysed and conveyed to the patrol assets.

An aircraft of the French navy participated in the joint control operation "Sizi" and was provided with a maritime situational analysis report prior to take off. This made it possible to optimise the targeting of the areas and vessels to be monitored during the campaign.

The joint operations continue to contribute to the development of a culture of cooperation amongst the countries in the sub-region, and to reinforce the cooperation between EFCA and SRFC. The results of the joint control operations also underline their value as a robust instrument to curb IUU fishing in the sub-region.

Technical support to the implementation of infrastructures and equipment of the Regional Fisheries control centres

During 2021, EFCA continued to support the work of the FCWC Regional MCS Centre in the development of Standard Operational Procedures for the running and the functioning of the Centre on a day-to-day basis, and for the Joint Operations for the FCWC sub-region, once this initiative is implemented. The EFCA participated in the working group for the coordination of this initiative.

EFCA also supported a pilot joint campaign “Isaac Gatorwu” (12-14 December 2021) involving Benin and Togo coordinated by FCWC. Similar to the support provided to SRFC, EFCA sent on a daily basis analyses of satellite imagery, and other data using the EFCA Integrated Maritime Services (IMS) system.

Chartering of aerial means in support of the joint operations

EFCA supported the joint control operation “Stingray” organised by the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission (SRFC) from 18 April to 2 May 2021. This was the seventh joint control operation undertaken under the project PESCAO in support of the SRFC. In addition to the support typically provided to these operations including through the analyses of satellite imagery, and other data using the EFCA IMS system, EFCA chartered an aircraft to perform aerial surveillance for the duration of the joint control operation.

The result of this operation can be summarised as follows:

- 73 inspections carried out by FPVs;
- 71 fishing vessels sighted (identified by the EFCA chartered aircraft)⁷⁰;
- 11 instances of possible non-compliance as a result of inspections by FPVs.

After the end of the joint operation, SRFC informed EFCA that one of the sighted fishing vessels by EFCA chartered aircraft had been imposed a fine of 400 000 USD by the Guinean authorities.

Following the conclusion of the joint control operation, as agreed with SRFC and Sierra Leone authorities, EFCA made available chartered airplane from 3 to 5 May 2021 to perform some additional flights in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of Sierra Leone to monitor the situation after the operation and the fisheries closure period starting on 1st May 2021 for the industrial fleet (with the exception of tuna purse seiners).

1.2.1.4 COAST GUARD AND CAPACITY BUILDING (OBJECTIVE 5 AND 5A)

❖ Introduction

Coast Guard functions

On 28 May 2020 and for one year, EFCA took over the rotating chairmanship of the European cooperation on Coast Guard functions, formalised through a Tripartite Working Arrangement between the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA), the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) and the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex).

In particular, during this period, the Practical Handbook on European cooperation on coast guard functions kept a high profile. This is a key guidance document developed under the coordination of the three EU agencies in close cooperation with the relevant competent national authorities. The handbook consists of a catalogue of services and training opportunities for Member States made possible through the cooperation, best practice guidelines and manuals, a compilation of regional cooperation mechanisms and fact sheets identifying the Member State authorities. In close cooperation with the

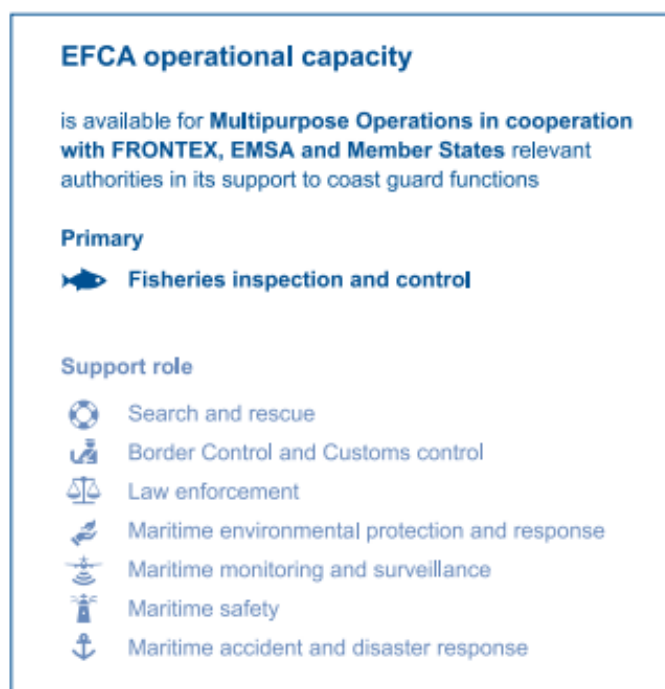
⁷⁰ 87 sightings in total including during the additional flights carried out in Sierra Leone EEZ from 3 to 5 May after the end of the joint control operation.

Member States authorities, the three agencies enhanced the update and sharing of maritime data, synergies on Earth observation, sharing of data from surveillance assets, cross-sector training and capacity building, cross-sector risk analysis and multipurpose operations at sea. The three agencies aimed at best helping the needs of the Member States for cross-sectorial activities.

In accordance with the Steering Committee and Technical Subcommittees created by the TWA, EFCA is closely cooperating with Frontex and EMSA involved to manage the collaboration at strategic and technical level respectively.

EFCA is permanently assessing available technologies and defining methodologies for the delivery of not readily available high-level maritime awareness and fisheries control information. This will also cater for a systematic assessment of the effectiveness, added value and opportunities for enhancement of innovative technologies and selected research projects from a fisheries control user perspective.

Coast Guard functions



Capacity Building

Training activities and training material in support of the effective and uniform application of the CFP are crucial to guarantee a fair and equitable treatment to the Union operators.

Especially COVID-19 pandemic has proven that availability and resilience of on-line tools/material are critical to ensure that capacity building process could continue without major interruption. EFCA continued the development and updating of the different training material to be used by Member States as well as to some third countries. In that regard, the EFCA e-learning platform⁷¹ is accessible to MS in order to enhance harmonised methodology for inspections.

Training courses, seminars, mostly delivered by EFCA on-line covered CFP control and inspection and the relevant international instruments.

⁷¹ Administrative Board Recommendations on EFCA Five-Year Evaluation (Recommendation 2), 21 June 2017, <https://www.efca.europa.eu/en/content/external-evaluation-2017>

OBJECTIVE 5		
Improve capacities to implement fisheries control and support other coastguard functions		
EXPECTED RESULTS		
1. Harmonised training programmes for MS officials including through the support to the development of a Sectoral Qualification Framework for fisheries 2. Updated training material following new Technical Measures Regulations 3. Cooperation with EMSA and Frontex in the implementation of the EU Coastguard initiative 4. EFCA control means chartered and deployed following the agreed planning of operations 5. Promotion of the use of new technologies for fisheries control purposes, including in cooperation with other EU agencies and EU dedicated projects.		
PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	Target 2021	Achieved 2021
1. Percentage of EFCA chartered means operational days carried out in multipurpose operations	60%	100%
2. Number of registered users in the EFCA e-learning platform	1000	1374
MAIN OUTPUTS		
Planned	Achieved	
1. EFCA e-learning platform available and updated	Yes	
2. Training delivered to MS officials on request	Yes	
3. Implementation of the annual strategic plan agreed with EMSA and Frontex under the TWA	Yes	
4. Training manuals in collaboration with EMSA and Frontex in the context of the EUCG functions delivered	Yes	
5. Training and support to coast guard authorities, including third countries	Yes	
6. Charter contracts for sea and aerial means	Yes	
7. Fisheries control and multipurpose activities delivered by the EFCA chartered means	Yes	
8. Reports regarding the implementation of new technologies in the fisheries control activities	Yes	
9. Actions contributing to the implementation of the EU maritime security policy Action Plan, including with EDA and EU SatGen	Yes	

1. Harmonised training programmes for Member States officials including through the support to the development of a Sectoral Qualification Framework for fisheries

EFCA provided training to Member States inspectors and promoted exchanges between Member States' Union inspectors in the context of JDP operations, both at sea and on land. Almost all training events took place online, and covered the tasks carried out by Union inspectors deployed in the framework of JDPs (see workshops for inspectors under Objective 1), as well as specific training in relation to the IUU Regulation. It is to be noted that EFCA continued to make use of its event registration functionality in the e-learning platform to facilitate the organisation and management of training sessions.

During 2021, regional workshops for inspectors in all JDPs were organised and delivered by EFCA with focus on the standardisation of inspections and in an effort towards achieving a level playing field.

A summary table of training events organised in 2021 by EFCA or national training events to which EFCA contributed is available in Annex I to this report.

Regarding the Sectoral Qualifications Framework, during 2021, EFCA investigated the possibilities of aligning EFCA training offer to the Sectoral Qualifications Framework of Coast Guard Functions (SQFCGF), that was developed during 2015-2019 by the European Coast Guard Functions Academy Network (ECGFA-NET) project funded by European Commission. In 2019, the Framework was handed over to the respective three agencies (EFCA, EMSA and Frontex) to manage. As one of the functions under SQFCGF is covering fisheries control and inspections, EFCA can review and align its training services following the principles of the already developed tool. In December 2021, the learner-oriented approach promoted by SQF (incl. the definition of learning outcomes, entry requirements, learning phases and assessment) was tested on EFCA colleagues via the pilot training “Basic Course on IUU for Newcomers”. The feedback received on the new approach was generally positive. In 2022, the work on the review of EFCA training offer will continue and the EFCA Steering Group on Training and Exchange of Experience (SGTEE) will be respectively informed about the upcoming changes.

EFCA E-learning courses material

In order to promote and proliferate the use of its e-learning platform by Member States’ inspectors, EFCA finalised the translation of the video tutorials on the use of mesh gauges and the IMS (developed in cooperation with EMSA) into Bulgarian, Dutch, Estonian, Finnish, Latvian, Lithuanian, Romanian, and Swedish.

Based on the manual for FMC operators (EU) on vessels’ tracking systems finalised in 2019, EFCA also worked on the translation of e-learning modules into 16 additional languages (Bulgarian, Croatian, Dutch, Estonian, French, German, Greek, Finnish, Italian, Lithuanian, Latvian, Polish, Portuguese, Spanish, Romanian and Swedish). These additional versions will be made available in 2022.

For non-EU inspectors, the course for FMC operators (non-EU) on vessels’ tracking systems has been made available to Western African countries and organisations covered by the EU-funded project PESCAO.

A training manual for FMC operators (non-EU) on vessels’ tracking systems has also been translated into French and Portuguese. Based on these additional versions, the development of e-learning modules has also been initiated.

Currently more than 1300 staff from EU and non-EU countries are now users of the EFCA e-learning platform.

Support to Member States training activities on request

EFCA also provided support to Croatia (3), Cyprus (2), France (1), Greece (1), Italy (3), Malta (3), and Slovenia (1) with participation of EFCA staff in the context of national trainings on MCS.⁷²

Training and briefings in cooperation with other EU agencies

In the context of the inter-agency cooperation, one of the tasks is the organisation of relevant cross-sectoral training. In this regard, and in order to be in line with end-user needs, each agency consulted its own community. EFCA consulted the Steering Group on Training and Exchange of Experience. Each agency was invited to participate in the consultation meetings of the other two agencies. The existing cross-function training activities planned with the contribution of EFCA in 2021 were:

- Maritime safety and fisheries control rules applicable to fishing vessels – focused to the EMSA and EFCA communities, were planned 2021, this event was postponed to 2022 due to the COVID-19 context and no possibility to have it in a precential mode.

⁷² For more detailed information see Annex I

- EFCA tailored operational briefings for the crews, experts and Frontex staff participating in Frontex coordinated maritime operations. In 2021, in total there were twelve operational briefings provided by EFCA.
- Three training events for Frontex Standing Corps one of them provided on-line and two in person in Avila (Spain).
- One tailored SAR Awareness Session – non-SAR community delivered on line for MS from EMSA, EFCA and FRONTEX communities.

2. Updated training material following new Technical Measures Regulations

To give effect to its coordination duties and legal obligations, EFCA supports Member States through designing training programmes on fisheries control and inspection. A priority in the development of such training programmes is to create and make available reference materials for the training of the trainers of the fisheries inspectorates and of Union inspectors before their first deployment, the core curricula.

Essentially, the core curricula consist of several basic courses of practical knowledge for national fisheries officials involved in the control and inspection of fishing vessels and their activities. To date, the published core curricula manuals for the training of fisheries inspectors are the following:

- Core curriculum vol.1 Inspection at sea (updated version, 2017),
- Core curriculum vol.2 Port inspection:
 - 2a) Landing inspection (updated version, 2017)
 - 2b) Transshipment inspection
- Core curriculum vol. 3 General principles and specific types of inspection.

During the Steering Group on Training and Exchange of Experience (SGTEE) held on 20 January 2021, EFCA referred to the conclusion drawn by the SGTEE in 2020, whereas the work should be initiated by identifying the specific parts which need to be updated. At the time it had been agreed to merge the three existing volumes as to eliminate overlaps. An external expert has been contracted and started its work by elaborating an updated structure. To this regard input and comments were asked from the SGTEE on the working document sent before the meeting. The SGTEE expressed its positive opinion on the presented structure and approved the EFCA proposal to continue working on the update along the presented lines.

After this meeting, the external expert finalised the work in 2021 as follows:

- the existing three Core curriculum volumes on “Inspection at sea”, “Port inspection” and “General principles and specific types of inspection” were restructured/merged;
- the content was updated (as far as possible) with the new regulations adopted since the volumes were produced (not only with the new technical measures, but also the discard plans for the landing obligation, the new SCIPs, multiannual plans, etc.);
- the parts that will need to be updated once any further associated implementing acts (in particular related to technical measures) are also updated/adopted were identified.

3. Cooperation with EMSA and Frontex in the implementation of the EU Coast Guard initiative.

Five Coast Guard Cooperation Areas



Sharing of information

EFCA Integrated Maritime Services
Sightings / observations



Surveillance and Communication services

Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems
Piloted Fixed Wing Aircraft
Copernicus Maritime Services



Capacity Building and Training

Coast Guard Practical Handbook
Cross-sector training and capacity building



Cooperation on risk analysis

Cross-sector risk analysis
Risk Analysis products



Capacity Sharing

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

Implementation of the annual strategic plan agreed with EMSA and Frontex under the TWA

The TWA Steering Committee is chaired on a rotational basis between the three agencies, thus EFCA on 28 of May 2020 took over the coordinating this cooperation framework for one year, until May 2021. The Steering Committee is composed by the Executive Directors of the three agencies and is the main forum to define and establish the priorities of the cooperation, through an Annual Strategic Plan (ASP). The ASP agreed for 2021 and incorporated in the EFCA SPD was a project oriented one and focused on the specific engagement of Member States national authorities.

The Annual European Coast Guard Event for 2021 under the theme of “Use of digital age technologies in Coast Guard functions” was held virtually on 29 June 2021. The event was hosted by EFCA at the end of its turn as chair of the tripartite cooperation in support of the European coast guard initiative with the other two maritime EU agencies, EMSA and Frontex.

The annual event provided a platform for national authorities, the EU agencies involved and the European Commission to exchange views on matters related to cooperation on coast guard functions. The three agencies took stock of the achievements of the year, with a highlight on the preparation of the EU Coast Guard Handbook and the activities in support of national authorities during 2021.

This event allowed to overview the available digital age technologies and discuss their relevance to enhance the “*European common maritime situation awareness pictures*” and the support to the European Union Member States authorities, in line with the EU Maritime Security Strategy.

Particular focus was placed in the implementation of the different EU Coast Guard functions in the context of the post-pandemic era, with affected economic and civil activities in all areas of the maritime domain. The COVID-19 crisis offered the opportunity to embrace technologies to foster an adequate operational response.

A detailed report of the implementation of the annual strategic plan agreed with EMSA and Frontex during 2021 can be found in Annex I.

Practical Handbook on EU cooperation on Coastguard functions

The founding regulations of the EFCA, EMSA and FRONTEX foresee that a Practical Handbook on European Cooperation on Coast Guard Functions shall be made available by the European Commission through a recommendation.

The Practical Handbook on European Cooperation on Coast Guard Functions was made available in July 2021 by the European Commission through a recommendation⁷³. The three agencies were requested by the European Commission to develop the handbook in close cooperation with the Member States. EFCA, as the agency in charge of this task under the TWA, coordinated an inter-agency group established for the drafting process which successfully concluded in early 2021.

During the second half of 2021, EFCA and the European Commission prepared for the Contribution Agreement (see objective 5A) which was signed in December 2021, and which will make the practical and operational information of the handbook available as an online platform.

Capacity Building

Regarding the Capacity Building area of the cooperation with EMSA and Frontex, which EFCA is coordinating, an important step was done in December 2021 with the joint organisation of a Search and Rescue (SAR) awareness session for the non-SAR community (staff of Member States not working in MRCCs or JRCCs). This session was coordinated by EFCA and had more than 45 participants from 16 different Member States coming from the communities of the three agencies. As this was a session for the non-SAR community, the content of the session was general, for non-specialists and covered the legal framework of SAR, the IAMSAR Manual in general terms, technologies available for SAR and the presentations of two examples of national organisations of SAR. The three EU agencies also provided a short overview of some of their related services and their roles in the SAR mission. There was a high interest from the different communities and the evaluation provided by participants confirms this great interest. A total of 75% of the participants classified the session as very good and 25% as an excellent session. A numbers of participants requested already follow up sessions on this subject.

Also, in this area of Capacity Building, activities related with the follow up of the European Coast Guard Functions Academy Network (ECGFA-Net) project (portal⁷⁴ hosted by EFCA), which was financed by the European Commission and implemented between 2015 and 2019, EFCA prepared a technical offer and corresponding budget for a project which will be financed by the EMFAF (see Objective 5A).

Risk assessment

Following the Annual Strategic Plan, an online survey was organised by the three EU agencies to consult Member States national authorities on cooperation between EFCA, EMSA and Frontex in the Risk Assessment area. The main objective of the survey was to obtain specific guidance on what activities the three agencies could develop in the area of Risk Assessment to support national authorities in the implementation of coast guard functions. From the replies obtained, it is possible to see that this support could be grouped into three different axes: 1) sharing of data and information regarding risk and threats, 2) development of methodologies or information products and 3) training, capacity building and awareness sessions, on risk assessment related topics. For each of these axes, specific activities were outlined and an analysis was made by the agencies on the feasibility of some of these activities.

On making available a combined risk assessment for a specific area and/or sea basin, the three agencies have made progress in developing a joint information product. A challenge is related with different level of details and structure of information from the three agencies. The three agencies have their own risk assessment frameworks in place, within their mandate to support national authorities performing coast guard functions (e.g., providing risk assessment tools, risk assessment analysis and products and/or Abnormal Behaviour Monitoring). Therefore, the three agencies continued to exchange

⁷³ Commission Recommendation of 20.7.2021 establishing a 'Practical Handbook' on European cooperation on coast guard functions. C(2021) 5310 final

⁷⁴ <https://ecgf.efca.europa.eu/>

information about the types of data, methodologies (steps, levels and objective of risk assessment) and analytical products that each agency is currently using within their frameworks.

Capacity sharing

In cooperation with EMSA, EFCA has been active in the use and in the promotion of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) for fisheries control. These activities can essentially be summarised in the use of an RPAS on board the EFCA chartered vessel and in the cooperation with Member States fisheries authorities to demand RPAS services or to make the best use of existing RPAS services provided by EMSA in their waters.

Regarding the first activity mentioned above, a light quadcopter RPAS seaborne from the OPV Lundy Sentinel, was operated during the year of 2021, as a complementary fisheries control tool to have initial pre-boarding assessments, to monitor the ongoing inspections on board fishing vessels and to monitor post-boarding activities of the previously inspected vessel. More detailed assessment please consult Annex I: Activity Report EFCA chartered vessels and light RPAS – 2021.

Regarding the cooperation and support to Member States fisheries authorities on the possible development of RPAS services offered by EMSA in their waters, EFCA cooperated closely in 2021 with Cyprus to analyse the feasibility of such a service. In 2021 A service request in Cyprus was sent to EMSA, and during 2020, the operational conditions were analysed together with the necessary permits and authorisations.

EFCA continued to operate Lundy Sentinel with pollution response equipment installed on board, consisting of oil dispersant spray booms and an oil recovery trawl, to neutralise oil spills, provided by EMSA. This pollution response capacity is available to the EU Member States at their request. The OPV Lundy Sentinel is notified to the EU's Common Emergency Communication Information System (CECIS) as a vessel of opportunity (VOO).

EFCA, has been benefiting from Frontex deployed airborne and seaborne means in the Mediterranean Sea and receiving tailored sightings.

Cooperation with the Coast Guard Functions Fora

The three EU agencies, EFCA, EMSA and Frontex, have supporting the ECGFF with the organization of thematic workshops, in order to foster cooperation and the exchange of experience and best practices.

The chair of the European Coast Guard Functions Forum (ECGFF) during the first half of 2021 was France, followed by Croatia during the second half of the year. Overall, two online workshops were organized by EFCA jointly with the ECGFF chairs.

With the French chair of the ECGFF, EFCA organised in February 2021 an online workshop on "Training, capacity building and operational cooperation". Invited speakers were from Member States and EU agencies and the workshop served as a non-binding forum for technical exchange of views on the expectations and needs of Member States national authorities and how EU Agencies may support national authorities performing coast guard functions. Overall, the workshop had 169 participants from 22 Member States, EU agencies and from the European Commission.

The second workshop was jointly organised with the Croatian Ministry of Agriculture and the chair of the ECGFF on November 2021 through a two-half day online workshop dedicated to Modern Technologies in the Fisheries Control System. The subjects covered included space based and aerial surveillance technologies, monitoring and detection technologies and supporting automation and analysis technologies. Practical and operational challenges were discussed as well as the role of the EU Agencies in support of Member States to implement modern technologies in the real operational framework. Overall, the workshop was attended by more than 120 participants from 21 Member States and EU agencies.

Another important area of work was implemented in cooperation with the Coast Guard Global Summit (CGGS), which is an initiative launched at a global level by the Japan Coast Guard (JPG) to join in a non-binding, voluntary, independent and non-political forum Coast Guards and agencies of the world to foster dialogue and cooperation among them. Training and Capacity Building has been an activity

promoted by the JPG and associated partners within a Pilot Programme. EFCA, EMSA and Frontex have been contributing to this horizontal initiative. In 2021, EFCA contributed with lecturers and presentations to the first two Educational Opportunities on-line sessions.

First session was organized in March 2021 on the subjects of “Spread of multilateral cooperation against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing”, “Latest technology for detection of illegal activities at sea, - Illegal fishery boats and Maritime Domain Analysis” and “Maturity and cost-effectiveness of Maritime Surveillance technology – focusing on Remote Piloted Aircraft System”. While second session in October 2021, was focused on Pandemic Preparedness and Response and EFCA has presented the adjustments made to its operational model, due to the pandemic outbreak.

Other cooperation areas in the international context, where the three agencies have been participating in the last years is the Mediterranean Coast Guard Forum and to the North Atlantic Coast Guard Forum (NACGF). Specifically, for the NACGF, EFCA has contributed in September 2021 to the Experts Meeting Fisheries enforcement working group and has also participated as observer in the plenary conference in October 2021 hosted by Germany.

The European Union Maritime Security Strategy and its Action Plan

The European Union Maritime Security Strategy⁷⁵ and the respective Action Plan were adopted in 2014. The Action Plan was revised in 2018 and EFCA is included in this revised Action Plan as one of the contributing agencies for 24 out of 56 actions in the Horizontal part and for 6 out of 34 actions in the regional part. It is important to underline that the EUMSS does not aim to create new structures, legislation or additional administrative burden.

During 2021, EFCA contributed to the implementation of the Action Plan through its normal activity and reported regularly on the relevant activities performed for each action. During its activities under the TWA, EFCA promotes cooperation between the authorities performing coast-guard functions, that leads to better maritime security as it does not only improve situational awareness but also helps to anticipate threats and risks and maximizes efficiency of operations at sea.

Cooperation with EUROPOL in the field of fisheries

In line with the policy framework endorsed by the Council, the EU Policy Cycle for fighting against organised and serious international crime for the period 2018 – 2021 operational activities were only partially implemented by different Action leaders and action co-leaders due to constraints caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Operational Action (OA) 2.1, dedicated to illegal fishing, was led by Portuguese authorities while EFCA and Spanish continued co-lead leading this OA. The OA 2.1 was one of the 20 actions under Environmental EU Crime Priority. The following MS and agencies participated in the OA 2.1: Estonia, Greece, Spain, France, Croatia, Italia, Malta, Romania, EUROJUST, EUROPOL, INTERPOL and Frontex.

Under the umbrella of EMPACT and the priority of Environmental Crime, during the week of 03-07 May 2021, a Joint Action Day (JAD) took place, in the framework of OA on Illegal Fishing. It was coordinated by Guarda Nacional Republicana (GNR/PT), within the role of leader, having EFCA and Guardia Civil (ES) as co-leaders, teaming up with EU agencies (Europol, Eurojust and Frontex) and Member States (Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, France, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Romania, Spain and Sweden). It aimed to contribute to the overall objective of identifying, deterring and disrupting illegal fishing activities and related crimes, led by organised crime groups. For this purpose, EFCA virtual coordination centre was activated.

Built on the results achieved and lessons learned during its first edition, organised in 25 September 2019, the second edition, which was supposed to be held in 2020, was postponed to 2021, due to the COVID-19 pandemic situation. Law Enforcement and Fisheries Control communities joined synergies by prioritising multipurpose and multiagency operations.

⁷⁵ https://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/policy/maritime-security_en

Main results:

- 2248 persons, 12 vehicles and 194 vessels checked;
- 64 crimes detected;
- 185 administrative infringements;
- 8 arrests;
- 9 seizures (10 tubes of plastic explosives, 124 detonating caps and 20 m of wick, 4,5 T of trout, high-tech equipment, computers and documents, 167 illegal fishnets and 20 other illegal tools, 80 kg of fine clams, 31 kg of Norway lobsters, 6 T of sardines, 50 kg of immature fish and 48 kg of Bluefin Tuna).

All the participants were able to foster sector bridging activities, involving Law Enforcement and Fisheries Inspections/Controls, to better understand idiosyncrasies of each community dealing with prevention and fight against illegal fishing activities at EU level.

Cooperation with US in the field of maritime domain awareness

Based on a formal invitation from US Navy to EFCA, EFCA along with EMSA and Frontex participated, as observer, in the PHOENIX EXPRESS 2021 (PE21) exercise organised by US navy which was also supported by US CG. The overall aim of the exercise was to improve regional cooperation, increase maritime domain awareness (MDA) information-sharing practices, and enhance operational capabilities to achieve safety and security in the Mediterranean Sea.

Initially, it was agreed that EFCA would have deployed an observer at the Maritime Coordination Centre (MOC), also for providing a fisheries control awareness session and a short description of the legal framework applicable in the area of the PE21 (Mediterranean Sea). Due to the pandemic situation, the awareness session was delivered online, and it was not possible to join physically the MOC.

During aforementioned intervention EFCA could use an opportunity to promote EU approach (standards) as regards addressing illegal fishing and control methodologies.

4. EFCA control means chartered and deployed following the agreed planning of operations

Chartered means at sea

EFCA's fleet of chartered OPVs has increased in 2021. In this regard Lundy Sentinel all year and Aegis since September have been assigned as a fisheries inspection platforms for JDPs in line with the JDP planning (Western Waters, NEAFC, NAFO, North Sea and Mediterranean JDPs). Please see in Annex I a dedicated report of the EFCA chartered means.

It worth mentioning, that besides fisheries control tasks, both EFCA's OPV's were made available to multipurpose tasks in the framework of European cooperation on coastguard functions, such as SAR, assistance and pollution response operations, in cooperation with Member State authorities, Frontex and EMSA. In that respect, Lundy Sentinel and Aegis have on board equipment for pollution response and dedicated medical facilities and supplies on board.

In order to be ready to face situations requiring immediate assistance to persons found in distress at sea, both EFCA's OPV's are equipped with additional food and first aid supplies to support mass-rescue operations. It is important to underline that the EFCA OPV's were available for potential pollution response or other safety related tasks also during the quarantine periods established by the EFCA protocol for the OPVs to address the coronavirus pandemic.

Lundy Sentinel

Due to the pandemic situation deployments normally comprised three-four consecutive weeks at sea and two days at port for crew and inspectors exchanges, as well as for the necessary bunkering. As based on EFCA COVID-19 Protocol crew had to stay in a quarantine of 17 days on board of the vessel in the Ria de Vigo. This measure was introduced to minimise any potential risk of contamination. In total the vessel performed 266 operational days at sea delivering 168 fisheries sightings, 18 inspections leading to 10 SI.

There were 22 MS Union inspectors hosted aboard of EFCA chartered OPV in the framework of JDP (for more details see Objective 1).

Lundy Sentinel continued to operate a light RPAS quadcopter to support fisheries control and to perform a pre-boarding assessment for safety and security reasons, including open spaces on board (to reduce risk of COVID-19 contamination). This RPAS service is provided by EMSA together with a SatCom service allowing the flights to be followed in almost real time from remote locations by EFCA staff. During 2021, a total of 51 flights followed inspections of fishing vessels and additional 27 flights served for general maritime surveillance or for operational testing purpose.

Special health safety related measures were also applied to EFCA and MS Union inspectors joining the vessel. Therefore, strict adherence of the EFCA COVID-19 Protocol and close cooperation with MS ensured smooth implementation of operational missions. The patrols at sea are established through a risk-based approach and via the cooperation of the TJDGs members operating from Member States FMCs and/or from the EFCA Coordination Centre, which has also operated during the pandemic on a virtual mode.

Aegis

Thanks to SLA in place between EFCA and EMSA, EFCA had a possibility to charter an additional capacity to support MS in a scope the JDP (EU-UK Trade Cooperation Agreement). With the Notice of Mobilisation of Aegis to EFCA the vessel was delivered from EMSA to EFCA in Port of Piraeus (Greece) on 10 September 2021.

EFCA OPV Aegis since the mission on 29 September was operational 76 days at sea, with a total of performed 80 sightings, 38 inspections and 5 suspected infringements detected.

There were 9 MS Union inspectors hosted aboard of EFCA chartered OPV in the framework of JDP (for more details see Objective 1).








Chartered aerial surveillance

EFCA is part of the new Inter Institutional framework contract *Aerial Surveillance Services for Border & Coast Guard Functions* launched by Frontex in 2020 and awarded in 2021. Through the call, EFCA will have the opportunity to charter flights for Mid-Range or Long-Range Maritime Area Aerial Surveillance depending on the operational needs. In 2021, EFCA was able to launch Specific Contract in order to support PESCAO Project with additional airborne capacity. Thus, EFCA deployed one chartered FWA in Siera Leone⁷⁶. Nevertheless, due to the fact that Inter Institutional framework contract is intensively used by Frontex, EFCA is investigating other avenues in order to broaden its possibilities for chartering FWA in the context of JDP, especially in the areas relevant to EU – UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement.

⁷⁶ More details under the PESCAO chapter

5. **Promotion of the use of innovative technologies for fisheries control purposes** including in cooperation with other EU agencies and EU dedicated projects.

How we can benefit from control technologies?

-  Filling up in maritime awareness gap
-  Sharing limited capacity
-  Economies of scale
-  Increased reaction capacity
-  Continuous vessel behaviours monitoring
-  Planners and decision makers are better informed
-  Facilitating information sharing among authorities and across borders
-  Supporting further development of user community specific technologies
-  Contributing to the level playing field
-  Supporting sustainable exploitation of limited resources

EFCA Integrated Maritime Services (EFCA IMS)

The EFCA IMS - a web based real-time integrated maritime awareness application – became an indispensable platform providing first line access to worldwide vessel position data and fisheries specific information in support of fisheries control coordination activities at EFCA and in the Member States. Being a textbook example of an enduring inter-agency cooperation between EMSA and EFCA – the application was further upgraded, driven by EFCA's consolidated user feedback and systematic functionality testing.

The ever-growing volume of available vessel position data and increasing needs for historic vessel tracking and data extraction resulted in 2021 in a number of challenges with regards to system performance and capacity. Therefore, the project plan for a new upgraded EFCA IMS V2.0 application, partly funded by EFCA, was enhanced and agreed upon by both agencies. EFCA IMS V2.0 will be available end of 2022.

Automatic Behavior Monitoring (ABM) operational integration

2021 was pivotal with regards to rolling out a methodology for the enhanced and systematic use of ABM's and their integration in a fisheries control operational framework.

Imbedded in the EFCA IMS, ABM's provide for automatic alerts using advanced algorithms applied on incoming vessel position data.

A large number of ABM's were set-up, finetuned and implemented in a systematic way by EFCA in support of specific JDP objectives. The ABM's could be tailored in such a way that alerts were only generated for certain types of vessels and alerts submitted only to specific IMS users.

During 2021, close to 240 ABM's were activated in support of Member States. The major portion (190) were implemented focusing on the permanent monitoring of fishing vessel activity in the vicinity of GFCM FRAs in the Mediterranean Sea. In addition, about 35 ABM's were activated in support of the monitoring of Brexit related issues in the Western Waters and North Sea region as well as for territorial water and entry into port access monitoring of 3rd country vessels. A further 15 ABM's were set-up in support of Pescao operational activities.

EFCA also organised dedicated ABM information sessions for Member States to exchange views and collect specific user needs on ABM capabilities for the automated monitoring of fishing vessel activity. This was followed-up by several bilateral meetings with Member States to set-up and test the ABM's. Bilateral meetings took place with Italy, France and Spain.

This first systematic implementation of ABM's lead to the detection of at least 11 suspected infringement cases.

Earth Observation Technologies

Copernicus Maritime Surveillance (CMS) Service

The CMS service is managed by EMSA and is a specific security service of the EU Copernicus Program. CMS Service images are systematically shared between the three Coastguard agencies.

In close cooperation with EMSA, EFCA promotes and manages the uptake of CMS service imagery for the fisheries control user community. In addition, regular user feedback is provided to EMSA.

In 2021 17 acquisition requests were prepared and submitted by EFCA for its own operations or in support of Member States. EFCA follows up on the acquisition planning, image uptake and supports Member States with enhanced analysis capacities. Despite an interruption of CMS services for about 1,5 months due to the Copernicus agreement renewal, these requests produced 257 Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) images and 17 optical images provided and made available through the EFCA IMS for further analysis by EFCA and/or MS fisheries control authorities.

The image deliveries also include the vessel detection service (VDS) providing for reports on identified and non-identified vessels established through correlation between detected EO contacts and available vessel position data.

In 2021 the CMS services were distributed as follows;

Area	SAR (Res 1.6 to 40 m) RADARSAT-2 PAZ1 TERRASAR-X	Optical (Res 0.5 to 1.1 m) PLEIADES-1A & 1B WORLDVIEW 2 & 3 GEOEYE-1 DEIMOS-2
Mediterranean Sea	44	13
Black Sea	44	
Western Waters	28	
West Africa (Pescao project)	67	
Indian Ocean	74	4

In support of specific operations, a small number of image acquisitions were performed in short notice mode, under 24 hours from request to delivery, and with the image footprint defined shortly before the satellite overpass (pinpointing).

This additional capacity led to an increased success rate in capturing target vessels in the EO image and detecting potential non-compliant fishing activity.

Enhanced EO analysis

Standard Copernicus Maritime Surveillance (CMS) services and automated VDS correlation do not always cater for the very specific business needs of the fisheries control user community.

Therefore, in 2021 EFCA continued developing additional in-house capacities for enhanced image analysis and the collection of situational awareness information.

In 2021 EFCA attended several EO technologies related user meetings, workshops, and technical working groups en intensified contacts with other EU agencies and bodies working in the remote sensing and EO domain.

At the request of Member States and the Commission, detailed enhanced image analysis reports were produced in support of risk analysis, evidence gathering or operational decision making.

Support to maritime surveillance technology related initiatives

EFCA continued to participate in various long term EU maritime surveillance technology related initiatives:

ENTRUSTED Project. EFCA is a member of the GOVSATCOM – H2020 CSA ENTRUSTED Project Consortium.

This European Union Governmental Satellite Communications (EU GOVSATCOM) initiative aims at providing secure and guaranteed satellite communication capacities and services to EU governmental stakeholders (EU countries, EU agencies and Institutions) for various security, defense, humanitarian aid, emergency response and diplomatic communication missions.

In the framework of this project, EFCA represents and safeguards the user needs of the fisheries control user community and provided specific input with regards to fisheries control related use cases.

MED-OSMoSIS

EFCA is an associated partner of the MED-OSMoSIS project that addresses governance for Maritime Surveillance in the Mediterranean. The main objective of MED OSMoSIS is the development of a number of modules/applications regarding Maritime Surveillance activities.

Surveillance Technologies development

As for EO technologies, the research community and related industry consortia increasingly consulted EFCA for the provision of input on various cooperative and non-cooperative communication, positioning and detection technologies.

Furthermore in 2021, EU agencies such as the EUSPA, EUSATCEN or International bodies such as ESA, facilitated contacts between their project stakeholders seeking specific user input and EFCA.

In addition, partnerships are being rolled out between EFCA and those agencies and bodies establishing long term cooperation in specific surveillance technology domains.

This further confirms EFCA's role as a recognized reference for providing the research and development community with fisheries control business needs.

Common Information Sharing Environment (CISE)

Representing the fisheries control user community, EFCA has been involved since 2012 in the Common Information Sharing Environment (CISE) initiative. As from April 2019 EFCA is taking part in the CISE transitional phase. The transitional phase of CISE was set up by the Commission (DG MARE) to facilitate the transformation of the pre-operational CISE network into an operational CISE network by the end of 2023. EFCA is a member of the CISE Stakeholder Group and other technical working groups created under this project which is entrusted with the fine-tuning and execution of the activities needed to reach the objectives of the CISE transitional phase. The objective is to integrate and make existing surveillance systems and networks interoperable so that data and other information can be exchanged easily through the use of modern technologies.

EFCA has in cooperation with EMSA and technical support from JRC, the EFCA CISE Node and conducted successful tests with EMSA CISE Node on data exchange. This was possible thanks to fruitful inter-agency cooperation and developed "EMSA connector" in order to allow the exchange of specific data sets.

OBJECTIVE 5A		
To implement capacity building actions on request of European Commission		
EXPECTED RESULTS		
1. Preparation of a project to maintain the Coast Guard qualifications Network and the Coast Guard Functions Handbook 2. Preparation of a Project for Analysis for the weighing process of fisheries products in the Member States and strategy 3. Preparation of a Project for the establishment of a Mediterranean virtual regional training academy on fisheries control and inspection		
PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	Target 2021	Achieved 2021
1. Grant contracts signed	3	3
MAIN OUTPUTS		
Planned	Achieved	
1. Three grant contracts signed	Yes	
2. Project plans prepared for the three projects	Yes	

1. Preparation of a project to maintain the Coast Guard qualifications Network and the Coast Guard Functions Handbook

The project "Implementation of the results of the Coast Guard qualifications Network and the Practical Handbook on European cooperation on coast guard functions" supports the cooperation with and between the competent European coast guard function authorities through two actions:

1. The implementation, maintenance and updating of the Practical Handbook on European cooperation on coast guard functions (hereafter, 'the handbook'), which will need to be made available through an online platform.
2. The implementation and continued development of the results of the European Coast Guard Functions Academy Network (ECGFA net) covering: a) the Sectoral Qualifications Framework for Coast Guard Functions (SQFCGF), b) a Training Portal and c) a Training Exchange Programme for the CG experts of the EU Member States.

The expected results are:

Result1: A handbook which is relevant and useful for the Member States national authorities as an operational tool and reference manual, which is continuously updated with agencies' and Member States information, including a comprehensive mapping and description of Member States national authorities competencies, missions and roles.

Result 2:

2.1 A network of academies and bodies dedicated to training of CG functions, based on an inventory and mapping of the main relevant institutions in Member States. The network shall be a relevant framework for an enhanced cooperation and interaction between the different institutions of the Member States, including through an exchange programme.

2.2. A Sectoral Qualifications Framework for Coast Guard Functions that is maintained, updated and revised according to the needs, and which is implemented by Member States and agencies, as appropriate.

Result 3: The online platform hosting the coast guard handbook and the capacity building and training network, which shall be useful for Member States national authorities implementing coast guard functions.

Result 4: A project development with continues involvement, contribution and support to Member States national authorities and with a close coordination with the Commission, EMSA and Frontex.

The budget allocated to EFCA for this 5 years' project (2022-2026) corresponds to 2.437.500 EUR. A technical offer and corresponding budget were prepared by EFCA and shared with the European Commission. The Grant Contribution Agreement was signed in December 2021. The project implementation will start on the 1 February 2022.

2. Preparation of a Project for Analysis for the weighing process of fisheries products in the Member States and strategy

The project "Analysis for the weighing process of fisheries products in the Member States and strategy" aims to:

1. to provide an up-to date overview of the measures and procedures in place in representative fisheries of the EU regarding the weighing of fishery products across the six European sea basins (i.e. the Mediterranean Sea, the North Western Waters, South Western Waters, North Sea, Baltic Sea, and Black Sea);

2. to evaluate measures and procedures in use for weighing at landing, methodologies for sampling weighing, and measures and methodologies for weighing after transport;

3. to issue recommendations on best practices for weighing at landing, best methodologies for sample weighing and best measures and methodologies for weighing after transport of fisheries products.

Leading to the following expected results:

- Description of the presentation of fishery products landed in specific Member States;
- Description and analysis of weighing practices of fisheries products in specific Member States and specific fisheries;
- Evaluation of established weighing procedures and effectiveness of existing Member States' sampling plans , control plans and common control programmes as a means to ensure the accurate representation and registration of all landed fishery products (including both fresh and frozen) and an assessment of the potential scope for circumvention of weighing and accurate catch registration under these provisions;
- Evaluation of the effectiveness of the methodologies set in the Implementing Regulation for drafting sampling plans, control plans and common control programmes and if necessary, the proposal of appropriate alternative standardised methodologies for each type of fishery products;
- Evaluation of the effectiveness of the methodologies set in the Implementing Regulation for weighing frozen fisheries products to ensure the accurate weighing of the actual quantities landed and, if necessary, the proposal of appropriate alternative methodologies;
- Issuing recommendations, identifying best practices and producing standardized and harmonized guidelines and methodologies to ensure accurate and efficient weighing, and ensure control and inspection of the weighing provisions for each type of fisheries products.

The budget allocated to EFCA for this 2 years' project (2022-2024) corresponds to 837.100 EUR. A technical offer discussed with the European Commission, to ensure that the project activities are under the scope of EFCA mandate of developments of best practices and standardization. A corresponding budget were prepared by EFCA and shared with the European Commission. The Grant Contribution Agreement was signed in December 2021. The project implementation will start on the 1 February 2022.

3. Preparation of a Project for the establishment of a Mediterranean virtual regional training academy on fisheries control and inspection

The Project “Mediterranean virtual regional training academy on fisheries control and inspection (eFish-Med)” promotes cooperation in the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, the implementation of General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GCFM) and International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) conservation and management measures, and looks for synergies with regards to the different coast guard functions, with the ambition to support the fulfilment of point 40 of the MEDFISH4EVER Declaration.

The overall objective of the project is to support the effective implementation of conservation and management measures through enhanced capacities, knowledge, skills and competences in fisheries control and inspection and the fight against IUU fishing.

The specific objective is to improve national and regional Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) systems of beneficiary countries by setting-up a virtual regional training academy.

The expected results are:

Result 1: A common training curriculum is developed, as a contribution to harmonisation of MCS activities across Beneficiary Countries

Result 2: A set of e-learning modules and training material is made available online, improving the effectiveness of training activities for MCS staff in beneficiary countries

Result 3: A project of staff exchange is in place and training sessions are organised through an e-learning platform, facilitating the exchange of experience and best practices between EFCA, Project Partners and Beneficiary Countries.

The budget allocated to EFCA for this 3 years’ project (2022-2024) corresponds to 1 million EUR. A draft technical offer and corresponding budget have already been prepared by EFCA and shared with the European Commission. The specific contract (contribution agreement) was signed on 16 December 2021. The project implementation will start on the 1 February 2022.

1.2.2. HORIZONTAL ACTIVITIES

The horizontal activities include:

Horizontal activities
Communication
Governance and Representation
Horizontal support

1.2.2.1. COMMUNICATION (OBJECTIVE 6)

❖ Introduction

The Communication Strategy Plan ensures that EFCA activities are well known for the target audiences and stakeholders. Its activities are aligned with EFCA's Annual work programme and take on board the feedback and best practices of other EU agencies.

The Annual Communication Strategy has further developed the digital presence of EFCA to reach its stakeholders, basically through social media.

❖ Main activity results

EFCA's Single Programming Document confirmed that the core mission of the Agency remained focused on the implementation of the joint deployment plans, encompassing a significant part of the regulated species.

The communication activities also reflected the Agency's commitment to the European Union's international agenda as well as EFCA's tasks in the framework of the EU Coast Guard cooperation.

The digital communication strategy of kept using its social media platforms to update about how operational activities were carried out. Special emphasis was put in the online tools to communicate what EFCA was doing with the production of two videos and a continuous use of social media tools. Moreover, when the COVID-19 pandemic allowed, also physical events and visits took place.

OBJECTIVE 6
Promote a culture of compliance of the Common Fisheries Policy and foster the European Union values
EXPECTED RESULTS
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stakeholders are informed about fisheries sustainability, the CFP rules in general and control measures concretely as well as its contribution to the European Border and Coast Guard and the cooperation programme PESCAO. 2. General public is aware of the work of the EFCA in the area of control of the Common Fisheries Policy as well as its contribution to the European Border and Coast Guard and the cooperation programme PESCAO. 3. Local public is familiar with the general values of the European Union

4. Institutional partners are well-informed about the Agency's work and mission		
5. EFCA staff is informed and involved in EFCA's work		
PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	Target 2021	Achieved 2021
1. Number of visits to the EFCA by stakeholders	7	9
2. Participation in international events, fairs, information seminars, conferences or meetings of other stakeholders that EFCA attended	9	11
3. Followers in Twitter	3500	3818
4. Monthly number of page views to the EFCA website	8000	13245
5. Publications and audiovisual material produced	3	5
6. Number of meetings or events with the local public	6	9
7. Meeting with all staff when relevant	3	5
8. Satisfaction with EFCA's intranet	90%	90%
MAIN OUTPUTS		
Planned	Achieved	
1. Organisation of visits in EFCA premises	Yes	
2. Ensuring the quality and timeliness of EFCA's website content and social media presence	Yes	
3. EFCA presence in the main EU fairs, events, information seminars, meetings or conferences related to its areas of work	Yes	
4. Layout and distribution of the main publications of the Agency	Yes	
5. Production of effective video material and infographics describing EFCA's work	Yes	
6. Effective communication tools, presentations or briefings available for trainings, visits, meetings or fairs	Yes	
7. Strong media relations on the topics covered by the EFCA	Yes	
8. Reinforcement of a visual identity to be respected in the Agency	Yes	
9. Organisation of international and local events with vast local institutional presence and media coverage	Yes	
10. Cooperation with other EU institutions and agencies on Communication	Yes	
11. Sound implementation of the Internal Communication Strategy, including staff meetings, cross-unit events and an updated collaborative intranet	Yes	

Results achieved by objective

1. Stakeholders are informed about fisheries sustainability, the CFP rules in general and control measures concretely as well as its contribution to the European Border and Coast Guard and the cooperation programme PESCAO

Through its communication with non-governmental stakeholders, EFCA contributes to build a culture of compliance of the Common Fisheries Policy by generating trust, confidence and accountability of the CFP measures. For this reason, during 2021 EFCA was present in the meetings of the Advisory Councils relevant to EFCA work, attending both their general assemblies/executive committee meetings and dedicated workshops.

2. General public is aware of the work of the EFCA in the area of control of the Common Fisheries Policy as well as its contribution to the European Border and Coast Guard and the cooperation programme PESCAO

In view of supporting the Communication Strategy defined by the European Commission, EFCA has worked hand in hand with DG MARE colleagues in Communication along the year, exchanging views on different communication material, such as videos and texts, and disseminating each other information, such as press releases or social media posts.

Two videos were produced this year, on the concept of Joint Deployment Plans and on Remote Electronic Monitoring in EU fisheries control.

Regarding the online tools, EFCA's kept its website updated and intensified the presence of its social media channels: Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn, by implementing a designed social media strategy aiming at reaching out to stakeholders.

When it comes to publications, a short version of the Annual Report 2020 has been designed and printed as well as the Single Programming Document 2021, and a general leaflet on EFCA's work. Other material was produced with EFCA's corporate logo, such as stickers and stationery.

Moreover, EFCA issued several press releases and published website posts covering different areas of its work, with issues ranging from the notifications of the Real Time Closures (RTC), the conclusions of the Administrative Board, the bluefin tuna campaign, the European Coast Guard event or handbook, the visit of the Commissioner Sinkevičius to Vigo, PESCAO operations or the five-year independent external evaluation of the Agency.

3. Local public is familiar with the general values of the European Union

In 2021, EFCA celebrated Europe Day in the presence of the most important Vigo authorities, such as the mayor, the regional minister of the Sea, and the Secretary of State for the European Union. It was the last public event of Pascal Savouret, after ten years as Executive Director of the Agency. It was widely covered in the local media and was echoed in the social media networks.

With the entry into service of Susan Steele, as the new Executive Director of EFCA, several meetings were held so she got introduced to the local institutional representatives. She met, inter alia, with the Mayor of Vigo and the President of the Vigo Port Authority.

Moreover, EFCA was represented at the most relevant local events such as those convened by Vigo city hall, the Port Authority or local stakeholders, such as ARVI, Opromar or Celeiro. EFCA was part of the European Commission (EUMOFA) stand in the Conxemar fair, having some publications and permanent staff on the stand.

4. Institutional partners are well informed about the Agency's work and mission

With the improvement of the COVID-19 situation during Spring and Autumn, several institutional partners were received in the Agency. The most prominent visit was the one from Commissioner

Sinkevičius to Vigo, where he could get well acquainted with the operational work of the Agency and see one of its OPVs at the port. He was accompanied by the Spanish Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Luis Planas.

EFCA was also visited by the Spanish Secretary of State for the European Union, Juan García-Barba, Italian and Swedish representatives of the Coast Guard as well as Portuguese inspectors. The Galician MEP from the Fisheries Committee, Francisco Millán Mon, also visited EFCA, as well as representatives from the Indonesian government and of the Long Distance AC.

In 2021, EFCA, FRONTEX and EMSA agreed on a coordinated communication strategy for the forthcoming year. Moreover, a visit was paid to the European Parliament Office in Spain in order to coordinate communication activities in the future.

5. EFCA staff: keep staff informed and involved in EFCA's work

After every Administrative Board meeting, an information meeting was organised with EFCA staff to keep them updated. Moreover, the new EFCA Executive Director held another remote meeting with the staff to introduce herself and before the Winter break.

Finally, the intranet has been kept updated encouraging the different units to keep it lively and with relevant content.

❖ Compliance regarding transparency, accountability and integrity

EU institutions, bodies and Member States hold the EU agencies politically, financially and judicially accountable for their activities. These include the European Parliament, Council and Commission, as well as the Court of Justice, the ECA, the IAS, OLAF and the European Ombudsman.

All the meetings held by the Executive Director and staff with organisations or self-employed individuals engaged in EU-policy making and policy implementation are made public, in accordance with an Executive Director Decision on this subject.

EFCA's communication strategy and its presence on social media increase openness and transparency. EFCA has placed emphasis on developing a culture of integrity, loyalty and trust. It achieves this through the instruments put in place to ensure ethical behaviour. EFCA avoids situations that might impair its independence or impartiality, through its comprehensive rules on prevention and management of conflicts of interest. In addition to the staff regulations, EFCA has in place a code of good administrative behaviour for its staff as well as a handbook on management and prevention of conflicts of interest, which offer comprehensive information and advice on a variety of issues, ranging from behavioural tips to compliance with legal obligations. Furthermore, EFCA has in place a Code of Conduct for all persons participating in EFCA activities. Operational staffers likely to be deployed in multipurpose operations receive a specific training on Human Fundamental Rights. EFCA provides compulsory training for staff on anti-harassment, ethics and integrity, and publishes the declarations of interests of the members of the Administrative Board, the Advisory Board and the management team.

It is essential for all staff members to observe ethical principles and standards of integrity and conduct. Adherence to these fundamental values requires continuous awareness raising, guidance and training. Moreover, EFCA implemented its anti-fraud strategy, which was based on a risk assessment exercise, taking into account the OLAF guidelines.. EFCA has developed a culture of integrity in which related risks are identified, assessed and addressed. Compliance with rules and maintaining a high level of ethical standards are shared responsibilities of EFCA's staff, creating an environment of trust, loyalty, responsibility and respect in the workplace. To this end, EFCA has in place a number of tools for protection of staff in general, and whistle-blowers in particular.

❖ Data protection

Activities undertaken in the area of data protection in the course of 2021 were in line with the principles of transparency and accountability, highlighting the status of data protection compliance in EFCA.

The ARES register of records was continuously revised and managed by the DPO, and the public part of EFCA records of processing operations were made available on EFCA's website under the Data Protection section – Public Register compliant to Art. 31 EUDPR Regulation 2018/1725.

The DPO monitored the guidance provided by the European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS) on how to comply with the requirements and prepared background material and answered to various surveys and requests for information.

❖ Access to Documents

Access to documents is an essential component of the policy of transparency being implemented by the European institutions. Under the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU, all EU citizens and all residents of the Union enjoy this right of access, which is governed by Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 (referred to as "PAD Regulation")⁷⁷.

To facilitate access to documents, the Library section in EFCA's website provides direct access to the majority of documents via a search form. The documents are directly accessible in electronic format. The main publications (i.e. annual reports and work programmes) are also available in the EU Bookshop catalogue, managed by the Publications Office of the European Union.

Documents which cannot be consulted directly on the Library may be supplied on request via a specific mailbox (efca-documents@efca.europa.eu). After considering each request, the service responsible will send a reasoned reply within 15 working days. During 2021 there were four requests of access, for which EFCA did not have the documents requested.

1.2.2.2. GOVERNANCE AND REPRESENTATION (OBJECTIVES 7-9)

❖ Introduction

Governance and representation cover the Administrative Board, Advisory Board and representation and networks horizontal tasks.

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

The Advisory Board is composed of one representative of each Advisory Council (AC)⁷⁸ and was established by the Agency Founding Regulation to advise the Executive Director and to ensure close cooperation with stakeholders.

OBJECTIVE 7

Provide the EFCA Administrative Board with the capacity for achieving its responsibilities in governance and expertise

EXPECTED RESULTS

1. EFCA Administrative Board is regularly and effectively informed of the EFCA's work and developments
2. EFCA Administrative Board ensures the matching of tasks foreseen for the Agency in the single programming document and resources available to the Agency

⁷⁷ Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents (OJ L 145, 31.5.2001, p. 43); applicable to EFCA.

⁷⁸ The Advisory Councils are stakeholder organisations composed of representatives from the industry, NGOs and other groups of interest. 5%

3. Increased AB involvement and output legitimacy ⁷⁹		
PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	Target 2021	Achieved 2021
1. Number of Administrative Board meetings	2	3
2. Preparation and notification in due course of the Administrative Board: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Single programming document o Annual Report 	100% 100%	100% 100%
3. Preparation, adoption and notification of Budget and the Accounts in due course	100%	100%
4. Monitoring the submission to EFCA of Annual written declarations of interest of Administrative Board members to ensure a proper control of those declarations of interest and compliance with legal obligations	100%	97% ⁸⁰
MAIN OUTPUTS		
Planned	Achieved	
1. Agency Administrative Board Decisions	Yes	
2. Adoption of the Agency single programming document	Yes	
3. Adoption of the Agency Annual Report	Yes	
4. Adoption of the Agency Budget and establishment plan	Yes	
5. Adoption of the Agency Accounts	Yes	
6. Annual Declaration of interest of the Administrative Board members submitted before the year end	Yes	

Results achieved by objective

- 1. EFCA Administrative Board was regularly and effectively informed of the EFCA's work and developments**
- 2. EFCA Administrative Board ensured the matching of tasks foreseen for the Agency in the programming document and resources available to the Agency**
- 3. Increased Administrative Board involvement and output legitimacy**

During 2021, extraordinarily, three Administrative Board meetings were held.

The 35th meeting of the Administrative Board took place on 21 April 2021 online and it appointed its new Executive Director, Susan Steele. Moreover, the AB adopted EFCA's Annual Report 2020, the

⁷⁹ Within the Five-Year Independent External Evaluation of EFCA exercise, the AB of EFCA issued a series of recommendations, one of them related to the Administrative Board functioning (Recommendation 6), 21 June 2017, <https://www.efca.europa.eu/en/content/external-evaluation-2017>

⁸⁰ Two Administrative Board member/alternates did not submit the declaration of interest by 31 December 2021. All members participating in the meetings submitted their declarations.

staff regulation implementing rules and the provision of an acting Executive Director. The AB as well endorsed the evaluation mandate for the next Five-Year Independent External Evaluation of EFCA for 2017-2021 and the timeline for adoption of the terms of reference.

On 4 June 2021, an AB meeting was organised online and the Board could get information about the roadmap for additional resources for EFCA. The Single Programming Document containing the Multiannual work programme 2021-2025 and Annual work programme for 2021 and budget were amended. Moreover, it adopted the terms of reference of the five-year independent external evaluation of EFCA for 2017-2021 and EFCA final accounts for 2020.

The 37th meeting took place online on 14 October 2021. The Single Programming Document containing the Multiannual work programme 2022 - 2026 and the Annual work programme for year 2022 were adopted as well as the Budget and the Establishment plan of the European Fisheries Control Agency for year 2022 and the EFCA draft Single Programming Document containing the Multiannual work programme 2023 - 2027 and the Annual work programme for year 2023.

Finally, the Tripartite Working Arrangement between EFCA, EMSA and Frontex was approved by written procedure in the month of March.

OBJECTIVE 8		
Ensure an effective dialogue at the level of the Advisory Councils through the Advisory Board		
EXPECTED RESULTS		
1. Close cooperation with the Advisory Councils ensured		
2. Facilitate the interaction of the Administrative Board-Advisory Board-EFCA ⁸¹		
PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	Target 2021	Achieved 2021
1. Advisory Board conclusions to be prepared, delivered and notified to the Advisory and Administrative Board in due course	2	2
2. Number of Advisory Board meetings	100%	100%
MAIN OUTPUTS		
Planned	Achieved	
Advisory Board advice regarding the Multiannual and Annual work programme of the Agency, containing the main concerns, needs and priorities of the stakeholders to be considered in the Agency field of action	Yes	

Results achieved by objective

1. Close cooperation with the Advisory Councils ensured

The Advisory Board met twice in 2021⁸², both of them online.

Throughout 2021, EFCA participated in meetings of the Executive Committees and Working Groups of the Advisory Councils, especially in those of the ACs affected by the Joint Deployment Plans adopted by EFCA, and when items related to EFCA competences were included in the agendas. The knowledge

⁸¹ Within the Five-Year Independent External Evaluation of EFCA exercise, the AB of EFCA issued a series of recommendations, one of them related to the Administrative Board and the Advisory Board interaction (Recommendation 7), 21 June 2017, <https://www.efca.europa.eu/en/content/external-evaluation-2017>

⁸² https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/partners/advisory-councils_en

gained during the meetings supported the coordination function of the Agency by keeping EFCA staff informed of the discussions taking place and the main issues of concern for the AC members.

Advisory Council meetings		
Meeting	Dates	Location
BSAC⁸³ Meeting on the Technical Measures Regulation	18 January	Videoconference
BSAC Future Common Fisheries Policy Session 1	19 January	Videoconference
BSAC Executive Committee meeting	29 January	Videoconference
BSAC Future Common Fisheries Policy Session 2	2 February	Videoconference
BSAC Future Common Fisheries Policy Session 3	9 February	Videoconference
BSAC Executive Committee meeting	6 May	Videoconference
BSAC Joint Working Group	8-9 June	Videoconference
BSAC General Assembly and ExCom meeting	22 September	Videoconference
CCRUP General Assembly	28-29 September	Praia de Vitória
Inter AC meeting	5 May	Videoconference
AAC ⁸⁴ General Assembly	21 September	Videoconference
LDAC⁸⁵ WG 2 North Atlantic RFMOs and Fishing Agreements	22 April	Videoconference
LDAC General Assembly / Executive Committee meetings	11-12 May	Videoconference
LDAC Working Group meeting	19 October	Videoconference
LDAC Annual Assembly	30 November	Madrid
PELAC ⁸⁶ Ex Com meeting, WG I and II	1-2 March	Videoconference
PELAC Ex Com meeting, WG I and II	20-21 April	Videoconference
PELAC WG I, WG II and Executive Committee meeting	6-8 July	Videoconference
PELAC Working Groups	6-7 October	Videoconference
NSAC⁸⁷ Ecosystem Working Group	20 January	Videoconference
NSAC Executive Committee meeting	26 January	Videoconference
NSAC Demersal Working Group	11 February	Videoconference
NSAC Demersal Working Group	13 April	Videoconference
NSAC Executive Committee	27 May	Videoconference
NSAC Demersal Working Group	12 July	Videoconference
NSAC meeting	14 September	Videoconference
NSAC Demersal Working Group	1 December	Videoconference
MEDAC ⁸⁸ Working Groups	6 October	Videoconference
NWWAC⁸⁹ Focus Group Brexit	25 January	Videoconference
NWWAC meeting	9-10 March	Videoconference
NWWAC Horizontal Working Group	1 July	Videoconference
NWWAC Executive Committee meeting	13 July	Videoconference
NWWAC WGs, ExCom meeting	15-17 September	Videoconference
NWWAC Article 27 TMR vs Landing Obligation	29 September	Videoconference

2. Facilitate the interaction between the Administrative Board and Advisory Board of EFCA

To promote the participation of the Administrative Board members in the Advisory Board, thus to boost interaction among the two bodies, in the 2021 online meetings of the Advisory Board, the Administrative Board members were invited.

A representative of the Advisory Board took part in the deliberations of the Administrative Board meetings without the right to vote. The Advisory Board representative in the EFCA Administrative Board was appointed in accordance with the yearly rotation system agreed by the Advisory Board members.

⁸³ Baltic Sea Advisory Council (BSAC)

⁸⁴ Aquaculture Advisory Council (AAC)

⁸⁵ Long Distance Advisory Council (LDAC)

⁸⁶ Pelagic Advisory Council (PELAC)

⁸⁷ North Sea Advisory Council (NSAC)

⁸⁸ Mediterranean Advisory Council (MEDAC)

⁸⁹ North Western Waters Advisory Council (NWWAC)

From 2 March 2021 to 1 March 2022 the representative of the Advisory Board was Mr José Manuel Fernández Beltrán, from the Pelagic Advisory Council and the alternate, Mr Daniel Voces from the Market Advisory Council.

OBJECTIVE 9		
Ensure the Agency representation, cooperation, dialogue and transparency with other institutional bodies, EU agencies and third parties		
EXPECTED RESULTS		
1. Synergies with other Institutions and bodies were enhanced 2. EU institutions and bodies and general stakeholders were informed on EFCA activities		
PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	Target 2021	Achieved 2021
1. Participation on the Heads of Agencies and Heads of Administration network meetings (number of meetings)	2 meetings	6 meetings
2. List of meetings where EFCA has participated to be communicated to the Administrative Board	Twice a year under the AB Information from the Executive Director	2
MAIN OUTPUTS		
Planned	Achieved	
1. Attendance to relevant meetings for the Agency	Yes	
2. Contribution to the EU decentralised Agencies working groups	Yes	
3. Presentations and briefings delivered in the different meetings	Yes	
4. Briefings and documents issued to inform the institutional bodies and third parties	Yes	

- 1. Synergies with other Institutions and bodies were enhanced and**
- 2. EU institutions and bodies and general stakeholders were informed on EFCA activities**

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

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 Unit Resources attended the various meetings held at managerial level. Likewise, Agency staff met their counterparts through specific technical networks: Procurement, Communication, Data protection, Legal, 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 is actively committed to put in place the actions to be performed as defined by the Commission. The progress of each action is closely followed-up and all actions in EFCA's remit were implemented. From the 42 actions EFCA 38 were implemented and 4 are considered not applicable.

The Agency was also represented on the Board of the Translation Centre in Luxembourg.

1.2.2.3. HORIZONTAL SUPPORT (OBJECTIVE 10)

❖ Introduction

Ensure the optimisation in the allocation and use of EFCA's resources in accordance with the principle of sound financial management and with the guarantee concerning the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions. Ensure the rationalisation, simplification, scalability and streamlining of EFCA's processes. In particular, it entails the provision of the support necessary for the administrative, financial and physical functioning of the Agency as an independent body, including the support of Protocol issues under the Seat Agreement with Spain, ICT helpdesk, and security of people, premises, and properties.

OBJECTIVE 10		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure the optimisation in the allocation and use of EFCA's resources in accordance with the principle of sound financial management and with the guarantee concerning the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions • Ensure the rationalisation, simplification, scalability and streamlining of EFCA's processes 		
EXPECTED RESULTS		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase of efficiency in the administration through further efforts in the area of e-administration and maintain the levels already achieved in this respect. 2. Maintaining high levels of budget implementation performance through close budget programming, reporting and regular follow up of the information gathered from the financial systems and the input from the operational units. 3. Compliance with all legal requirements in the operational and administrative fields ensured. 4. Highly available, secure and cost-effective ICT services to support the EFCA business processes and its internal/ external operational activities ensured. 		
PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	Target 2021	Achieved 2021
1. Execution payments appropriations	>70%	75%
2. Percentage of planned procurements launched	>80%	75%
3. Open remarks/ recommendations from ECA and IAS ⁹⁰	<2	0
4. Availability rate for all operational applications hosted by EFCA	>99%	99.7%
5. Sysper modules made available to EFCA implemented	>90%	65%
MAIN OUTPUTS		
Planned	Achieved	
1. Implementation of SUMMA and the modules of e-Procurement and Sysper made available to EFCA	Yes	
2. Regular Reports to management on administrative implementation and forecasted information (budget, recruitment, procurement, training, etc.)	Yes	
3. Regular monitoring and implementation of any open remarks/ recommendations from ECA and IAS	Yes	
4. Use of Cloud for hosting infrastructure/applications maximised where applicable.	Yes	

⁹⁰ Recommendations rated Very Important or Critical.

In 2021, the following Sysper modules/ functionalities made available to EFCA were implemented: Ethics module, eCV and transcode activation (PMO). Moreover, it was decided to postpone the implementation of the ATLAS module, until further functionalities will be available and not to use the VAC module because of its complexity which is not appropriate for a small organisation as EFCA. A priority for EFCA is to implement the ATS module (standby duty) and the EVAL/PRO modules (appraisal and reclassification). However, those were still not made available by DG HR in 2021. The delays also affect the optional module Ad interim.

Results achieved by objective

1. Increase of efficiency in the administration through further efforts in the area of e-administration, and maintain the levels already achieved in this respect

Following the advancements and achievements of 2020 in the areas of paperless and electronic workflows, 2021 has been a year of consolidation and optimisation of the existing procedures. The teleworking arrangements have continued, which has increased the dependency on the electronic tools and workflows even further. EFCA has made improvement and simplifications of existing procedures, finding new ways of increasing the efficiency in the administrative areas.

In addition to the improvements, there were new systems implemented, such as additional modules of Sysper in the HR area, the PPMT system for e-procurement (to start using in 2022) and the completion of the first annual cycle for budget programming through the new BAPT system.

The following achievements have been reached in 2021:

- ARES document management system is now integrated with the EU SIGN platform for Qualified Electronic Signature (QES) of all documents, mainly affecting the signature of contracts and procurement documents.
- As regards **Sysper** the Ethics, eCV and transcode activation (PMO) modules were implemented. Moreover, it was decided to postpone the implementation of the ATLAS module, until further functionalities will be available and not to use the VAC (vacancies) module because of its complexity which is not appropriate for a small organization as EFCA. A priority for EFCA is to implement the ATS module (standby duty) and the EVAL/PRO modules (appraisal and reclassification). However, those were still not made available by DG HR in 2021.
- The budget programming tool, **BAPT**, was used for the first annual budget programming and execution cycle, and the outcome was positively perceived by the relevant users.
- EFCA onboarded the **PPMT** tool, a component of the e-Procurement platform of the Commission. It is integrated with other systems used by EFCA, such as e-Tendering and e-Submission. This system will allow the planning, execution and follow up of all procurement procedures, including the lower value procedures.

2. Maintaining high levels of budget implementation performance through close budget programming, reporting and regular follow up of the information gathered from the financial systems and the input from the operational units

The implementation of the financial year 2021 was mainly affected by the additional €4 million budget provided to EFCA in the framework of the future cooperation with the UK. This budget was intended for covering additional human resources (4 new TA posts) and the chartering and deployment of up to two additional Offshore Patrol Vessels and aircraft missions in waters adjoining the United Kingdom.

Although EFCA received the new budget only to start implementation in July, and the difficulties related to the COVID-19 pandemic situation, particularly in the areas requiring the travelling of staff and experts, continued during the year, EFCA still reached a 99.1% budget implementation in 2021. The rigorous follow up of the budget programming and estimated forecasts, as well as the close collaboration of all operational areas have been key contributors to this success.

All details related to the budget implementation can be found in Annex II and in section 2.3.1.

3. Compliance with all legal requirements in the operational and administrative fields ensured

By the end of the summer, the ECA performed the first audit mission of 2021 financial year and will finalise the audit of year 2021 during the first quarter of 2022. There were no preliminary findings for year 2021, and there was full compliance with the regularity and legality of the financial transactions.

4. Highly available, secure and cost-effective ICT services to support the EFCA business processes and its internal/ external operational activities ensured

Regarding the improvement of the efficiency of EFCA administration and operations, several tasks were performed in 2021.

- Enhancing the use of Fishnet by fixing pending issues from the technical migration and adding new functionalities.
- The first phase of the Automated Budget Programming system was concluded. During 2022, the project will continue improving new processes and reports.
- The implementation of an IT Service Management System has been launched and will be finalised in 2022.

EFCA is following Cloud-first with a secure hybrid multi-cloud as part of its strategy for a digital transformation.

Continuing to improve the Digital Workplace through new models of empowerment and new ways of working using Microsoft Office 365 Suite.

The yearly maintenance of operational applications (ERS, JaDE and VMS) and the European Coast Guard Functions Training platform continued throughout the year with frequent updates.

❖ Facilities

Physical Security, Health and Safety & Workplace improvement

During all year 2021, the actions in Workplace Improvement and Health and Safety have been focussed in the adaptation of the EFCA premises to the sanitary crisis and establishing prevention and protection protocols. Measures taken are, among others: Reduction of the access to the premises to the strict need to go principle and fixing a maximum number of staff and users on site; Scheduling and recording presence on site to allow tracking in case of incident; Restricting number of physical meetings; Closing security front desk with glass partitions; Establishing directions for internal circulation of staff and users in the building; Installing hydro alcoholic gel dispensers on each floor; Establishing specific cleaning protocols for constant disinfection of surfaces and risk areas; Establishing a compulsory body temperature check at the entrance for all users and visitors; revising protocol for mail/post distribution and pick-up; Launching specific communication campaign, etc.

The established protocols to face the COVID-19 situation have been audited by AENOR and a Certification of the protocols has been granted.

Physical security has been maintained during the whole sanitary crisis by permanent presence of the security guards and the unchanged use of the security systems.

❖ Business Continuity Plan (BCP)

Although not considered as a Business Continuity situation, the sanitary crisis and consequential mass teleworking has proven the resilience of the Agency in front of critical and long-lasting situations. From early March 2020 on, the EFCA Business Continuity Management Team monitored and analysed the impact of telework of nearly all staff caused by the pandemic on the business continuity. It concluded early on that EFCA was well prepared to continue its operations reliably via telework and did not recommend to the Executive Director to activate the EFCA Business Continuity Plan at any point during

2021. It suggested, however, some adaptations of the units' individual Recovery Actions Plans and specific arrangements for back-up solutions in case of COVID-19 related direct or indirect absences affecting up to 30% of the staff as a precautionary assumption, which were subsequently implemented. No additional BCP exercise has been organised.

❖ Information Security Management

The International Standard Organization (ISO) has published ISO/IEC 2700x series as the international standard for the management of information assets and to safeguard business continuity. Its objective is to help organisations like EFCA ensure that information assets are always adequately protected and are available when they are needed. The aim is to achieve in the most pragmatic way possible an Information Security Management System (ISMS) which can eventually be certified according to the standard UNI/EN ISO 27001– 2016.

The ITSC decided in March 2016 to establish an Information Security Management System based on the international standard ISO 2700x series. Following preparatory work in 2017, the implementation phase started in 2018. Accordingly, 15 new ISMS policies were drafted in 2019 that govern the full set of 114 information security controls of the standard ISO. In 2020 the policies were fully revised and updated to the version 2016 of the standard ISO27001. Four of them were adopted in 2021 and now are in force.

PART II (A) MANAGEMENT

2.1 ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD

Decision No 21-I-3	Adoption of the Annual Report of EFCA for year 2020
Decision No 21-I-6	Adoption of General implementing provisions to the Staff Regulations
Decision No 21-I-8	The appointment of the Executive Director
Decision No 21-I-9	The designation of an acting Executive Director
Decision 21-II-03	Amendment to the Single Programming Document containing the Multiannual work programme 2021-2025 and Annual work programme for 2021 and budget
Decision 21-II-04	Adoption of the terms of reference of the Five-Year Independent External Evaluation of EFCA
Decision 21-II-05	Adoption Final Annual Accounts for financial year 2020
Decision 21-III-03	Adoption of the EFCA Single Programming Document containing the Multiannual work programme 2022 - 2026 and the Annual work programme for year 2022 and the Budget and the Establishment Plan of the European Fisheries Control Agency for year 2022
Decision 21-III-04	Adoption of the EFCA draft Single Programming Document containing the Multiannual work programme 2023 - 2027 and the Annual work programme for year 2023

2.2 MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

2021 was still affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. As reflected under point 1.2.1, EFCA kept assisting the Member States and the European Union including to fulfil its international control and inspection obligations, and combined, depending on the sanitary situation, structured teleworking to teleworking with a limited cautious and voluntary return to the office.

During 2021, EFCA was granted additional resources in the framework of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement with UK. As reported on point 1.2.1.1, EFCA assisted to the Member States and the Commission in the support the implementation of the international cooperation (TCA EU - UK) through the JDPs.

The Green Deal is another policy area in which the Common Fisheries Policy is enshrined and to which EFCA contributes through its work promoting a culture of compliance.

Internally, EFCA new Executive Director, Susan Steele, was appointed by the Administrative Board

2.3 BUDGETARY AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

2.3.1. BUDGETARY AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT (ART 103 FFR)

The main impact on the budgetary and financial management of year 2021 has been the additional subsidy provided to EFCA for its implementation during the second half of the year. This new €4 million budget was targeted for the increase in staff (4 TA and 2 CA) and for up to two more Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPV) for the increase in monitoring of the EU waters adjoining the United Kingdom.

Following the applicable financial regulation and EFCA's internal financial procedures, EFCA was able to start chartering one new OPV only in September, and the new staff was effectively recruited by 1 November. In addition, the year's activities were still impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting restrictions for travelling. All these factors had a negative impact on the budget implementation roadmap of the year.

Despite all the above, EFCA was still able to achieve a 99.1% implementation in commitments and 74.5% in payments. The unused budget intended for staff and for the organisation of events and travel (presential meetings, missions, other events) was pulled together and transferred to guarantee the chartering contract for the 2 current OPVs during at least the 1st months of 2022. This action was planned in view of the expected date of signature of the new framework contract for OPV chartering services.

The transfers performed in 2021 per title are reflected below.

TITLE		Voted budget	Transferred	Appropriations (non-differentiated)
1	Staff Expenditure	9,043,000	-208,900	8,834,100
2	Building and Administrative Expenditure	1,797,000	-78,900	1,718,100
3	Operational Expenditure	10,160,000	516,400	10,447,800
TOTAL		21,000,000	0	21,000,000

Further details of amounts transferred can be found in Annex II.

The implementation of the total revenue (current and carried forward from previous years) for the ad-hoc grant PESCAO has been 50%, and the unused credit of this assigned revenue will continue to be implemented in 2022.

In terms of commitments carried forward from 2020, EFCA consumed 83%. This figure shows a lower implementation than in previous years mainly due to the delays of two IT development projects that were extended in time for 2022 and therefore cancelled from the C8 payment appropriations of 2021 budget.

EFCA cancelled 2.6% of the payment appropriations in 2021 including all fund sources. The main cancellation (70% of the total) comes from the cancellation of the C8 commitments mentioned above.

The payment delay has been maintained at the levels of 2020, right on the average of 16 days. There was a 99.2% compliance with the Financial Regulation time limits, higher than in 2020. No interest was charged to EFCA for any payment delay.

Procurement

The main procurement efforts in 2021 were targeted towards the launch of an open procedure in the field of chartering of 3 OPVs. As a result of the additional tasks and resources assigned to EFCA in the framework of collaboration with the UK, the new framework contract for chartering services required to cover the services of three OPVs instead of one as it was foreseen. This procedure was launched in July 2021 and the expected date of signature of the framework contracts is quarter 1 of 2022.

In terms of signature of new framework contracts, EFCA signed the following contracts of procurement procedures launched end of 2020 or during 2021

- Provision of services related to fisheries patrol in the waters adjoining the United Kingdom (€2,500,000), signed in August. This contract was signed following a Negotiated Procedure without prior publication based on point 11.1(b)(ii) of Annex I of the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the Union (FR).
- Interinstitutional framework contract for the purpose of workplace improvement services for EFCA and F4E (furniture, equipment, layout and design) (€1,120 000), signed in June as a result of an Open Procedure.

- Provision of language courses to EFCA (€125 000), signed in May from a Negotiated Procedure.
- Provision of services in the field of marine surveying (€125 000), signed in June from a Negotiated Procedure .
- Interinstitutional framework contract (let by F4E) for outsourced services, signed in November

Further to that, other negotiated procedures were launched in the following fields:

- Reopening of competition of EFCA of an interinstitutional framework contract (Frontex) in the field of Aerial Surveillance. Launched for the signature of a contract covering the deployment of aerial means in support of Regional Surveillance Operation under the PESCAO project (€402,000)
- Stationery and Office supplies (€120 000), launched in December 2021
- Reopening of competition by EFCA of an interinstitutional framework contract (Eurofound) in the field of evaluation and feedback services. Launched for the signature of a contract covering the 5-year evaluation of EFCA (€95,000).
- Market Survey services linked to the Open Procedure for the chartering of OPV services (€15,000)

Following the shared procurement approach, EFCA joined 9 different inter-institutional tenders with the Commission and other agencies in 2021.

2.3.2. INFORMATION ON GRANT, CONTRIBUTION AND SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS PROVIDED IN ANNEX VI (WHEN APPLICABLE)

Currently EFCA has one grant agreement signed with the Delegation of the EU in Senegal (Project PESCAO, see Objective 5.)

EFCA has signed several Service Level Agreements (SLAs) and Memorandum of Understandings with other agencies, Member States and other Bodies, sharing operational tasks and providing tools for cooperation in the implementation of different operational activities.

COUNTERPART	SUBJECT	SIGNATURE DATE	REFERENCE
EMSA	SLA between the EFCA and EMSA for the MARSURV service	28/03/2018	Ares(2019)2544621
EMSA/FRONTEX/EFCA	Tripartite Working Arrangement	17/03/2017	A-00368
FRONTEX	MoU for the Inter Institutional Procurement on Aerial Surveillance Services	12/01/2017	A-01209
FRONTEX	SLA between EFCA and Frontex for the joint use of Frontex capability - Aerial and maritime surveillance in support of EFCA activities	06/02/2017	A-00628
SRFC, FCWC, ISMI	MoU between EFCA, SRFC, FCWC and the Regional Academy of Science and Technology of the Sea for optimising the training in the scope of PESCAO	15/03/2019	Ares(2019)1835621
French Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Directorate	Cooperation in Capacity building activities	24/09/2010	CFCA/2010/A-01005

In addition, for the sake of efficiency, EFCA shares services with the Commission and other agencies for administrative processes and contracts:

- 9 SLA's /MoU signed with agencies; e.g. EMSA, FRONTEX and the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO);
- The EC carried out a merging exercise of the different SLAs and services offered to agencies, gathering all services of each DG into more global agreements. EFCA has now 10 SLA's/MoU with the Commission;
- During 2021 EFCA joined 9 more inter-institutional calls with the Commission and agencies for which contracts are currently in use;
- EFCA is amongst the first wave of agencies where Sysper2 (HR IT tool) is being implemented;
- EFCA currently uses the following corporate systems shared by the Commission for the financial and procurement procedures:
 - Accrual Based Accounting (ABAC) Workflow and Legal Commitment Kernel (LCK) for the implementation of the budget, to be replaced by SUMMA in 2024
 - Systems Applications and Products (SAP)/ABAC for the Accounting processes.
 - ABAC Assets for the processing of the order forms, assets and inventory; to be replaced by the e-Procurement platform in 2023-2024
 - AGM for the reimbursement of the experts of meetings organised by EFCA
 - Missions Integrated Processing System (MIPS) for the approval and payment of mission costs for EFCA's staff;
 - e- Invoicing for the electronic invoicing from third parties, and e-Submission for the open calls for tender.
 - PPMT for the planning and preparation of all procurement procedures

2.3.3. CONTROL RESULTS

EFCA initially received a total budget of €17 million as a contribution from the General EU Budget for 2021, representing an increase of 0.6% in respect of 2020. Within the framework of the collaboration agreements with the United Kingdom, EFCA was granted €4 million more to be implemented starting in July 2021, raising the total budget of 2021 to €21 million (increase of 24.3% in respect of 2020).

In addition, EFCA received resources during 2021 in relation to the grant for Improved Regional fisheries governance in Western Africa (PESCAO project), to be implemented from 2018-2022. In total, the grant awarded equalled €2.5 million, from which €0.62 million was earmarked for 2021.

2021 Budget Implementation

Title	Budget (EUR)	Committed (EUR)	% exec	Paid (EUR)	% exec
TITLE I	9 043 000	8 710 592	96%	8 533 442	94%
TITLE II	1 797 000	1 707 319	95%	1 119 667	62%
TITLE III	10 160 000	10 386 817	102%	5 988 437	59%
ICT Operational	550 000	314 278	57%	191 008	35%
JDP's, Operational plans and Pilot Projects	520 000	224 599	43%	144 720	28%
Risk assessment and Data Analysis	550 000	571 832	104%	91 240	17%
International dimension: compliance with international provisions	110 000	6 251	6%	4 944	4%
Coast Guard and Capacity Building	8 430 000	9 269 857	110%	5 556 524	66%
TOTAL	21 000 000	20 804 728	99%	15 641 545	74%

EFCA has estimated the implementation of the Activity based budget 2021 built on the four operational activities presented in the SPD 2021 (detailed information is provided under Annex V).

Some of the overhead and indirect costs (interim services, translation costs, etc.) have been analysed further to allow for more precise distribution of the cost. The degree of staff dedication to each activity has also been weighted with the number of man/months worked and salary levels.

The results of this exercise for 2021 have been the following:

Code	Activity	AWP 2021	AR 2021	% execution vs. planned
1	JDPs, Operational Plans and Pilot projects	5,790,358	4,475,451	77%
2	Risk assessment and data analysis	3,404,389	2,939,898	86%
3	International dimension: compliance with international provisions	1,876,142	1,275,729	68%
4	Coast Guard and Capacity Building	9,929,111	12,113,650	122%

It needs to be noted that the results above do not include the implementation of the revenues received from the grants provided to EFCA. These grants have an implementation phase over one year and, therefore, cannot be easily compared in consideration of the annuality principle of the EU subsidy funds. For implementation information on the grants, please refer to Annex V (R0 fund source implementation).

EFCA continues to carry out ex-ante verification over a subset of financial transactions in its financial circuits based on a risk assessment methodology. To compensate for this, internal ex-post verification on a sample of transactions is carried out quarterly by EFCA financial staff. In 2021 around 41% of all payments have been processed without an ex-ante verification. This figure is almost equal as in 2020 due to the continuation of the constraint pandemic situation and, therefore, absence of cost claims for missions and experts' travel cost claims, which fall under the type of payment without ex-ante verification.

The results of the quarterly ex-post verification exercises performed in 2021 revealed zero (0%) error rate.

Performance Indicators	Target	Achieved
Execution rate commitments appropriations	As close as possible to 100%	99.1%
Execution payments appropriations	≥70%	74.5%
Percentage of payments done within the time limits	>98%	99.2%

2.3.4. COST AND BENEFITS OF CONTROLS

The control procedures stem to a large degree from regulatory requirements, which cannot be curtailed. Nevertheless, EFCA continues to make efforts in further streamlining and lowering the costs of its financial procedures and circuits without compromising those requirements. In the absence of any significant weakness detected which could have a material impact as regards the legality and regularity of the financial operations, it is concluded that the relevant control objective of effectiveness has been achieved.

EFCA strives for increasing efficiency in all procedures related to administration, while it continues to safeguard the resources of the Agency and maintains its compliance with its legal obligations in this area (Financial and Staff Regulations among others). In this continuous effort to improve the efficiency EFCA successfully implemented the Commission's available corporate IT solutions, i.e. e-procurement, document management system (ARES), HR management (Sysper2), management of missions (MIPS) and Advanced Getaway for Meetings (AGM).

Based on the most relevant key indicators and control results, EFCA has assessed the effectiveness, efficiency and economy of its control system and reached a positive conclusion on the cost-effectiveness of the controls for which it is responsible.

2.4 DELEGATION AND SUB-DELEGATION OF THE POWERS OF BUDGET IMPLEMENTATION TO AGENCY'S STAFF

EFCA's Authorising Officer, the Executive Director, has delegated the budget implementation powers to each Head of Unit based on the competencies of each unit. The threshold under which the budget implementation powers are delegated is €80,000 per transaction. Each Head of Unit has been delegated the budget lines linked to the expenditure of their area of activity. In the case of the Head of Unit Resources and IT, the routine administrative expenditure (such as salaries and building services) has been delegated without a threshold. There are no sub delegations at EFCA.

All delegation agreement details are reflected in an Executive Director decision, and each delegated Authorising Officer has signed their conformity to comply with the Charter of the Authorising Officer by delegation. The authorising officer by delegation shall report regularly to the authorising officer on the implementation of programmes, operations or actions in respect of which powers have been delegated to him/her, and shall inform the authorising officer in writing of the management problems encountered and the solutions proposed to remedy them. No weaknesses were identified.

2.5 HUMAN RESOURCES (HR) MANAGEMENT

◆ Personnel Selection and Recruitment

On 31 December 2021, the establishment plan was 100%⁹¹ filled, with 65 Temporary Agents (TA). The number of Contract Agents (CA) was within the estimates, with 9 CA⁹². This is similar to the situation at the end of 2020. Additionally, 2 CA were covered by ad hoc grants, under the PESCAO project.

⁹¹ This includes job offers sent before 31 December 2021.

⁹² This figure does not include CA covered by ad hoc grants.

On 31 December 2021 the number of SNEs was 5⁹³. The SNE work volume in 2021 resulted in 5.1 person/years of usage sourced by the EFCA budget and 1 person/year due to funding for the PESCAO project.

External personnel were used for replacement and amounted to 0.93 full-time equivalent (FTE).

Furthermore, external service providers were used for delivering specified structural services within the EFCA premises, in the areas of ICT and Logistics. The total of this amounted to 11 FTE.

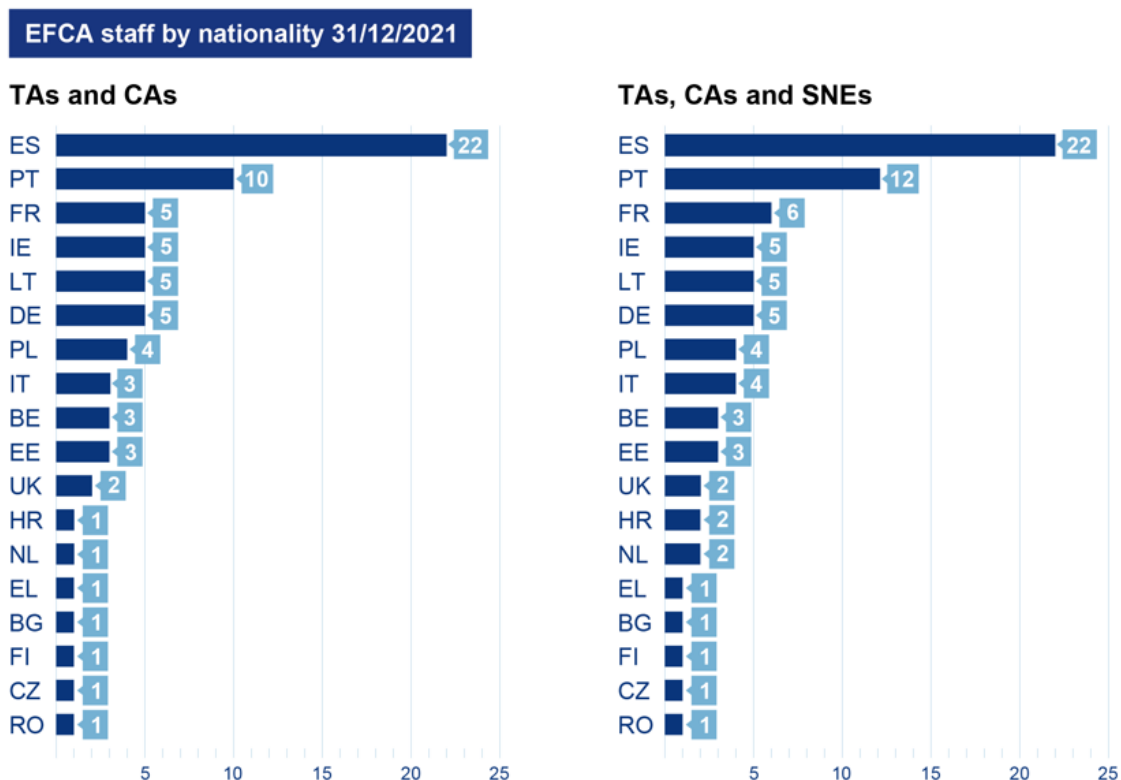
❖ **Organisational development and staff structure**

EFCA has carried out a job screening exercise for 2021 following the methodology agreed with the Commission. The jobs include all statutory staff as well as external service providers working *intra-muros*. The results are displayed in Annex IV allowing a comparative view on the allocation of human resources with the previous year. Operational staff accounts for 66 % of the total workforce.

In 2021, the volume of staff on parental leave, maternity leave or partly absent due to working part-time resulted in 1.5 person/years. On 31 December 2021, the total FTE of staff on parental or maternity leave or being partly absent due to working part-time was 0.2, with 0.1 FTE of operational staff.

As in the previous years there is a wide composition of staff in regard to nationalities as analysed in the chart below. By nature the chart below only includes posts filled.

Nationals of 18 EU Member States were working at EFCA on 31 December 2021.



On 31 December 2021, the overall average age of staff, including SNEs was 49 years. The average age of staff, not counting SNEs, was 50 years.

❖ **Change management process**

No reorganisations took place in 2021.

⁹³ This figure does not include SNEs covered by ad hoc grants.

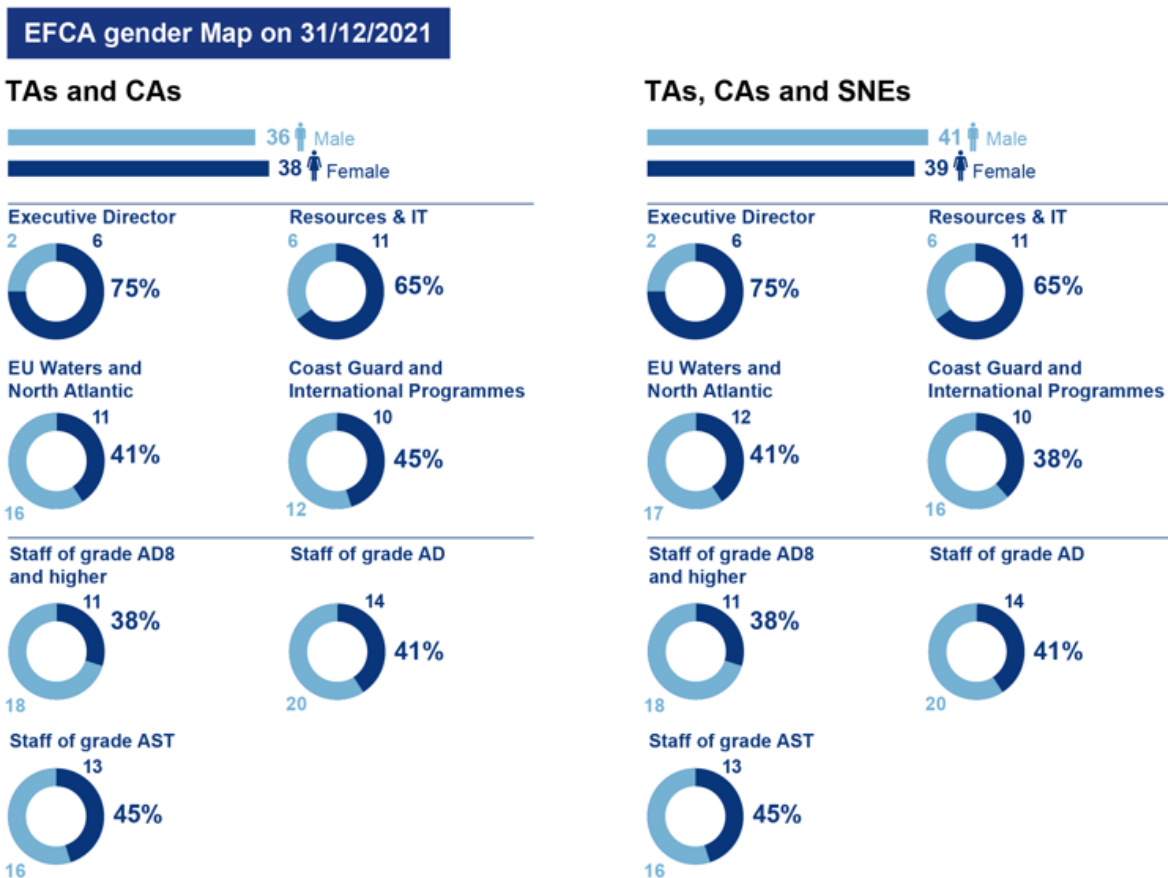
EFCA staff were requested to telework, in accordance with the EFCA action plan on the phased return to the office and in accordance with the sanitary situation, due to the case of *force majeure* caused by the COVID-19 pandemic situation. To help staff in this work setting on a professional level as well as to support their health and safety and personal well-being, EFCA provided relevant information, support, tools and training opportunities. Based on the action plan on the phased return to the office, in July, EFCA moved from teleworking as a rule to a limited cautious and voluntary return to the office. In December, EFCA resumed teleworking as a rule until the end of the year.

❖ **Gender distribution among EFCA staff**

EFCA promotes a policy of equal treatment and aims to reach an optimal gender balance among its staff, both in numbers as well as in grade and level of responsibility. The Agency has an equal treatment statement included in each vacancy notice published.

On 31 December 2021, the overall percentage of female staff members was 51%. This figure is reduced to 49%, if SNEs are included (see data below). Against these figures, the percentage of female staff grade AD8 (administrator’s function group, grade 8) and higher was 38% (this number is expected to increase in future years), while in the range AD 5 to AD 7, the balance of female staff was 60% on 31 December 2021. Moreover, 36% of the Head of Sectors, and 50% of the Deputies Head of Unit are female staff.

There is a majority of male staff employed in operational coordination. In addition, the majority of staff of grade AD8 and higher are males. On the other hand, there is a majority of female staff under the Executive Director and in Unit Resources and IT.



❖ Personnel policies and procedures

The EFCA intranet platform provides HR-related information within webpages, including documents, templates and forms.

❖ General Implementing Provisions of the Staff Regulations

The Administrative Board adopted new General Implementing Provisions (GIP) of the Staff Regulations on the transfer of pension rights.

❖ Appraisal and Reclassification

The annual appraisal exercise was performed for all staff members. Following the reclassification exercise, 14 staff members were reclassified.

❖ Training and Tuition

EFCA continued to offer online training on ethics principles via EU Learn. Refreshment training on MS Teams for end-users and Information security awareness sessions were organised for all staff. The regular language courses were provided in virtual mode throughout the year in an intensive format. Spouses continue to participate in Spanish language classes organised by the Agency.

Figures related to the staff training activities in 2021 are as follows:

- number of collective online courses organised: 5;
- number of external training courses followed: 42;
- number of persons following language courses: 19;
- average number of training days per staff member: 1.2.

The scheme concerning tuition provided to staff members' children in the Vigo area in their mother tongue, and support for English and Spanish was continued in 2021 with an increase of requests after the summer period.

2.6 STRATEGY FOR EFFICIENCY GAINS

EFCA strives for increasing efficiency in all procedures related to finance and administration, while it continues to safeguard the resources of the Agency and maintains its compliance with its legal obligations in this area (Financial and Staff Regulations among others).

- EFCA continues to benefit from the efficiencies gained by adhering to the roadmap of the Commission in terms of onboarding their existing corporate IT systems (SUMMA, e-Procurement pre-award and post-award modules, MIPS, AGM, Sysper modules, etc.). In addition to the advantages found on the integration aspects between all these systems, there are clear benefits in reducing the maintenance costs of supporting the amendments and updates .
- As far as possible and fit to the needs, EFCA accepts the invitations for interinstitutional calls for tender received from the Commission and other agencies. Currently EFCA uses over 40 framework contracts signed by other entities. In addition, EFCA will continue to invite other agencies, if applicable, to participate in its open calls, particularly the EU agencies in Spain. This results in rotating the leading role between agencies, bringing efficiencies to the procurement efforts of agencies overall.

- The centralisation of common administrative tasks has also been successful in finding efficiencies. The financial initiation and verification continue to be centralised, which allows for greater control of transactions, unifying the methodologies and containing the knowledge in these areas. EFCA will continue to centralise where applicable to find new opportunities for efficiency.

2.7 ASSESSMENT OF AUDIT AND EX-POST EVALUATION RESULTS DURING THE REPORTING YEAR

2.7.1. INTERNAL AUDIT SERVICE

The Internal Audit Service of the Commission is the Agency Internal Auditor. It provides independent advice, opinions and recommendations on the quality and functioning of internal control systems of the Agency.

In 2020 the IAS has established a new audit plan (Strategic Internal Audit Plan 2021-2023). This audit plan was based on the results of an in-depth risk assessment carried out by the IAS. During 2021 and in line with the Strategic Internal Audit Plan, IAS started the audit on the cooperation between EFCA and DG MARE on activities related to Article 30 of the CFP. Preliminary interviews took place in the second semester of 2021, the audit will be concluded in 2022.

In line with the International Standards for the Professional Practise of Internal Auditing, the internal auditor confirmed the organisational independence of the internal audit activity.

2.7.2. EUROPEAN COURT OF AUDITORS

EFCA is audited every year by the European Court of Auditors. The audit provides a Statement of Assurance as to the reliability of the accounts of the Agency and the legality and regularity of the transactions underlying them. Furthermore, in preparing the specific Annual Report on the Agency, ECA shall consider the audit work performed by an independent external auditor on the Annual Accounts of the Agency.

In 2021, EFCA received a [Statement of Assurance](#) certifying an unqualified opinion⁹⁴ for 2020 Annual Accounts and indicating that the accounts are reliable and the transactions underlying the accounts are legal and regular.

With regards to the 2021 Financial Year, ECA conducted its on-site audits and will conclude with a desk review in the first quarter of 2022.

At the same time, the 2021 Annual Accounts are being audited by an external audit firm. The final report of the Court, comprising its own observations as well as the results of the external auditor's work, is expected in 2022.

2.8 (A) FOLLOW UP OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION PLANS FOR AUDITS AND EVALUATIONS

INTERNAL AUDIT SERVICE

In 2021, 3 action plans were implemented by EFCA, and the related recommendations were considered closed by the IAS.

⁹⁴ Unqualified audit opinion - The auditor's report contains a clearly written expression of opinion on the financial statements or the legality and regularity of underlying transactions as a whole. An unqualified opinion is expressed when the auditor concludes that, on the whole, the underlying transactions are legal and regular and the supervisory and control systems are adequate to manage the risk.

Currently there are no open recommendations from IAS.

EUROPEAN COURT OF AUDITORS

For 2020 the Court's Report on the annual accounts of the Agency did not include any observation.

No observation from past exercises are open.

EVALUATIONS

Information included in Part II. (B) External Evaluations

2.8 (B) FOLLOW UP OF RECOMMENDATIONS ISSUED FOLLOWING INVESTIGATIONS BY THE EUROPEAN ANTI-FRAUD OFFICE (OLAF)

No investigations/recommendations have been carried out or issued during 2021.

2.9 FOLLOW UP OF OBSERVATIONS FROM THE DISCHARGE AUTHORITY

The European Parliament granted the Executive Director of the EFCA the discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget for the financial year 2019. [On its resolution](#), the EP acknowledged the important contribution to the implementation of the objectives of the reformed CFP and highlighted the very good results achieved by the Agency.

The EP resolution contained comments addressed to EFCA. For each comment that required measures EFCA implemented and informed the Discharge authority accordingly. EFCA report on the measures taken can be found here - [hyperlink to European Parliament - EFCA report](#).

The EP resolution contained also a number of recommendations addressed to the EU agencies collectively; EFCA is actively committed to follow-up and implement the EP observations of horizontal nature, where applicable to the Agency.

2.10 ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT

The EU Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) Certification project, launched in 2018, has continued during following years, focussing on the preparation of documentation, drafting of policies and collection of data. Certification has not been reached due to the particular circumstances of the sanitary situation.

It is to be noted that, EFCA had taken technical steps in order to increase videoconferencing and teleworking capacity, with the objective of reducing business travel and consequent carbon footprint. The sanitary crisis has accelerated dramatically the transition to remote working, proving the preparedness of EFCA.

The carbon footprint of the Agency for 2021 has been of 7113.34 tons of CO₂. This represents an increase of 33% with regards to 2020.

The above statistic belies the fact that the generalised teleworking has led to a reduction of the overall carbon emissions for the EFCA Headquarters. However, this reduction has been outweighed due to the need (because of travel restrictions) for the OPVs (additional OPV onboarded in the last quarter of 2021) which has resulted in an increase of 42% of the fuel consumption.

This reduction has been counterbalanced by the fact that, on one side, the Agency has not proceeded to any retirement of electronic and electric material and no consequent CO₂ benefit and, on the other hand, due to travel restrictions.

2.11 ASSESSMENT BY MANAGEMENT

EFCA has a system of management supervision and internal control in place to ensure the Agency is managed effectively and efficiently. The main elements of the system are described below.

At the end of 2021 EFCA had three units and an Executive Director Office. The EFCA management team consists of the Executive Director and all the Heads of Unit, playing a key role in the strategic and day to day management of the Agency.

The EFCA Administrative Board adopted the EFCA Programming Document in October 2020 containing the Multiannual work programme 2021-2025 and the Annual work programme for 2021. The execution of the Programming Document is monitored internally on a quarterly basis, discrepancies are discussed with the units, and corrective actions are taken as necessary.

The Annual Report outlines the achievements for the year and the resources used, with the primary aim of increasing the accountability and transparency of the Agency. The Annual Report is the tool used to monitor and report on the implementation of the Agency's activities and serves as a mirror image of the Programming Document.

EFCA continues to implement and further enhance its activity-based management. Moreover, the Agency's budget nomenclature follows the principles of activity-based budgeting (ABB). It complies with the principles of specification, transparency and sound financial management, providing the clarity and transparency necessary for the budgetary process and facilitating the identification of the main objectives as reflected in its Single Programming Document.

Assurance is based on the examination of the evidence of the effectiveness of the procedures and the controls in place. Such evidence derives from both internal and external sources.

Internally, the Executive Director is responsible for ensuring the implementation of the internal control systems, which are monitored and assessed on a regular basis and in accordance with the established mechanisms and procedures, as described in the sections above. The outcome of the implementation of these processes is included in Part III. A further source of assurance is the outcome of the internal audits carried out by the Internal Audit Service of the European Commission, which serves as the internal auditor of the Agency.

Externally, assurance is based on an examination of the evidence resulting from the observations and recommendations included in the European Court of Auditors' report, as well as the European Parliament's observations included in the Executive Director's discharge decisions.

Based on the information provided and as a result of an analysis and assessment of the internal and external elements of assurance related to the processes and procedures in place, it is considered that EFCA fully achieves the five internal control objectives for management (cf. article 30 (2) of the 2019 EFCA Financial Regulation), which include:

- effectiveness, efficiency and economy of operations
- reliability of reporting
- safeguarding of assets and information
- prevention, detection, correction and follow-up of fraud and irregularities
- adequate management of the risks relating to the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions, taking into account the multiannual character of programmes as well as the nature of the payments concerned.

PART II. (B) EXTERNAL EVALUATIONS

From the date of the Agency having taken up its responsibilities, and every five years thereafter, the Administrative Board shall commission an independent external evaluation of the implementation of its Founding Regulation.

Each evaluation shall assess the impact of this Regulation, 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.

The second Five-Year Independent External Evaluation of EFCA was commissioned by the Administrative Board for the period 2012-2016.

The evaluation results for the Five Year Independent External Evaluation of EFCA 2012-2016 were presented on 20 June 2017 during a seminar to which the stakeholders and the Administrative and Advisory Boards representatives were invited.

The evaluation reviewed the implementation of EFCA's Founding Regulation during 2012-2016 against the evaluation criteria of follow-up on the last evaluation, relevance, coherence, utility, added value, efficiency, effectiveness, impact, sustainability and gender balance. The report indicated that "Data collected with the help of extensive desk research, interviews with some 60 stakeholders, five case studies (focusing on specific EFCA activities) and five surveys of key stakeholders confirm EFCA's positive performance across all evaluation criteria. This is mostly explained with EFCA successfully operationalising a role of 'honest broker' between the Member States, EC and industry, allowing EFCA to achieve objectives in terms of Member States cooperation and compliance, thus contributing to the level-playing field and the sustainable exploitation of living aquatic resources. EFCA's strong performance was supported by adequate governance arrangements and working practices, with commendable efficiency efforts, e.g. use of e-administration."

The Administrative Board issued recommendations to the European Commission regarding changes to the Founding Regulation, the Agency and its working practices. The evaluation findings and recommendations were forwarded by the European Commission to the European Parliament and the Council and were made public (<https://www.efca.europa.eu/en/content/external-evaluation-2017>).

During the Administrative Board meeting on 14 of March 2018 it was decided that the implementation of the AB's recommendations would be a common agenda point to be followed up in the AB meetings.

From the 11 recommendations of the External Evaluation for the period 2012-2016, 11 recommendations were implemented, and taken into consideration in the Single Programming Document of the Agency.

In 2021 the third Five Year Independent External Evaluation of EFCA was commissioned by the Administrative Board for the period 2017-2021. The Board endorsed the [Evaluation mandate](#) and adopted the Terms of Reference which were the basis for a procurement procedure to select an independent external evaluator. EFCA signed a contract with a new company and the evaluation was formally kicked-off on 26 November 2021 (<https://www.efca.europa.eu/en/content/pressroom/efca-five-year-independent-external-evaluation-kicks>).

PART III ASSESSMENT OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE INTERNAL CONTROL SYSTEMS

3.1 EFFECTIVENESS OF INTERNAL CONTROL SYSTEMS

EFCA implements an internal control framework applicable at all levels of management and designed to provide reasonable assurance that operations are effective and efficient, but also that the financial reporting is reliable and the Agency complies with applicable laws and regulations.

In April 2019, the Administrative Board adopted a revised Internal Control Framework (ICF) aligned with the control framework adopted by the European Commission and required by the EFCA Financial Regulation in its article 30.

The new ICF moves away from a compliance-based to a principle-based system. It provides the necessary flexibility to adapt to specific characteristics and circumstances while ensuring a robust internal control with a consistent assessment. The ICF, which takes into account the structure and size of EFCA, consists of 5 internal control components and 17 principles. Each principle is further deployed in specific characteristics. These specific characteristics are defined in such way as to take into account the specific governance arrangements in the Agency. They are defined to assist management in implementing internal control procedures and in assessing whether the principles are present and functioning. The Internal Control Framework supplements the Financial Regulation and other applicable rules and regulations.

Another key element of EFCA's internal control framework is the control and registration of exceptions to the established regulations, policies, rules and procedures. An exception is any transaction, financial or operational, which requires an approach that deviates from the established regulations, policies, rules and procedures.

A total of 4 of such exceptions were registered in 2021 (vs. 5 in 2020), of which three ex-ante (approval for a future foreseeable deviation) and one ex-post (approval after the deviation had occurred).

Two of the events were unavoidable to the pandemic situation and had no financial impact at all.

The third event was related to an additional payment of 13.602 EUR which had to be done beyond the limit of the specific contract between EFCA and Sentinel Marine (OPV charter). This was due to the abrupt fluctuations on the fuel price and the consequent unexpected increase on the price of the bunkers which must be reimbursed by the Agency in accordance with the contract. The amount additional paid represents less than 1,5% of the associated specific contract.

In what concerns the fourth event, due to apparent difficulty retaining staff because of the state of the IT market conditions, and a probable underestimation of the complexity of the projects, the current IT development provider did not deliver on project deadlines. EFCA closely followed the situation and during the summer had already detected a potential delay that could affect the timely outcome of the projects. The end result was that the deliverables could not be completed before the end of the year, leading to a cancellation of the corresponding carried over credits. The potential financial impact was mitigated in two ways: on the payment of the services only fully deliverable and accepted and on the recommitment of the amounts corresponding to the pending deliverables on 2021 budget. The budget required for the new commitments was transferred from the surplus budget in titles I and II, thereby mitigating the impact on the operational budget implementation of 2021. In operational terms the delay on those projects did not affect EFCA objectives, the projects are mainly directed to increase the efficiency of data collection and analysis and while they are not implemented the data analyses is done on the way that it was done in the past years.

The main impact was the increase on the cancellation of the carried over credits overall, but within the accepted limits (<5%).

The 4 events registered were of a different nature, which do not reveal any systemic failure.

None of the events were of a nature that could lead to a formal reservation to the Authorising Officer's annual declaration of assurance.

The assessment of internal control is founded both on ongoing (continuous) monitoring and on specific (periodical) assessments, the main sources (non-exhaustive) contributing for both assessments are

register of exceptions and/or deficiencies, the audit results from different sources, ex-post controls results, implementation of the anti-fraud strategy, dedicated surveys, and key performance indicators.

The assessment for the reporting year was performed at the level of the principles (based on the analysis of the detected strengths and deficiencies, at the level of the components (based on an analysis of the results at principle level) and at the level of the internal control system as a whole (based on an analysis of the results at component level).

- Fraud prevention and detection

An anti-fraud strategy is in place since 2014, and subsequently updated, the actions defined are being implemented and they focus on reducing the fraud risks identified in the EFCA risk assessment.

Most of the actions are of continuous nature with a special focus on awareness raising on ethics and integrity and on the implementation and monitoring of adequate policies for the prevention and management of conflict of interests. EFCA makes available to all staff through the intranet comprehensive information and practical guides regarding ethics and staff conduct. Moreover, an additional and detailed code of conduct was developed for all persons participating in EFCA activities carried out on chartered means.

At EFCA the risk of fraud overall can be considered low or very low, and it is mostly linked with ethical behaviour. Since the creation of the Agency and during 2021 there was no indication (internal or external) of any fraud case.

3.2 CONCLUSIONS OF ASSESSMENT OF INTERNAL CONTROL SYSTEMS

As described in the previous point and based on the most relevant key indicators, control results, and the latest internal surveys performed the assessment concluded that, overall, the internal control system is present (compliance) and functioning (effectiveness).

Component / Principles / Assessment		
I. Control Environment	Category 1- Principles are present and functioning well	Category 1 – The component is present and functioning well
II. Risk Assessment	Category 1- Principles are present and functioning well	Category 1 – The component is present and functioning well
III. Control Activities	Category 1 – Principles are present and functioning well	Category 1 – The component is present and functioning well
IV. Information and Communication	Category 1- Principles are present and functioning well	Category 1 – The component is present and functioning well
V. Monitoring Activities	Category 1- Principles are present and functioning well	Category 1 – The component is present and functioning well
OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF INTERNAL CONTROL SYSTEM		
Are all components operating together in an integrated manner? (It assesses globally the combination of the assessments of the internal control components – Category 1/2/3 or 4)		Category 1 – The internal control system is present and functioning
Is the overall internal control system effective? Category 1. Minor- Yes Category 2. Moderate- Yes Category 3. Major- Partially Category 4. Critical- No		↓ YES

In conclusion, EFCA has assessed the effectiveness, efficiency and economy of the control system and reached a positive conclusion. Management has reasonable assurance that, overall, suitable controls are in place and working as intended; risks are being appropriately monitored and mitigated. No significant control weaknesses were reported.

PART IV. MANAGEMENT ASSURANCE

This part reviews the assessment of the elements contained in this report and draws conclusions supporting the Declaration of Assurance of the Executive Director and whether or not it should be qualified with reservations.

For the expenditure of 2021, the Authorising Officers by Delegation signed a Declaration of Assurance to the Authorising Officer, similar to the one signed by the Authorising Officer, for the area for which they have been delegated responsibility. No reservations were raised by the Authorising Officers by Delegation.

4.1 REVIEW OF THE ELEMENTS SUPPORTING ASSURANCE

The Executive Director has relied on the following elements of assurance:

- the declaration of assurance from the former Executive Director for the period January-August 2021;
- the declarations of assurance from the Authorising Officers by Delegation;
- the positive assessment of the EFCA's Internal Control system and the implementation of the adopted Internal Control Framework;
- the statement of the Internal Control Coordinator;
- the Accounting Officer's certification of the provisional accounts;
- the management of risks which are being appropriately monitored and mitigated;
- the absence of audit recommendations;
- the absence of vital observations from the European Parliament;
- the positive Statement of Assurance issued by ECA in 2021 for the financial year 2020 on the true and fair view of the EFCA 2020 Annual Accounts and on the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions;
- the low impact of quantitative and qualitative nature of the identified exceptions;
- the qualitative and quantitative materiality criteria established by the Agency (Annex IX);
- the progress made during the year in regularly monitoring performance and overseeing the on-going action plans for all necessary improvements and reinforcements;
- the resources allocated to trainings in relation to the implementation of the Financial Regulation, Ethics and Integrity and Fraud prevention;
- the EFCA anti-fraud strategy and Conflict of Interests policy as adopted by the EFCA.

4.2 RESERVATIONS

The content of this report stems from the results of management monitoring controls and the systematic analysis by the internal and external auditors and other assurance providers of the evidence available. This approach provides sufficient guarantees of the exhaustiveness and reliability of the reported information and results in a complete coverage of the budget and resources delegated to the Executive Director and assigned to the activities described herein, including those within the framework of the Programming Document as approved by the Administrative Board.

Taking into account all the elements reviewed below, the absence of any significant weakness and the materiality criteria as described in Annex IX, it can be positively concluded that the Executive Director has reasonable assurance and has no reasons to introduce any reservation for the year 2021.

In conclusion, for 2021 nothing opposes to the signing the Declaration of Assurance

PART V. DECLARATION OF ASSURANCE



Ref: Ares(2022)1805183 - 11/03/2022
With qualified electronic signature(s)

Executive Director



Declaration of Assurance

I, the undersigned, Executive Director of the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA),

In my capacity as authorising officer,

Declare that the information contained in this report gives a true and fair view¹.

State that I have reasonable assurance that the resources assigned to the activities described in this report have been used for their intended purpose and in accordance with the principles of sound financial management, and that the control procedures put in place give the necessary guarantees concerning the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions.

This reasonable assurance is based on my own judgement and on the information at my disposal, inter alia:

- *the declaration of assurance from the former Executive Director for the period January-August 2021;*
- *the declarations of assurance from the Authorizing Officers by Delegation;*
- *the results of the annual review of the internal control system;*
- *the statement issued by the Internal Control Coordinator;*
- *the results and follow-up of ex-post audits, evaluations and controls;*
- *the work of the Internal Audit Service and the absence of recommendations;*
- *the lessons learnt from the reports of the Court of Auditors for years prior to the year of this declaration;*
- *the lessons learnt from the discharge reports of the Discharge authority for years prior to the year of this declaration.*

Confirm that I am not aware of anything not reported here which could harm the interests of the agency.

Done at Vigo on 11 March 2022

Qualified electronic signature by:

SUSAN STEELE

Date: 2022-03-11 09:46:05 +01:00

*Susan STEELE
Executive Director*

¹ True and fair in this context means a reliable, complete and correct view on the state of affairs in the Agency.

ANNEXES

ANNEX I: CORE BUSINESS STATISTICS

BALTIC SEA JDP

(Report based on data registered in EFCA JDP information system on 02/02/2022)

Joint Deployment Plan	Baltic Sea JDP 2021
Reporting period	01 January to 31 December 2021
Participation	DE, DK, EE, FI, LT, LV, PL, SE
Operational area	Union waters of ICES areas 27.3.b,c,d

Coordination Centre in EFCA (CC)	Campaign	Member States	Number of Experts	Man-days
	Baltic Sea	LT*	1	15

* Primarily working on BS JDP, but also involved on NEAFC and WW JDP

A – DEPLOYED CONTROL MEANS					
Member State	Patrol Vessel		Aircraft	Exchange of Inspectors	
	Days at sea		No of Flights	Joint Teams at Sea	Mixed Teams ashore
	Committed Patrols (patrol sea days)	Other Patrols (sea days with events)		No Exchanges*	No Exchanges*
DE	259	42			
DK	341	31			
EE			27		
FI		28			
LT	21	9			3
LV	5	17			
PL	26	27			
SE	41	5	103		
Total	693	159	130	0	3

* One exchange is equivalent to 1 inspector for a period of up to 5 days.

B – ACTIVITY CARRIED-OUT													
Type of Activity	Type of Deployment	Type of object	Indicator	Patrol Coordinator									
				DE	DK	EE	FI	LT	LV	PL	SE	Total	
Surveillance	Air		Sightings reported			96					282	378	
	Sea		Sightings reported	409	173				52			634	
Inspections	Land	Vessel	No. of Inspections	435	337	266	291	132	536	1052	201	3250	
			No. of inspections with suspected infringements	2	6	19	10		6	35	5	83	
			% of inspections with suspected infringements	0.5	1.8	7.1	3.4	0.0	1.1	3.3	2.5	2.6	
			Total no. of suspected infringements	2	7	19	10		6	37	5	86	
			Total no. of inspections of targets	56	20	2		19	51	6	4	158	
			Inspections of targets with suspected infringements		1					1		2	
		Transport	No of inspections					9				9	
		Business	No of inspections				45					45	
		Other Fishing Gear	No of inspections								2	2	
		Sea	Vessel	No. of Inspections	47	119			65	44	120	39	434
	No. of inspections with suspected infringements			2	2					1	1	6	
	% of inspections with suspected infringements			4.3	1.7			0.0	0.0	0.8	2.6	1.4	
	Total no. of suspected infringements			3	2					1	1	7	
	Total no. of inspections of targets			22	8			13				43	
	Inspections of targets with suspected infringements			1								1	
	Other Fishing Gear		No of inspections				28				3	31	
	Other Trap		No. of Inspections				115						115
			No. of inspections with suspected infringements				5						5
			% of inspections with suspected infringements				4.4						4.4
		Total no. of suspected infringements				5						5	

C - RESULTS OF CONTROL ACTIVITIES												
Type of Deployment	Object	Indicators	Country in which the Object is registered									
			DE	DK	EE	FI	LT	LV	PL	SE	Total	
Land	Vessel	No. of Inspections	433	317	269	292	153	511	1066	209	3250	
		No. of inspections with suspected infringements	3	6	18	11		5	36	4	83	
		% of inspections with suspected infringements	0.7	1.9	6.7	3.8	0.0	1.0	3.4	1.9	2.6	
		Total no. of suspected infringements	3	7	18	11		5	38	4	86	
		Total no. of inspections of targets	58	15			36	39	6	4	158	
		Inspections of targets with suspected infringements	1						1		2	
	Transport	No. of Inspections			7		2				9	
		No. of inspections with suspected infringements			0		0				0	
	Business	No. of Inspections				45					45	
		No. of inspections with suspected infringements				0					0	
	Other Fishing Gear	No. of Inspections								2	2	
		No. of inspections with suspected infringements								0	0	
	Sea	Vessel Vessel	No. of Inspections	41	122		1	60	47	126	37	434
			No. of inspections with suspected infringements		4					1	1	6
% of inspections with suspected infringements			0.0	3.3		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.8	2.7	1.4	
Total no. of suspected infringements				5					1	1	7	
Total no. of inspections of targets			23	6			13		1		43	
Inspections of targets with suspected infringements				1							1	
Other Fishing Gear		No. of Inspections				28				3	31	
		No. of inspections with suspected infringements									0	
Other Trap		No. of Inspections				115					115	
		No. of inspections with suspected infringements				5					5	

D - TYPE OF SUSPECTED INFRINGEMENTS DETECTED DURING THE JDP			
Suspected Infringement Category		Total	% Total
Conservation Measures	Retain / land or offer for sale species below MCRS	1	1%
	Illegal gear	3	3%
	Non-compliance - gear marking rules	5	5%
Misrecording / Misreporting	Misrecording – logbook (not specified)	11	11%
	Misrecording – logbook (margin of tolerance)	48	50%
	Non-compliance - notification rules	16	16%
Others	Fishing without authorization / licence	1	1%
	Non-function or operate without VMS, AIS and/or ERS	1	1%
	Non-compliance - labelling rules	1	1%
	Non-compliance with weighing provisions	1	1%
	Others not specified	10	10%
Total		98	

Results of risk assessment of non-compliance

Baltic Sea



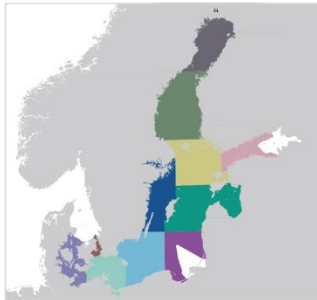
- 22 23 24
- 25 26 27
- 28 29 30
- 31 32

Gear – Mesh size Target species	Non-compliance with LO	Misrecording	Use of illegal gear	Fishing in closed areas, closed seasons
Otter trawls ≥105 mm DEMERSAL SPECIES				
Danish seines ≥105 mm DEMERSAL SPECIES				
Otter trawls, pair trawls ≥32 and <90 mm HERRING – Sprat				
Otter trawls, pair trawls ≥16 and <32 mm SPRAT – Herring				
Otter trawls, pair trawls ≥16 and <105 mm HERRING – Sprat				
Gillnets ≥157 mm SALMON				
Longlines SALMON				

Main target species in UPPERCASE

Level of risk: ■ Low ■ Medium ■ High ■ Very High

Baltic Sea



- 22 ■ 23 ■ 24
- 25 ■ 26 ■ 27
- 28 ■ 29 ■ 30
- 31 ■ 32

Gear – Mesh size Target species	Non-compliance with LO	Misrecording	Use of illegal gear	Fishing in closed areas, closed seasons
Traps SALMON				
Gillnets ≥110 mm, longlines DEMERSAL SPECIES				
Gillnets ≥32 and <110 mm, traps HERRING				
Recreational Fisheries COD				
Eel fisheries EEL				

Main target species in UPPERCASE

Level of risk: ■ Low ■ Medium ■ High ■ Very High

NORTH SEA JDP

(Report based on data registered in EFCA JDP information system on 02/02/2022)

Joint Deployment Plan	North Sea JDP 2021
Reporting period	1 January to 31 December 2021
Participation	BE, DE, DK, FR, IE, NL, SE.
Operational area	Union waters of ICES areas 27.3.a and 27.4

Coordination Centre in EFCA (CC)	Campaign	Member States	Number of Experts	Man-days
	North Sea	NL*	1	20

* SNE

A – DEPLOYED CONTROL MEANS					
Member State/ 3 rd Country	Patrol Vessel		Aircraft	Exchange of Inspectors/Experts	
	Days at sea		No of Flights	Joint Teams at Sea	Mixed Teams ashore
	Committed Patrols (patrol sea days)	Other Patrols (sea days with events)		No Exchanges*	No Exchanges*
BE	13		34	4	
DE	273	6			
DK	191	98		4	
FR	6			3	
NL	136		6		
SE	34	8	91	3	
NO**				3	
UK**				2	
EFCA	60				
Total	713	112	131	19	0

* One exchange is equivalent to 1 inspector for a period of up to 5 days.

** Acting as observers, collaborating with the Joint Team.

B – ACTIVITY CARRIED-OUT										
Type of Activity	Type of Deployment	Indicator	Patrol Coordinator							
			BE	DE	DK	FR	NL	SE	EFCA	Total
Surveillance	Air	Sightings reported	207				77	608		892
		Number of inspections with suspected infringement	2					1		3
	Sea	Sightings reported		1083	499				45	1627
Inspections	Vessels on Land	Number of Inspections	26	111	1096	18	189	450		1890
		Number of inspections with suspected infringement	5	2	67		14	28		116
		% of inspections with suspected infringements	19.2	1.8	6.1	0.0	7.4	6.2		6.1
		Total number of suspected infringements	5	2	71		14	28		120
		Total number of inspections of targets		22	172		8	9		211
		Inspections of targets with suspected infringements		1	9		1	1		12
	Vessels at Sea	Number of Inspections	13	14	159	2	149	36	8	381
		Number of inspections with suspected infringement	5		5		13	3	3	29
		% of inspections with suspected infringements	38.5	0.0	3.1	0.0	8.7	8.3	37.5	7.6
		Total number of suspected infringements	6		5		15	3	6	35
		Total number of inspections of targets	1	1	30		7	1	1	41
		Inspections of targets with suspected infringements			2				1	3

C - RESULTS OF CONTROL ACTIVITIES													
Type of Deployment	Object	Indicators	Country in which the Object is registered									Total	
			BE	DE	DK	FR	UK	IE	NL	NO	SE		
Air	Vessel	Total number of suspected infringements								2		1	3
Land	Vessel	Number of Inspections	43	136	1022	22	1			194	30	442	1890
		Number of inspections with suspected infringement	6	5	50		1			23	4	27	116
		% of inspections with suspected infringements	14.0	3.7	4.9	0.0	100.0			11.9	13.3	6.1	6.1
		Total number of suspected infringements	6	5	52		1			25	4	27	120
		Total number of inspections of targets		46	155	1						9	211
		Inspections of targets with suspected infringements		3	8							1	12
Sea	Vessel	Number of Inspections	10	18	149	4	14	2		153		31	381
		Number of inspections with suspected infringement	1	2	3		3			18		2	29
		% of inspections with suspected infringements	10.0	11.1	2.0		21.4	0.0		11.8		6.5	7.6
		Total number of suspected infringements	1	3	3		3			23		2	35
		Total number of inspections of targets	1	14	26								41
		Inspections of targets with suspected infringements		2	1								3

D - TYPE OF SUSPECTED INFRINGEMENTS DETECTED DURING THE JDP			
Suspected Infringement Category		Total	% Total
Landing Obligation	Discard species subject to LO	2	1%
	No recording of BMS	2	1%
Conservation Measures	Retain / land or offer for sale species below MCRS	2	1%
	Illegal fishing - closed area/period/depth	4	2%
	Illegal gear	17	10%
	Illegal gear - attachment	2	1%
	Non-compliance - gear marking rules	2	1%
Misrecording / Misreporting	Misrecording – logbook (not specified)	36	23%
	Misrecording – logbook (catch quantity)	3	2%
	Misrecording – logbook (margin of tolerance)	16	10%
	Misrecording - landing declaration	7	4%
	Misrecording - transport documents	1	1%
	Non-compliance - notification rules	18	12%
Others	Fishing without authorization / licence	5	3%
	Non-function or operate without VMS, AIS and/or ERS	9	5%
	Engine manipulation	2	1%
	Non-compliance - designated ports rules	1	1%
	Non-compliance - labelling rules	1	1%
	Obstruction to inspection	1	1%
	Absence or inappropriate pilot ladder	6	4%
	Obstruction of observers work	1	1%
	Non-compliance with weighing provisions	19	12%
	Others not specified	1	1%
Total		158	

Results of risk assessment of non-compliance

Note that the risk assessment of the pelagic fisheries targeting blue whiting, mackerel, horse mackerel and herring is conducted jointly with North Sea and Western Waters JDPs.

North Sea - Demersal



3a 4b 4c

Gear – Mesh size	Non-compliance with LO	Misrecording	Use of illegal gear	Non-compliance with other technical measures
Target species Otter trawls/Seines ≥ 120 mm COD – Anglerfish, hake, haddock, Norway lobster, plaice, saithe, whiting				
Otter trawls/Seines ≥ 100 and < 120 mm COD – Anglerfish, hake, haddock, Norway lobster, plaice, saithe, whiting				
Otter trawls/Seines ≥ 70 and < 100 mm NORWAY LOBSTER – Plaice, cod, haddock, hake, whiting				
Otter trawls/Seines ≥ 120 mm COD – Hake, haddock, Norway lobster, sole, plaice, saithe, whiting				
Otter trawls/Seines ≥ 90 and < 120 mm COD – Hake, haddock, Norway lobster, sole, plaice, saithe, whiting				
Otter trawls/Seines ≥ 70 and < 90 mm NORWAY LOBSTER – Cod				
Otter trawls/Seines ≥ 35 and < 70 mm NORTHERN PRAWN – Cod				

Main target species in UPPERCASE

Level of risk: ■ Low ■ Medium ■ High ■ Very High

North Sea - Demersal



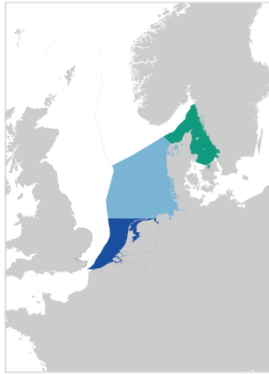
3a 4b 4c

Gear – Mesh size	Non-compliance with LO	Misrecording	Use of illegal gear	Non-compliance with other technical measures
Beam trawls ≥ 120 mm PLAICE – Cod, sole				
Beam trawls ≥ 80 and < 120 mm SOLE – Plaice				
Gillnets ≥ 120 mm COD – Anglerfish, plaice, hake, sole				
Gillnets ≥ 90 and < 120 mm SOLE – Plaice				
Gillnets < 90 mm COD – Plaice, sole				
Trammel nets SOLE – Cod, plaice				
Longlines HAKE – Cod, haddock, hake, saithe				

Main target species in UPPERCASE

Level of risk: ■ Low ■ Medium ■ High ■ Very High

North Sea - Demersal



3a 4b 4c

Gear – Mesh size
Target species

Non-compliance with LO

Misrecording

Use of illegal gear

Non-compliance with other technical measures

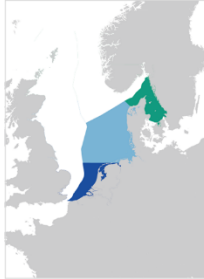
Eel fisheries
Eel



Main target species in UPPERCASE

Level of risk: ■ Low ■ Medium ■ High ■ Very High

North Sea - Pelagic



3a 4b 4c

Industrial fishery exploiting sandeel, sprat and Norway pout

Gear Non-compliance with LO Misrecording

Trawl 16-31 mm



Trawl < 16mm

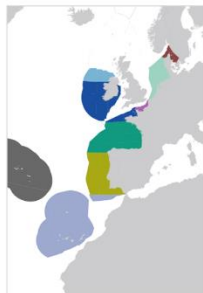


Industrial purse seine



Level of risk: Low Medium High Very High

Western waters and North Sea - Pelagic



3a 4 6 7d Rest of 7 8 9 CECAF 10

Blue whiting

Gear Non-compliance with LO Misrecording Use of illegal gear

Freezer Trawls - Mid water and mid water pair trawl



RSW tank vessel and Polyvalent - Mid water and mid water pair trawl



Polyvalent - Bottom trawl and pair trawl



Level of risk: Low Medium High Very High

Western waters and North Sea - Pelagic



- 3a 4 6
- 7d Rest of 7 8
- 9 CECAF 10

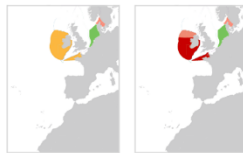
Herring

Gear	Non-compliance with LO	Misrecording
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Freezer Trawls - Mid water and mid water pair trawl



RSW tank vessel and Polyvalent - Mid water and mid water pair trawl



Polyvalent - Bottom trawl and pair trawl



RSW tank vessel - Purse seine



Gillnets anchored (set), and Gillnets (drift)



Level of risk: ■ Low ■ Medium ■ High ■ Very High

Western waters and North Sea - Pelagic



- 3a 4 6
- 7d Rest of 7 8
- 9 CECAF 10

Mackerel

Gear	Non-compliance with LO	Misrecording
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RSW tank vessel and Polyvalent - Mid water and mid water pair trawl



RSW tank vessel and Polyvalent - Mid water and mid water pair trawl



Polyvalent - Purse seine



Gillnets anchored (set), and Gillnets (drift)

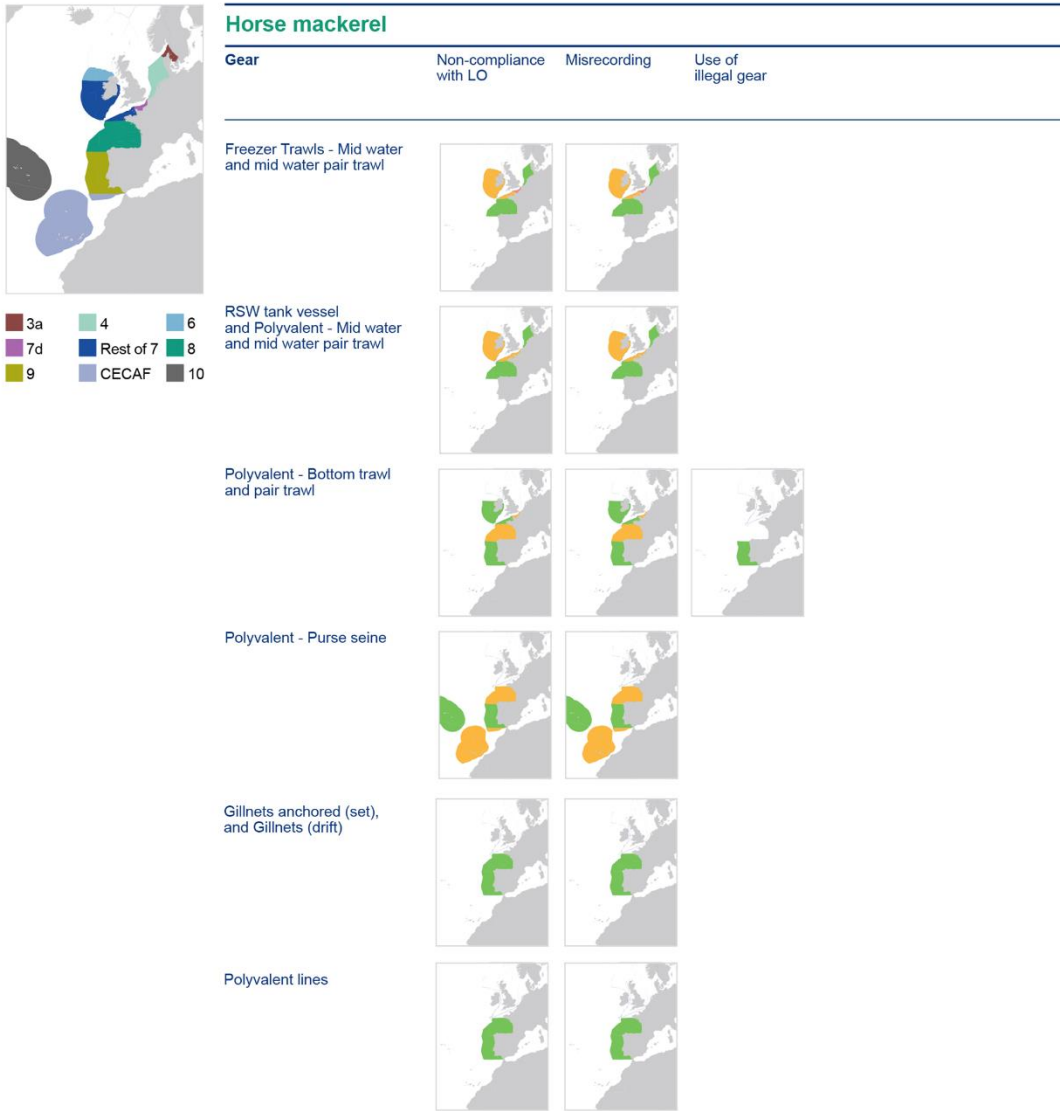


Polyvalent - Lines



Level of risk: ■ Low ■ Medium ■ High ■ Very High

Western waters and North Sea - Pelagic



WESTERN WATERS JDP

(Report based on data registered in EFCA JDP information system on 02/02/2022)

Joint Deployment Plan	Western Waters JDP 2021
Reporting period	01 January to 31 December 2021
Participation	BE, DE, DK, ES, EE, FR, IE, LT, LV, NL, PL, PT
Operational area	Union waters of ICES subareas 27.6, 27.7, 27.8, 27.9 and 27.10, and CECAF divisions 34.1.1, 34.1.2 and 34.2.0.

Coordination Centre in EFCA (CC)	Campaign	Member States	Number of Experts	Man-days
	Western Waters	NL*	1	25

* SNE

A – DEPLOYED CONTROL MEANS					
Member State	Patrol Vessel		Aircraft	Exchange of Inspectors	
	Days at sea		No of Flights	Joint Teams at Sea	Mixed Teams ashore
	Committed Patrols (patrol sea days)	Other Patrols (sea days with events)		No Exchanges*	No Exchanges*
BE			1		
ES	29	132	75	12	
FR	24	4	3	2	1
IE	149	30	43	28	
LT				4	
NL	10				
PT			4	12	
EFCA	147				
Total	359	166	126	58	1

* One exchange is equivalent to 1 inspector for a period of up to 5 days.

B – ACTIVITY CARRIED-OUT												
Type of Activity	Type of Deployment	Type of Object	Indicator	Patrol Coordinator								
				BE	DK	ES	FR	IE	NL	PT	EFCA	Total
Surveillance	Air		Sightings reported	22		328	8	291		7		656
			Total no. of suspected infringements	1		6						7
	Sea		Sightings reported			11		140			149	300
			Total no. of suspected infringements			1					3	4
Inspections	Land	Vessel	No of Inspections	31	6	2241	475	1279	7	8		4047
			No of inspections with suspected infringements	1		158	8	24				191
			% of inspections with suspected infringements	3.2	0.0	7.1	1.7	1.9	0.0	0.0		4.7
			Total no. of suspected infringements	1		176	8	29				214
			Total no. of inspections of targets	1		197	19	15				232
			Inspections of targets with suspected infringements			11		1				12
		Transport	No of Inspections			43						43
			No of inspections with suspected infringements			3						3
			% of inspections with suspected infringements			7.0						7.0
			Total no. of suspected infringements			3						3
		Business	No of Inspections			14					4	18
			No of inspections with suspected infringements			0					0	0
	Sea	Vessel	No of Inspections			256	20	128	5		56	465
			No of inspections with suspected infringements			38		15			6	59
			% of inspections with suspected infringements			14.8	0.0	11.7	0.0		10.7	12.7
			Total no. of suspected infringements			40		17			6	63
			Total no. of inspections of targets			31		2			2	35
			Inspections of targets with suspected infringements			7						7

C - RESULTS OF CONTROL ACTIVITIES																		
Type of Deployment	Object	Indicators														Total		
			BE	DE	DK	ES	FR	FO	UK	GL	IE	NL	NO	PT	NK*			
Air	Vessel	Total number of suspected infringements				6						1				7		
Land	Vessel	Number of Inspections	93	1	2	2156	592	1	155	1	945	23	1	77		4047		
		Number of inspections with suspected infringement	2			153	11					22	2		1		191	
		% of inspections with suspected infringements	2.2	0.0	0.0	7.1	1.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.3	8.7	0.0	1.3			4.7	
		Total number of suspected infringements	2			172	11					26	2		1		214	
		Total number of inspections of targets	4			161	23					8			36		232	
		Inspections of targets with suspected infringements				11									1		12	
	Transport	Business	No of Inspections				37					3			1	2	43	
			No of inspections with suspected infringements				2						1					3
			% of inspections with suspected infringements				5.4						33.3			0.0	0.0	7.0
			Total no. of suspected infringements				2						1					3
		Business	No of Inspections				14									4		18
			No of inspections with suspected infringements															0
			% of inspections with suspected infringements				0.0									0.0		0.0
			Total no of suspected infringements															0
	Sea	Vessel	Number of Inspections	12	1		261	47		18		93	7		26		465	
			Number of inspections with suspected infringement	1			35	4					11	1		7		59
% of inspections with suspected infringements			8.3	0.0		13.4	8.5		0.0			11.8	14.3		26.9		12.7	
Total number of suspected infringements			1			41	4					13	1		7		67	
Total number of inspections of targets			2			23	2								8		35	

	Inspections of targets with suspected infringements				4								3		7
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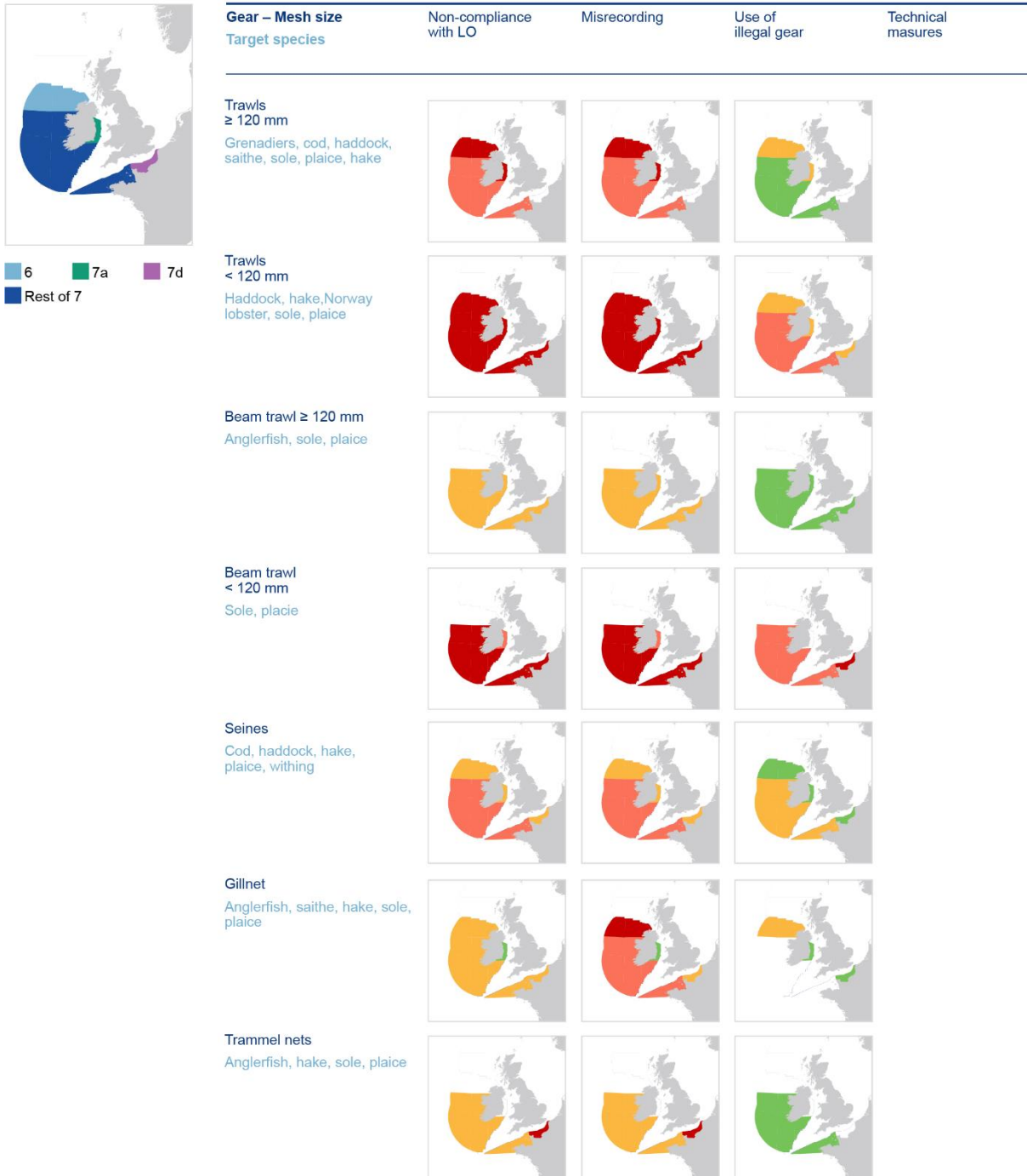
* Not known

D - TYPE OF SUSPECTED INFRINGEMENTS DETECTED DURING THE JDP			
Suspected Infringement Category		Total	% Total
Landing Obligation	No recording of BMS	3	1%
	Illegal sales - below MCRS	2	1%
Conservation Measures	Fishing without or after attainment of a quota / catch limit	9	3%
	Retain / land or offer for sale species below MCRS	1	<1%
	Illegal fishing - closed area/period/depth	11	4%
	Illegal gear	19	7%
	Illegal gear - attachment	2	1%
Misrecording / Misreporting	Non-compliance - gear marking rules	5	2%
	Misrecording – logbook (not specified)	43	15%
	Misrecording – logbook (catch quantity)	118	40%
	Misrecording – logbook (margin of tolerance)	7	3%
	Misrecording - landing declaration	6	2%
	Misrecording - transport documents	1	<1%
Others	Non-compliance - notification rules	21	7%
	Fishing without authorization / licence	2	1%
	Missing mandatory documents	1	<1%
	Non-function or operate without VMS, AIS and/or ERS	3	1%
	Non-compliance - designated ports rules	3	1%
	Non-compliance - stowage /capacity plan rules	2	1%
	Obstruction to inspection	11	4%
	Absence or inappropriate pilot ladder	9	3%
	No catch weighing on landing	5	2%
	Landing before authorized time	3	1%
Total		291	

Results of risk assessment of non-compliance

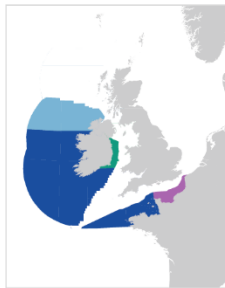
Note that the risk assessment of the pelagic fisheries targeting blue whiting, mackerel, horse mackerel and herring is conducted jointly for Western Waters and North Sea JDPs.

North Western Waters - Demersal



Level of risk: ■ Low ■ Medium ■ High ■ Very High

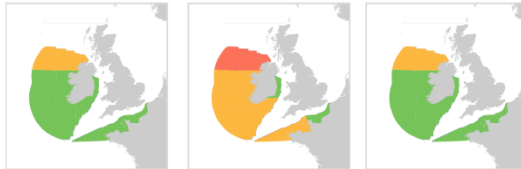
North Western Waters - Demersal



6 7a 7d
Rest of 7

Gear – Mesh size Target species	Non-compliance with LO	Misrecording	Use of illegal gear	Technical measures
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Lines
Hake



Pots and Traps
Norway Lobster



Eel fisheries
Eel



Level of risk: ■ Low ■ Medium ■ High ■ Very High

South Western Waters - Demersal



- 8c
- Rest of 8
- 9
- 10
- CECAF

Gear – Mesh size Target species	Non-compliance with LO	Misrecording	Use of illegal gear	Fishing in unauthorized areas
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<p>Bottom trawls ≥ 100 mm Anglerfish, hake</p>				
<p>Bottom trawls 70 - 100 mm Hake, Norway Lobster</p>				
<p>Bottom trawls targets mixed pelagic / demersal 55 - 70 mm Hake, Norway Lobster</p>				
<p>Midwater trawls Hake</p>				
<p>Beam trawls 70 - 100 mm Anglerfish, sole</p>				
<p>Seines Hake</p>				
<p>Gill and trammel nets ≥ 170 mm Anglerfish, hake</p>				

Level of risk: ■ Low ■ Medium ■ High ■ Very High

South Western Waters - Demersal

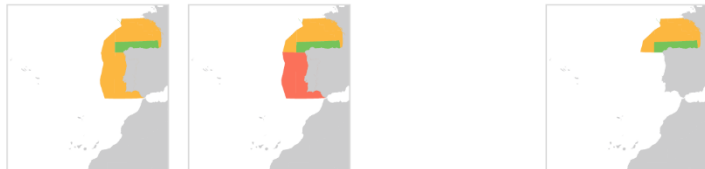


8c Rest of 8 9
10 CECAF

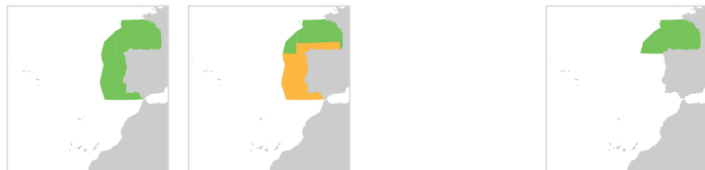
Gear – Mesh size
Target species

Non-compliance with LO Misrecording Use of illegal gear Fishing in unauthorized areas

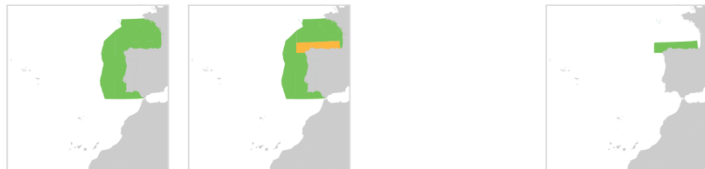
Gill and trammel nets
100 - 169 mm
Anglerfish, hake, sole



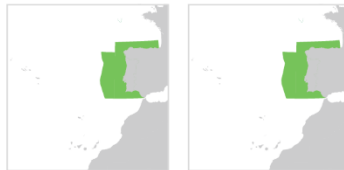
Gill and trammel nets
80 - 99 mm
Anglerfish, hake, sole



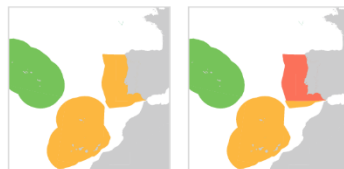
Longlines targeting demersal
Hake



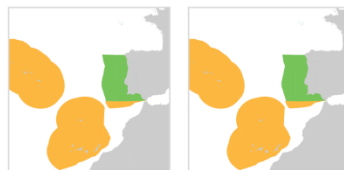
Hooks and Lines targeting
GFB and ALF
Alfonsinos, greater forkbeard



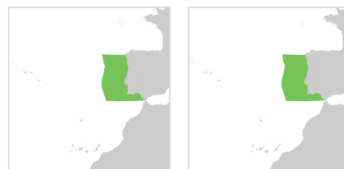
Longlines (Targeting BSF)
Black scabbardfish



Lines (Targeting SBR)
Red seabream



Artisanal gears
Hake



Level of risk: Low Medium High Very High

South Western Waters - Demersal



8c Rest of 8 9
10 CEEAF

Gear – Mesh size	Non-compliance with LO	Misrecording	Use of illegal gear	Fishing in unauthorized areas
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Eel fisheries
Eel



Level of risk: ■ Low ■ Medium ■ High ■ Very High

Western waters - Pelagic



- 7d
- Rest of 7
- 6
- 8
- 9

Albacore

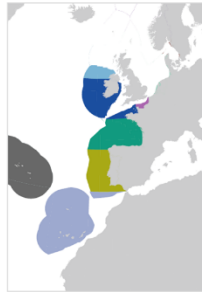
Gear	Non-compliance with LO	Misrecording	Fishing in non-authorized areas
Midwater trawls targeting albacore			
Bait boats, Pelagic Trolling and poles and lines targeting albacore			
Pelagic longlines targeting albacore			

Anchovy

Gear	Non-compliance with LO	Misrecording
RSW tank vessel and Polyvalent - Mid water and mid water pair trawl		
Polyvalent - Bottom trawl and pair trawl		
Polyvalent - Purse seine		

Level of risk: ■ Low ■ Medium ■ High ■ Very High

Western waters - Pelagic

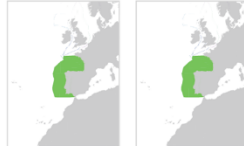


- 7d
- 9
- 6
- Rest of 7
- 8
- CECAF
- 10

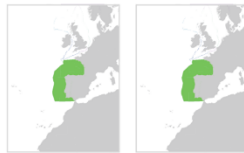
Anchovy

Gear Non-compliance with LO Misrecording

Gillnets anchored (set), and Gillnets (drift)



Polyvalent lines



Sardine

Misrecording

Freezer Trawls - Mid water and mid water pair trawl



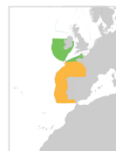
RSW tank vessel and Polyvalent - Mid water and mid water pair trawl



Polyvalent - Bottom trawl and pair trawl



Polyvalent - Purse seine



Level of risk: Low Medium High Very High

Western waters and North Sea - Pelagic



- 3a 4 6
- 7d Rest of 7 8
- 9 CECAF 10

Blue whiting

Gear	Non-compliance with LO	Misrecording	Use of illegal gear
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Freezer Trawls - Mid water and mid water pair trawl



RSW tank vessel and Polyvalent - Mid water and mid water pair trawl



Polyvalent - Bottom trawl and pair trawl



Level of risk: ■ Low ■ Medium ■ High ■ Very High

Western waters and North Sea - Pelagic



- 3a
- 7d
- 9
- 4
- Rest of 7
- CECAF
- 6
- 8
- 10

Herring

Gear Non-compliance with LO Misrecording

Freezer Trawls - Mid water and mid water pair trawl



RSW tank vessel and Polyvalent - Mid water and mid water pair trawl



Polyvalent - Bottom trawl and pair trawl



RSW tank vessel - Purse seine



Gillnets anchored (set), and Gillnets (drift)



Level of risk: ■ Low ■ Medium ■ High ■ Very High

Western waters and North Sea - Pelagic



- 3a 4 6
- 7d Rest of 7 8
- 9 CECAF 10

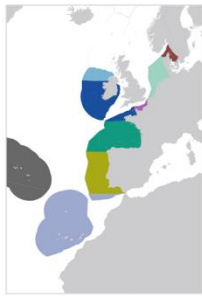
Mackerel

Gear	Non-compliance with LO	Misrecording
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RSW tank vessel and Polyvalent - Mid water and mid water pair trawl		
RSW tank vessel and Polyvalent - Mid water and mid water pair trawl		
Polyvalent - Purse seine		
Gillnets anchored (set), and Gillnets (drift)		
Polyvalent - Lines		

Level of risk: ■ Low ■ Medium ■ High ■ Very High

Western waters and North Sea - Pelagic



- 3a
- 4
- 6
- 7d
- Rest of 7
- 8
- 9
- CECAF
- 10

Horse mackerel

Gear	Non-compliance with LO	Misrecording	Use of illegal gear
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Freezer Trawls - Mid water and mid water pair trawl



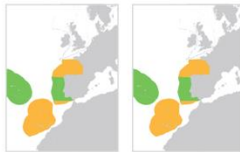
RSW tank vessel and Polyvalent - Mid water and mid water pair trawl



Polyvalent - Bottom trawl and pair trawl



Polyvalent - Purse seine



Gillnets anchored (set), and Gillnets (drift)



Polyvalent lines



Level of risk: ■ Low ■ Medium ■ High ■ Very High

NAFO JDP

(Report based on data registered in EFCA JDP information system on 02/02/2022)

Joint Deployment Plan	NAFO JDP 2021
Reporting period	01 January to 31 December 2021
Participation	CY, DE, DK, ES, EE, FR, IE, LT, LV, NL, PL, PT, SE
Operational area	NAFO Regulatory Area

A – DEPLOYED CONTROL MEANS					
Member State	Patrol Vessel	Exchange of Inspectors			
	Days at sea	Joint Teams at Sea		Mixed Teams ashore	
	Committed Patrols (patrol sea days)	Man-days Deployed	Man-days Hosted	Man-days Deployed	Man-days Hosted
DE	13				
ES	22				
EE		69			
PT		107			
EFCA	33		176		
Total	68	176	176	0	0

B – ACTIVITY CARRIED-OUT								
Type of Activity	Type of Deployment	Type of Object	Indicator	Patrol Coordinator				
				DE	ES	PT	EFCA	Total
Surveillance	Sea		Sightings reported	18	16		29	63
Inspections	Land	Vessel	Number of Inspections		40	14		54
			Number of inspections with suspected infringement		2	4		6
			% of inspections with suspected infringements		5.0	28.6		11.1
			Total number of suspected infringements		6	13		19
	Sea	Vessel	Number of Inspections	5	10		12	27
			Number of inspections with suspected infringement		2		2	4
			% of inspections with suspected infringements	0.0	20.0		16.7	14.8
			Total number of suspected infringements		4		2	6

C - RESULTS OF CONTROL ACTIVITIES												
Type Deployment	Object	Indicators	Country in which the Object is registered									
			CA	ES	EE	JP	LT	NO	PT	RU	Total	
Land	Vessel	Number of Inspections		28	3					18	5	54
		Number of inspections with suspected infringements		1	2					3		6
		% of inspections with suspected infringements		3.6	66.7					16.7	0.0	11.1
		Total number of suspected infringements		1	7					11		19
Sea	Vessel	Number of Inspections	2	5	2	2	1	1	14			27
		Number of inspections with suspected infringements	2				1		1			4
		% of inspections with suspected infringements	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	7.1			14.8
		Total number of suspected infringements	3				2		1			6

D - TYPE OF SUSPECTED INFRINGEMENTS DETECTED DURING THE JDP			
Suspected Infringement Category		Total	% Total
Conservation Measures	Illegal gear	1	4%
	Non-compliance - by-catch rules	4	16%
Misrecording / Misreporting	Misrecording – logbook (margin of tolerance)	4	16%
	Non-compliance - notification rules	2	8%
Others	Non-compliance - labelling rules	4	16%
	Non-compliance - production logbook rules	1	4%
	Non-compliance - stowage /capacity plan rules	4	16%
	Obstruction to inspection	4	16%
	Obstruction of observers work	1	4%
Total		25	

Results of risk assessment of non-compliance

NAFO



3L 3O
3M 3N

Gear – Mesh size Target species	Species misrecording	Area misrecording	Use of illegal gear	Move-on rules
Otter bottom trawlers 130 mm Redfish, Greenland halibut				
Otter bottom trawlers 130 mm Cod, redfish, Greenland halibut				
Otter bottom trawlers 40 mm Prawn				
Otter bottom trawlers 130 mm Cod, white hake, red, Greenland halibut				
Bottom trawlers 280 mm Skate				
Otter bottom trawlers 130 mm Red, Greenland halibut				
Bottom trawlers 280 mm Skate				
Otter bottom trawlers 60 mm Squid				

Level of risk: ■ Low ■ Medium ■ High ■ Very High

NEAFC JDP

(Report based on data registered in EFCA JDP information system on 02/02/2022)

Joint Deployment Plan	NEAFC JDP 2021
Reporting period	1 January to 31 December 2021
Participation	CY, DE, DK, ES, EE, FR, IE, LT, LV, NL, PL, PT, SE
Operational area	NEAFC Regulatory Area

A – DEPLOYED CONTROL MEANS				
Member State	Patrol Vessel	Aircraft	Exchange of Inspectors	
	Days at sea	No of Flights	Joint Teams at Sea	
	Committed Patrols (patrol sea days)		Man-days Deployed	Man-days Hosted
DE	30			
DK	10			18
EE			21	
IE	7	26		
LT			21	
LV			18	
NL	11			
PT	13	1		
SE		2		
EFCA	46			42
Total	117	29	60	60

B – ACTIVITY CARRIED-OUT											
Type of Activity	Type of Deployment	Type of Object	Indicator	Patrol Coordinator							Total
				DE	DK	IE	NL	PT	SE	EFCA	
Surveillance	Air		Sightings reported			34		2	12		48
	Sea		Sightings reported	153	27	16	36			5	237
Inspections	Sea	Vessel	No of inspections	2	6	11	13				32
			No. inspections with suspected infringements	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

C - RESULTS OF CONTROL ACTIVITIES									
Type of Deployment	Object	Indicators	Country in which the Object is registered						Total
			FO	UK	IS	NL	NO	RU	
Sea	Vessel	Number of Inspections	5	1	4	1	6	15	32
		No. inspections with suspected infringements	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

MEDITERRANEAN JDP

(Report based on data registered in EFCA JDP information system on 02/02/2022)

Joint Deployment Plan	MED-JDP 2021
Reporting period	01 January to 31 December 2021
Participation	CY, ES, FR, EL, HR, IT, MT, PT, SI, EFCA, FRONTEX
Operational area	ICES Subareas 27.7, 27.8, 27.9, 27.10 FAO 34.1.2 and FAO 37.1 – 37.2 – 37.3

A - DEPLOYED CONTROL MEANS								
Patrol Coordinator	Patrol Vessel		Aircraft		Exchanges of Inspectors			
	Days at sea		N° of Flights		Joint Teams at sea		Mixed Teams ashore	
	Committed Patrols MSC (Patrol sea days)	Other Patrols (Sea days)	Committed Flights MSC	Other flights	Man-days Deployed	Man-days Hosted	Man-days Deployed	Man-days Hosted
CY	61	85			18			
ES	95	551	6	200		9		
FR	30		6	0	9		4	
EL	21	1958	4	0	12			
HR	44	213	6	3				
IT	102	1605	6	12	18	50		
MT	71	20	4	1		18		4
PT	9	15	4	6	43			
SI	4	250						
EFCA	12	31			20	43		
FRONTEX		67		119				
Total	449	4795	36	341	120	120	4	4

EFCA ANNUAL REPORT 2021

B - ACTIVITY CARRIED OUT															
Type of Activity	Type of Deployment	Type of Object	Indicator	Patrol coordinator											
				CY	ES	FR	EL	HR	IT	MT	PT	SI	EFCA	FRONTEX	Total
Surveillance	Air		Sightings reported		1012		12	15	31	87	31			230	1418
	Land		Sightings reported		234			3	2169						2406
	Sea		Sightings reported	6	326		23	213	73	66	8	970	19	115	1819
Inspections	Land	Vessel	Number of inspections	1227	2071	513	6887	154	4555	1812	266	41			17526
			Number of targeted inspections	24	81	19	14	9	346	576	13	19			1101
		Transport	Number of inspections	23	23		545	27	1099	2	13	25			1757
		Business	Number of inspections	241	12		873	231	6054			360			7771
		Fish Farm	Number of inspections		1			19							20
		Other	Number of inspections	1031	5		280		96						1412
	Sea	Vessel	Number of inspections	1067	647	24	5986	353	3272	179	23	39	19		11609
			Number of targeted inspections	1	48	9		2	51	8	17	13	1		150
		Fish Farm	Number of inspections		147			41		152	7				347
		Other	Number of inspections	267	1		25			2					295

EFCA ANNUAL REPORT 2021

B - ACTIVITY CARRIED OUT															
		Trap	Number of inspections		92						2				94
		Other Fishing Gear	Number of inspections						5						5

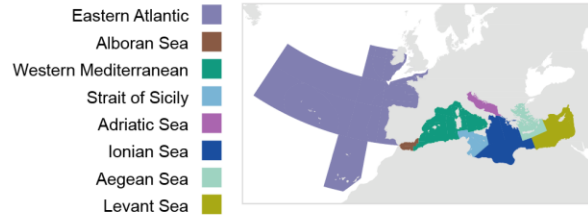
EFCA ANNUAL REPORT 2021

C - RESULTS OF CONTROL ACTIVITIES																																				
Type of Deployment	Object	Indicators	Country in which the Object is registered																																	
			AL	BE	BG	CN	CY	DZ	EG	ES	FR	UK	GE	EL	HR	IR	IT	JP	LB	MA	MT	NL	PA	PL	PT	RO	RU	RS	SI	SY	TN	TR	UN	Total		
Air	Vessel	Total no. of suspected infringements								58						2								2										65		
Land	Business	No. of inspections				2	241			11			873	231		6053															360			7771		
		No. of inspections with suspected infringements				1	14			8			12	50		1114																30			1229	
		% of inspections with suspected infringements				50.00	5.81			72.73			1.37	21.65		18.40																8.33			15.82	
		Total no. of suspected infringements				1	15			10			13	60		1163																30			1292	
	Fish farms	No. of inspections									1				19																				20	
		No. of inspections with suspected infringements									1																									1
		% of inspections with suspected infringements									100.00				0.00																					5.00
		Total no. of suspected infringements									1																									1
	Other	No. of inspections	2		1		1016			5		1	1	279		96										8	1	1			1				1412	
		No. of inspections with suspected infringements					57			3				93		8										2										163
		% of inspections with suspected infringements	0.00		0.00		5.61			75.00		0.00	0.00	33.33		8.33										25.00	0.00	0.00			0.00				11.54	
		Total no. of suspected infringements					80			3				112		8										2										205
	Transport	No. of inspections				1	23			22				545	44	1103									13						5				1757	
		No. of inspections with suspected infringements					2			7				4	4	187															1					205
		% of inspections with suspected infringements				0.00	8.70			31.82				0.73	9.09	16.95									0.00						20.00					11.67
Total no. of suspected infringements						5			9				5	4	195															1					219	
Vessel	No. of inspections	1	5			1249	8	2	1980	533	1		6799	154	14	4605	2	10	5	1820	2	20	1	272					41		2			17526		

D - TYPE OF SUSPECTED INFRINGEMENTS DETECTED DURING THE JDP			
	Suspected Infringement Category	Total	% Total
Landing Obligation	No recording of BMS	43	1%
	Illegal sales - below MCRS	46	1%
Conservation Measures	Fishing without or after attainment of a quota / catch limit	82	2%
	Retain / land or offer for sale species below MCRS	105	2%
	Illegal fishing - closed area/period/depth	622	14%
	Illegal fishing - method	67	2%
	Marketing - species from recreational activity	5	<1%
	Illegal gear	284	7%
	Non-compliance - gear marking rules	67	2%
	Non-compliance - by-catch rules	12	<1%
	Non-compliance - effort rules	55	1%
	Retain / land or offer for sale prohibited species	25	1%
	Transport / Marketing - species below MCRS	88	2%
	Others not specified	1	<1%
	Misrecording / Misreporting	Misrecording – logbook (not specified)	342
Misrecording – logbook (catch quantity)		36	1%
Misrecording – logbook (margin of tolerance)		5	<1%
Misrecording - landing declaration		31	1%
Misrecording - sales notes		15	<1%
Misrecording - transport documents		8	<1%
Non-compliance - BFT documentation and/or reporting rules		10	<1%
Non-compliance - notification rules		56	1%
Non-compliance with BFT video rules		7	<1%
Others	Fishing without authorization / licence	232	5%
	Missing mandatory documents	10	<1%
	Non-function or operate without VMS, AIS and/or ERS	141	3%
	Equipment not calibrated or certified	1	<1%
	Falsifying, deleting or concealing the markings, identity or registration of a fishing vessel	17	<1%
	Engine manipulation	15	<1%
	Non-compliance - designated ports rules	1	<1%
	Non-compliance - designated ports rules for BFT	1	<1%
	Non-compliance - labelling rules	9	<1%
	Non-compliance - list of authorised vessels rules (BFT and/or SWO)	4	<1%
	Non-compliance - safety rules	15	<1%
	Non-compliance - traceability	1020	24%
	Non-compliance - transshipment rules	4	<1%
	Non-compliance with observer programmes	25	1%
	Obstruction to inspection	61	1%
Absence or inappropriate pilot ladder	28	1%	
Other - crew requirements	24	1%	
Others not specified	698	16%	
Total		4318	

Results of risk assessment of non-compliance

Mediterranean Sea and Eastern Atlantic*
Risk of non-compliance

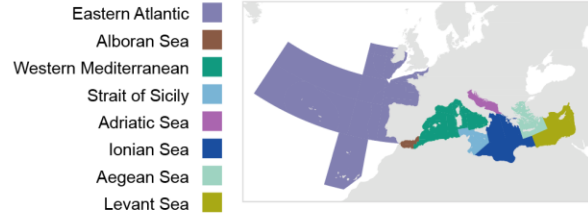


Gear-Fishery	Area	Main target species	Misreporting and/or misrecording	Non-compliance with quota or bycatch limit	Non-compliance with temporal/spatial closures	Non-compliance with minimum size of BFT/SWO	Non-compliance with general technical and management rules	Non-compliance with the LO
Bottom trawls	Strait of Sicily	Deep-sea rose shrimp, hake	High		Medium		High	High
	Ionian Sea	Deep-sea rose shrimp blue and red shrimp	Medium		Medium		Medium	Medium
	Aegean Sea	Deep-sea rose shrimp, hake, mullus spp.	Medium		Medium		Medium	Medium
	Western Med	Deep-sea rose shrimp, hake, mullus spp.	High	Medium	Medium		Medium	High
	Adriatic	Deep-sea rose shrimp, hake, mullus spp., Norway lobster	High		Medium		Medium	High
	Levant Sea	Deep-sea rose shrimp, hake, mullus spp., Norway lobster	Medium		Medium		Medium	Medium
Midwater trawls and pair trawls	Mediterranean Sea without Adriatic Sea	Anchovy, sardine	Medium	Low	Low		Medium	Medium
	Adriatic Sea	Anchovy, sardine	Medium	Medium	Medium		Medium	Medium
Midwater trawls and pair trawls	Eastern Atlantic	Bluefin tuna	Medium	Medium	Low	Low	Low	Low
Purse seine	Mediterranean Sea without Adriatic Sea	Anchovy, sardine	Medium	Medium		Medium	Medium	Medium
	Adriatic Sea	Anchovy, sardine	High	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium
Purse seine (Catching vessels)	Mediterranean Sea	Bluefin tuna	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	
Purse seine (Farms)	Mediterranean Sea	Bluefin tuna	Medium		Medium	Medium	Medium	
Purse seine (Auxiliary vessels)	Mediterranean Sea	Bluefin tuna	Medium			Medium	Medium	
Purse seine (towing vessels)	Mediterranean Sea	Bluefin tuna	Medium		Medium		Medium	
Bottom Long Lines, hand-liners	Alboran Sea	Seabream	Medium	Medium	Medium		Medium	Medium
	Mediterranean without Alboran Sea	Hake, red seabream	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium
Long Lines, hand-liners, trolling boats, bait boats	Mediterranean Sea	Mediterranean albacore, bluefin tuna, Mediterranean swordfish	Medium	Medium	Medium	High	Medium	Medium

* Covers only bluefin tuna

Level of risk: Low Medium High Very High

Mediterranean Sea and Eastern Atlantic*
Risk of non-compliance



Gear-Fishery	Area	Main target species	Misreporting and/or misrecording	Non-compliance with quota or bycatch limit	Non-compliance with temporal/spatial closures	Non-compliance with minimum size of BFT/SWO	Non-compliance with general technical and management rules	Non-compliance with the LO
Longliners and Bait boats	Eastern Atlantic	Bluefin tuna	Medium	Medium	Low	Low	Low	Low
Trammel nets and gill nets	Western Mediterranean	Hake, mullus spp., seabreams, sole	High	Medium	Medium		Medium	Medium
	Adriatic	Hake, mullus spp., seabreams, sole	High	Medium	Medium		Medium	Medium
	Strait of Sicily, Ionian Sea, Aegean Sea and Levant Sea	Hake, mullus spp., seabreams	High		Medium		Medium	Medium
Fixed traps	Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea	Bluefin tuna	Medium	Low	Low	Low	Medium	
Pots and traps	Mediterranean Sea	Various crustaceans	Low	Low	Low		Medium	Medium
Mechanised dredges	Mediterranean Sea	Various bivalves	Low	Low	Medium		Medium	Medium
Sport and Recreational fishery	Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea	Mediterranean albacore, bluefin tuna, Mediterranean swordfish	High	Medium	High	Medium	High	
All gears	Mediterranean Sea	Eel	Medium	Medium	Medium		Medium	Medium
Surrounding net without purse line	Mediterranean Sea	Dolphinfish	Medium		Medium		High	
Divers	Mediterranean Sea	Red coral	High	Medium	Medium		Medium	High

* Covers only bluefin tuna

Level of risk: ■ Low ■ Medium ■ High ■ Very High

BLACK SEA JDP

(Report based on data registered in EFCA JDP information system on 02/02/2022)

Joint Deployment Plan	Black Sea JDP 2021
Reporting period	1 January to 31 December 2021
Participation	BG, RO, EFCA, FRONTEX
Operational area	FAO 37.4.2

A – DEPLOYED CONTROL MEANS							
Member State	Patrol Vessel		Aircraft	Exchange of Inspectors			
	Days at sea			Joint Teams at Sea		Mixed Teams ashore	
	Committed Patrols (Patrol sea days)	Other Patrols (Sea days)	No of Flights	Man-days Deployed	Man-days Hosted	Man-days Deployed	Man-days Hosted
BG	140						
RO	54						
Frontex		88	6				
Total	194	88	6				

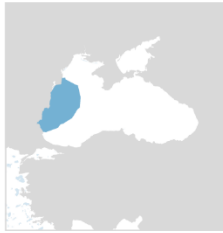
B - ACTIVITY CARRIED OUT							
Type of Activity	Type of Deployment	Type of Object	Indicator	Patrol coordinator			
				BG	RO	FRONTEX	Total
Surveillance	Air		Sightings reported			16	16
	Sea		Sightings reported	60	26	175	261
Inspections	Land	Vessel	Number of inspections	1247	290		1537
			Number of inspections targeted vessels	1101	188		1289
		Transport	Number of inspections	1	32		33
		Business	Number of inspections	73	109		182
	Sea	Vessel	Number of inspections	89	47		136
Number of inspections of targeted vessels	51		30		81		

C - RESULTS OF CONTROL ACTIVITIES					
Type Deployment	Object	Indicators	Country in which the Object is registered		
			BG	RO	Total
Land	Business	Number of inspections	73	109	182
		Number of inspections with suspected infringements			0
		% of inspections with infringements	0	0	0
		Total number of suspected infringements			0
	Transport	Number of inspections	1	32	33
		Number of inspections with suspected infringements	1		1
		% of inspections with infringements	100.00	0.00	3.03
		Total number of suspected infringements	1		1
	Vessel	Number of inspections	1247	290	1537
		Number of inspections with suspected infringements	21	1	22
		% of inspections with infringements	1.68	0.34	1.43
		Total number of suspected infringements	31	1	32
		Inspections of targets	1101	188	1289
		Inspections of targets with suspected infringements	9	1	10
	Sea	Vessel	Number of inspections	89	47
Number of inspections with suspected infringements			5	1	6
% of inspections with infringements			5.62	2.08	4.38
Total number of suspected infringements			5	1	6
Inspections of targets			51	30	81
Inspections of targets with suspected infringements			1	1	2

D - TYPE OF SUSPECTED INFRINGEMENTS DETECTED DURING THE JDP			
Suspected Infringement Category		Total	% Total
Conservation Measures	Fishing without or after attainment of a quota / catch limit	2	5%
	Illegal fishing - closed area/period/depth	9	23%
	Illegal gear	8	21%
Misrecording / Misreporting	Misrecording – logbook (not specified)	2	5%
	Misrecording – logbook (catch quantity)	1	3%
	Misrecording - landing declaration	1	3%
	Non-compliance - notification rules	1	3%
Others	Fishing without authorization / licence	9	23%
	Missing mandatory documents	1	3%
	Non-function or operate without VMS, AIS and/or ERS	3	8%
	Others not specified	2	5%
Total		39	

Results of risk assessment of non-compliance

Black Sea



EU Waters of the Black Sea

Gear – Mesh size	Non-compliance with LO	Misrecording	Use of illegal gear	Non-compliance with spatial / temporal closures	Fishing without licence and authorisation	IUU fishing activities
Target species						
Mid-water otter trawls						
Sprat						
Bottom set gillnets (authorised)						
Turbot						

Level of risk: ■ Low ■ Medium ■ High ■ Very High

TRAINING ACTIVITIES IN 2021

Area	Action	Date(s)	Place	No of participants	Satisf. % (good/very good)
Med. Black Sea	Support to national training (HR)	27/01	online	40	n/a
	Regional Training MED JDP 2021 and MED Swordfish	04/02	online	115	86%
	Support to national training (IT)	10/03	online	16	98%
	Support to national training (CY)	22-24/03	online	19	96%
	Support to national training (MT)	23/03	online	10	n/a
	IMS basic training (MT)	29/03	online	9	60%
	Support to national training (FR)	06-08/04	online	9	84%
	Applicable legal framework in the Strait of Sicily. GFCM and EU provisions.	12/04	online	16	96%
	Support to national training (HR)	12/05	online	30	n/a
	Applicable legal framework in the E. Atl and MED BFT fishery. ICCAT and EU provisions.	13/05	online	53	95%
	Support to national training (EL)	17/06	online	18	90%
	Support to national training (SI)	15/07	online	8	97%
	Training workshop MED JDP MSC1 Swordfish	28/07	online	21	89%
	Support to national training (IT)	15-16/09	online	16	92%
	Applicable legal framework in the Adriatic Sea. GFCM and EU provisions.	27/09	online	54	93%
	Support to national training (CY)	13-15/10	online	15	95%
	Support to national training (IT)	20-21/10	online	16	92%
	Training Workshop Black Sea (BG – RO)	26/10	online	11	100%
	Support to national training (MT)	27-28/10	online	15	82%
	Support to national training (MT)	22-24/11	Presential	24	96%
Support to national training (HR)	06-08/12	Presential	24	95%	
NAFO-NEAFC	NEAFC JDP webinar for MS inspectors	01-02/02	online	40	77%
	NAFO JDP webinar for MS inspectors	03-04/03	online	22	83%
	Training for FMC Staff	24-25/03	online	39	75%
	Seminar on port inspections in the context of NAFO/NEAFC	16-17/06	online	39	92%
Western Waters/ North Sea/Baltic Sea	North Sea JDP training for EU inspectors	29-30/09	online	20	83%
	Baltic Sea JDP training for EU inspectors	06-07/10	online	73	84%
	Western Waters JDP training for EU inspectors	17-18/11	online	35	93%
Landlocked	-	-	-	-	-
All MS	IUU newcomers	26-28/01	online	22	90%
	Frontex Standing Corps	08-10/03	online	158	n/a
	IUU advanced	22-23/04	online	41	100%
	Frontex Standing Corps	01-02/07	online	70	n/a
	Frontex Standing Corps	15-16/11	Avila (ES)	120	n/a
	SAR Awareness Session – Non-SAR community	09-10/12	online	55	n/a
Subtotal EU inspectors		35 events		1273	89%
Non-EU	FIUUFRA regional training for FMC operators (Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia)	12-15/04	online	18	100%
	PESCAO regional/national training on the EU catch certification scheme (EN)	08-09/06	online	26	80%
	PESCAO regional/national training on the EU catch certification scheme (FR)	22-23/06	online	22	90%
	PESCAO regional training FMC operators (EN speaking countries)	12-15/07	online	23	100%
	PESCAO national training on inspection (Cape Verde)	19-29/10	online	40	100%
	PESCAO national training on inspection (Senegal)	13-16/12	online	19	94%
Subtotal non-EU inspectors		6 events		148	94%
MS + third countries + EU org.	Registered active users to the EFCA e-learning platform			1374	n/a
TOTAL		No of events: 41		1273(EU)+ 148 (non-EU) =1421 participants	90%

COAST GUARD COMMON REPORT OF THE ANNUAL STRATEGIC PLAN



Tripartite Working Arrangement – TWA

Annual Report 2021

(Implementation of the Annual Strategic Plan 2021)

Horizontal: To further promote European cooperation with national authorities on coast guard functions at EU level.	
Objectives	Outcomes
To hold the annual joint European Coast Guard event under the coordination of EFCA (as chair of the TWA) in line with the experience gained at the previous annual events, while enhancing interaction between participants.	The annual European Coast Guard Event took place on the 29 June 2021, hosted by EFCA. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, it was organized with a virtual format. The theme of the event was the “Use of digital age technologies in Coast Guard functions”. EMSA and Frontex were actively involved in the event. As in previous years, the event served as a platform to present the outcomes and achievement of the year as well as to provide an information session to overview the available digital age technologies and discuss their relevance to enhance the support to the European Union Member States authorities. Particular focus was placed in the implementation of the different EU Coast Guard functions in the context of the post-pandemic era.
To ensure the joint participation of the agencies in European and international maritime events with coast guard relevance.	The European Maritime Day 2021 was planned to take place in Den Helder, the Netherlands, 20-21 May 2021. However, due to the pandemic, it was held virtually. Under EFCA’s coordination, the agencies organized a joint WS on “EU cooperation on coast guard functions in practice” providing practical examples of the cooperation.

<p>To produce a set of communication tools (brochures, videos etc.) promoting EU inter-agency cooperation.</p>	<p>In December 2021, the agencies adopted a TWA Communication Plan for 2022 to further promote the EU inter-agency cooperation on coast guard functions with a structured approach. The Communication plan shall be updated yearly.</p>
<p>To coordinate the cooperation with regional Coast Guard Functions Fora.</p>	<p>The agencies actively participated to the works of the relevant Coast Guard Functions Fora. Following the local restrictions imposed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, some events were hosted or attended virtually.</p> <p>In the framework of the European Coast Guard Functions Forum, three workshops were co-organised by the agencies and the running Chairmanship, with the following themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “Training, capacity building and operational cooperation” (11-12 February 2021, ECGFF-EFCA) - “European cooperation to combat illicit activities at sea through the example of the fight against drug trafficking: opportunities and challenges of the legal framework and its practical implementation” (11-12 May 2021, ECGFF-Frontex); - “Modern Technologies in the Fisheries Control System” (24-25 November 2021, ECGFF-EFCA) <p>Additionally, the agencies participated as observers to the works of the North Atlantic Coast Guard Forum.</p> <p>Finally, the agencies were actively involved in the works of the Coast Guard Global Summit (CGGS), which is an initiative launched at a global level by the Japan Coast Guard (JPG) to join in a non-binding, voluntary, independent and non-political forum Coast Guards and agencies of the world to foster dialogue and cooperation among them. EFCA, EMSA and Frontex took part in the activities of the Fora, including their Pilot Program on Coast Guard Global Human Resource Development. The agencies contributed with lecturers and keynote speakers to both the events.</p>

Information sharing	
<p>Project: A Maintain and update Maritime Data Catalogue</p> <p>To ensure the relevance of the Catalogue and associated datasheets by maintaining its quality and incorporating updates and additions as appropriate.</p>	
Objectives	Outcomes
<p>Increase the awareness of the datatypes available via the three agencies by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Publishing the Catalogue on each of the agencies' websites as well as links from ECGFF website. 2. Exploring the inclusion of the Catalogue in Handbook on EU Cooperation on Coast Guard Functions. 	<p>The Maritime Data Catalogue has been reviewed and updated during 2021 including feedback from MS authorities as appropriate.</p> <p>Version 1 has been finalised and is ready to be published with access open to all Member States authorities associated with the three agencies. The Maritime Data Catalogue addresses 10 data types and more than 60 datasets for which an individual datasheet has been produced. Each datasheet describes a range of aspects associated with the data including the data elements available, associated legal basis, technical information about the interfaces available for the end users and status of implementation as well as possible plans for making the data available.</p> <p>All Member State authorities associated with the three agencies were invited by their counterpart agency to an Information Session.</p> <p>Version 2, to be prepared in 2022, will incorporate further MS feedback.</p>
<p>Project: B Foster the sharing of different datatypes across Coast Guard Function / User Communities</p>	
Objectives	Outcomes
<p>Increase the cross-Coast Guard Function availability of data for both operational and assessment scenarios. Using the Catalogue and associated mapping of data sharing "gaps", the following will be undertaken:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Foster awareness of the different datasets available via the different agencies by holding a dedicated session at the (inter- agency) Annual Coast Guard Event with MS. 	<p>The Agenda of the Annual Coast Guard Event with MS did not include any session on the Maritime Data Catalogue due to its reduced agenda online format in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>

2. Foster “hands on” understanding of the operational usage of different information sources through inter-agency participation with Member States within the framework of the annual ECGFF exercise (either table top or at sea).	Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, no ECGFF exercise was held during 2021.
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Surveillance and communication services	
Project: C Enhance synergies with respect to the current and future provision of earth observation services in support to Coast Guard Functions in MS	
Objectives	Outcomes
<p>Assess the existing portfolio and its exploitation to identify new requirements, synergies and redundancies:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Questionnaire to MS on their current experience and potential improvements expectations. 2. Dedicated brainstorming session with MS experts to map their expectations regarding longer term surveillance scenarios. For efficiency considerations, the session could be held in the margins of the Annual Coast Guard Event or ECGFF meetings 	<p>All Member State national authorities associated with the three agencies were invited to participate in an online questionnaire by their counterpart agency. A virtual session with MS authorities was held to present and discuss the questionnaire results. The results have been compiled in a report, which will be published with access limited to MS.</p> <p>A dedicated session was held virtually and the outcomes as well as result of a questionnaire sent beforehand the session were inserted in a dedicated report.</p>
Project: D Strengthen sharing of data from surveillance assets between EFCA, FRONTEX and EMSA.	
Objectives	Outcomes
<p>Assess the existing surveillance data portfolio and its exploitation to identify new requirements, synergies and redundancies related to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sharing manned aircraft/RPAS and other video streams/data centre capabilities among agencies and with MS aerial operations. 2. Integrating AIS collected during all agency airborne and vessel-based surveillance missions into EMSA systems for consumption by end users of the 3 agencies’ services. 	<p>This is a two-year project expected to be completed in 2022. In 2021 initial discussions were undertaken between the agencies to increase familiarity with the issues and the scope and of the project from the different perspectives.</p>

Capacity building	
<p>Project: E Handbook on European Cooperation on Coast guard Functions To further develop and update the Handbook on European Cooperation on Coast guard Functions.</p>	
Objectives	Outcomes
<p>Tasks:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue developing as needed the content of the Handbook, in coordination with the European Commission. 2. Facilitate Member States in the regular update of the individual country factsheets. 3. Making accessible to Member States an electronic version of the Handbook. 	<p>The three agencies established a working group to develop the Practical Handbook on European Cooperation on Coast Guard Functions in close collaboration with the Member States as requested by the European Commission. The handbook was finally adopted⁹⁵ by the European Commission in July 2021.</p> <p>As per the Commission Recommendation, practical information of the handbook is to be kept up to date by the three agencies, with input coming from the national authorities as regards the 'country factsheets'. Information will also be displayed with an online platform operated by EFCA in close cooperation with the other two agencies and the Commission.</p>
<p>Project: F Cross-sector training and capacity building To offer joint cross-sectoral training to Member State national authorities</p>	
Objectives	Outcomes
<p>Task:</p> <p>To develop or implement as adequate joint cross-sector training for items such as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maritime safety related: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Search and Rescue (MRCC), • Fisheries Monitoring Centre (FMC) and Integrated Maritime Services (IMS), • Fishing vessels safety/fisheries control rules, 2. Maritime Surveillance related. 	<p>The three agencies considered that an important added value is to join the communities of the three agencies in a common session in person. The agencies have worked to adjust training events to the video conference format due to the travel restrictions in 2021.</p> <p>A survey was conducted on the Search and Rescue (SAR) topic to understand the needs of Member States authorities. Based on the survey outcome, a pilot awareness session on SAR for the non-SAR community was held in December 2021 with 45 participants from 16 different Member States and staff from the agencies.</p> <p>The maritime safety and fisheries control joint training course has been considered for May/June 2022, should it be possible to deliver it in presence, due to the importance</p>

⁹⁵ Commission Recommendation (EU) 2021/1222 of 20.7.2021 establishing a 'Practical Handbook' on European cooperation on coast guard functions.

[Link: Handbook on European cooperation on coast guard functions \(europa.eu\)](https://europa.eu)

	<p>of a field and practical visit to a port and fishing vessel.</p> <p>The cross-sector maritime surveillance and related fisheries monitoring center and integrated maritime services has also been postponed. The terms of reference and content of this training has been under development.</p>
<p>To foster a coast guard exchange programme and to promote the Coast Guard Sectoral Qualifications Framework (SQF).</p> <p>Tasks:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To prepare, after feasibility analysis, a staff exchange programme for Member States authorities on cross-sectoral training activities including training and on the job exchanges. 2. To raise awareness and promote the exchange of experience on the implementation of the voluntary Coast Guard SQF at national and at EU level. 	<p>Exchange programme development and dissemination of the Sectoral Qualifications Framework (SQF) were hampered by the coronavirus pandemic restrictions. On the Sectoral Qualifications Framework (SQF), EFCA and EMSA started to align their own training material with the SQF framework. Frontex has already an SQF in place.</p> <p>The European Commission prepared in 2021 a project to finance EFCA for the development and follow up of the European Coast Guard Functions Academy Network (ECGFA-Net) project, in cooperation with EMSA and Frontex. This project will cover the development of a portal with sections relating to the SQF and the Exchange Programme.</p>
<p>To update the mapping of Training activities in Third Countries offered by each agency</p>	<p>The three agencies exchanged information regarding activities held with third countries.</p>

Risk analysis	
<p>Project: G</p> <p>Cross-sector risk analysis</p> <p>To support Member States authorities carrying out coast guard functions on cross-sector risk analysis needs</p>	
Objectives	Outcomes
<p>Task:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To assess and address the Member States needs raised through a consultation or a dedicated survey. 2. Following point the previous point, to combine cross- sectoral risk analysis product(s) and develop related methodologies, and deliver a common report for specific areas and/or 	<p>An online survey was circulated to consult Member States national authorities and risk experts (identified from the communities of the three agencies) on cooperation between EFCA, EMSA and Frontex in the Risk Assessment area.. The replies covered three different areas of possible future activities: 1) Sharing of data and information regarding risk and threats, 2) Development of methodologies on information/risk assessment products, and 3) Training,</p>

<p>sea basins starting in the Mediterranean Sea (e.g. Straits of Sicily) or in other sea basins..</p>	<p>Capacity Building and Awareness sessions on risk assessments.</p> <p>On combining the outputs of the different risk analysis/assessments exercises performed by the three agencies, progress has been made in developing a joint information/risk assessment product and report. A first draft was produced and is under finalisation. The three agencies have in place their own risk analysis/assessment frameworks or their information framework to support risk analysis,. Therefore, the three agencies continued to exchange information about the types of data, methodologies (steps, levels and objective of risk assessment) and analytical products that each agency is currently using within their frameworks in order to further enhance cooperation and inter-agency coast guard functions in support of Member States.</p>
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Capacity sharing	
Project: H Multipurpose Maritime Operations	
Objectives	Outcomes
<p>To develop guidelines for multipurpose maritime operations (MMO) implemented by the EU agencies based on the common understanding of MMO concept and the related existing regimes including relevant legal frameworks (taking benefit of current operational outcomes).</p>	<p>The development of MMO Guidelines (Generic Modalities) have been achieved taking into consideration the definition of the MMO concept agreed as an outcome of the ASP2020, best practises available at EFCA, EMSA and Frontex, the current operational outcomes and the relevant legal frameworks.</p> <p>Following presentation during the 4th Annual European Coast Guard Event 2021, the <i>Generic Modalities (guidelines) for Multipurpose Maritime Operations organised in the context of European cooperation on coast guard functions v1.0</i> were endorsed by the TWA Steering Committee in July.</p>
<p>To identify areas (period of interest) for testing the implementation of such MMO taking benefit of the cross-sector risk analysis performed under the TSC2 project, taking into consideration the availability of multipurpose capacities of the three</p>	<p>Following initial steps taken in 2020 in supporting Bulgarian and Romanian authorities carrying out Coast Guard Functions, the territorial sea and the EEZ of those countries has been identified as</p>

<p>agencies, in those areas in such period and asking for MSs needs through a dedicated consultation</p>	<p>relevant areas to further test the implementation of an MMO.</p>
<p>To implement MMO in the European sea basin, upon MS' request.</p>	<p>Multipurpose Maritime Operation in the Black Sea (MMO Black Sea 2021) was implemented from 31 March to 06 October 2021. It was hosted by Bulgaria and Romania and 6 national authorities responsible for Coast Guard Functions were involved including EFCA, EMSA and Frontex communities. A dedicated Terms of Reference for this purpose has been agreed by the TWA Steering Committee in order to provide relevant specific guidelines for this operation and to detail support provided by each agency.</p>



ACTIVITY REPORT EFCA CHARTERED VESSELS AND LIGHT RPAS - 2021

1. Introduction

The European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) is chartering the offshore patrol vessel (OPV) Lundy Sentinel since January 2018 to perform fisheries control and inspection in EU and international waters as a primary task, being also available when requested to support national authorities in the implementation of other coast guard functions. In September 2021, EFCA chartered a second vessel, the OPV Aegis, after receiving additional funds in the context of the cooperation agreement with the United Kingdom, for fisheries control and inspection in the waters adjoining the UK.

The OPV Lundy Sentinel was chartered by EFCA through a framework contract, following the publication of an open call for tenders. The OPV Aegis was chartered through the Service Level Agreement with the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA), which foresees vessel-based services from the EMSA network of vessels for pollution response.

The current report presents a summary of the activities performed by both vessels, including also a light Remotely Piloted Aircraft System on board the first OPV.

2. Legal basis

According to Articles 9 and 10 of the EFCA founding regulation⁹⁶ the **Agency may acquire, rent or charter the equipment that is necessary for the implementation of the joint deployment plans.** According to Article 8 of the same regulation, the Agency shall support national authorities in carrying out Coast Guard functions by, among other things, sharing capacity by planning and implementing multipurpose operations and by sharing assets and other capabilities, to the extent that those activities are coordinated by those agencies and are agreed to by the competent authorities of the Member States concerned.

Both vessels were therefore chartered for fisheries inspection and control as a primary task but being also able to serve as a multipurpose platform, in coherence with the mandate of EFCA to support the European coast guard initiative and provide added value to the national authorities in charge of coast guard functions.

3. Technical specifications and capacity to support coast guard functions

The two OPVs chartered by EFCA (Figure 1) are cost-effective platforms, favouring the performance of long endurance patrols instead higher operational speed, which is compensated through the equipped fast boarding crafts. Both vessels are capable of providing multiple services such as search and rescue and pollution response, in cooperation with Member States authorities and/or Frontex and EMSA. The boarding crafts ensure that the majority of boarding scenarios required for fisheries control are covered. Table 1 presents the main technical specifications of both vessels.

⁹⁶ Regulation (EU) No 2019/473 of the European Parliament and of the Council



Figure 1: OPV Lundy Sentinel and OPV Aegis.

Table 1: Technical specifications of OPV Lundy Sentinel and OPV Aegis.

	OPV Lundy Sentinel	OPV Aegis
Vessel type	Emergency Rescue & Response Vessel	Offshore Support Vessel
Year construction	2015	2012
Flag	Portuguese	Greek
Length Overall	61 m	59 m
Beam	15 m	15 m
Max draft	5.014 m	5.064 m
Autonomy (with full tankers)	60 days	60 days
Cruising speed	10 kn	10 kn
Max. Speed	14 kn	14.4 kn
Boarding equipment	FRB Palfinger 7 m, DC Palfinger, RHIB 10 m	RHIB of 7.5 m, AVON SR 6.5
Crew	12	12

Specific functionalities

State of the art navigation and communication equipment

The satellite communication (SatCom) of both vessels allows permanent internet access to fisheries control surveillance systems on board (IMS, JaDE, FISHNET, Copernicus acquisitions, etc.). As such, both OPVs can be considered as a 'mobile office of EFCA'.

In addition, EFCA has provided satellite phones in order to ensure that at any moment there is connectivity with the EFCA deployed personnel (EFCA officers and Member States inspectors) as well as ensuring there are means to communicate information via a secured and confidential channel.

Special winching area for helicopter and RPAS operations

Both OPVs have a special winching area which have also proven to be suitable for Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) launching and operations. A winching area is paramount for performing long-range patrols and is advantageous in case of emergencies to carry out medical evacuation (MEDEVAC) injured or sick persons. During the chartered periods, OPV Lundy Sentinel has participated in helicopter drills while operating inside designated patrol areas.

Making significant progress, in the context of inter-agency cooperation, since 1st September 2019, an RPAS and a pilot have been deployed on board of the OPV Lundy Sentinel. EFCA has been testing the use of a light RPAS as a tool for enhancing fisheries surveillance and control as well as the safety and security of boarding. EMSA provides the RPAS service and associated SatCom free of charge. The deployment of the RPAS is possible due to the special winching area of the OPV.

Readiness for environmental protection and specific oil pollution response capacity - Vessel of opportunity

As an outcome of the inter-agency cooperation, OPV Lundy Sentinel has been equipped since May 2019 with a trawl net system, installed in a container to be used (deployed) for heavy oil recovery and since July 2019 with dispersant (5 tons) to be used for situations of when there is a light oil detected at the sea surface. As a vessel being part of the EMSA network of standby vessels for pollution response, OPV Aegis is also equipped with the respective equipment to be deployed in specific pollution events.

Readiness for Search and Rescue

Both OPVs have specific equipment and capacity for Search and Rescue, including OPV Lundy Sentinel with mass-rescue capacity, as follows:

- readiness for the role of 'On Scene Coordinator' (OSC) for Search and Rescue (SAR) operations including other on standby or constant state of readiness duties.
- availability of a mechanical recovery device and a crane-operated rescue net for recovery of survivors or casualties directly from the sea in severe conditions.
- enhanced survivor reception and modern medical after-care facilities with presence with one medical staff.
- Surplus medical supplies (e.g. 500 units of oral rehydration salts; pocket masks for cardiopulmonary resuscitation; burn wound dressings; cooling balm; defibrillators; body bags).
- Additional equipment related to SAR: 230 life vests; 4 inflatable light weight rafts; 200 foil rescue blankets; Portable Night Vision Goggles; Portable Thermo / Infra-Red (IR) Camera; extreme/heavy duty flashlights; Megaphone.
- Additional food and water supplies for 200 persons for two days as well as nutritional drinks for children.

The OPVs are consistently available to Member States in line with international SAR obligations.

Of note, the OPV Lundy Sentinel was requested in:

- June 2019 by the Italian Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) to assist in the search and rescue of one missing person in the area where the OPV was operating.
- Three occasions when EFCA deployed medical staff aboard the OPV provided assistance (two cases involving fisherman and one case involving a Member State inspector).
- April 2020 Lundy Sentinel received a Mayday call from EU fishing vessel announcing that there is a fire onboard of one of EU flagged fishing vessel in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) regulatory area and they need immediate assistance. Afterwards Canadian Coast Guard requested Lundy Sentinel to assist as being one of the closest asset to respond to SAR.

4. Summary of operational activities

Operational performance

For the year 2021, the activity of both vessels can be analysed through Table 2. The ration of inspections per day varies between areas, as it is very much dependent on weather conditions, available targets and seasonal fishing in some areas. In general, the ratio of suspected infringements in some areas is relatively higher than the general JDP ratio. This can be considered to indicate the advantage of using a European platform driven by the JDP TJDG and with a multinational inspection team on board. It has been noted that the OPV may have a deterrent effect on non-compliance; some fishermen appear to leave the area upon the arrival of the OPV in a fishing area.

Table 2 – Lundy Sentinel and Aegis number of days at sea, number or inspections and number of suspected infringements (SI) by sea basin for 2021 with related %.

Year 2021	Days at sea	Number of sightings	Number of inspections	Number of SI	(%) of inspections per day	(%) of inspections with SI
Aegis						
Western Waters	76	80	38	5	50%	13 %
Quarantine	34					
Total (Aegis)	110					
Lundy Sentinel						
Mediterranean and NEAFC	43	19	19	9	44%	47%
NAFO	77	29	12	2	16%	17%
NEAFC	21	5	0	0		
North Sea	38	30	4	6	11%	150%
Western Waters	15	9	4	0	27%	0%
Western Waters and North Sea	72	76	18	1	25%	6%
Quarantine	76					
Total (Lundy Sentinel)	342	168	57	18		
Overall total (both Vessels)	452	248	95	23		

The OPV Lundy Sentinel has been fulfilling the main purpose of providing a fisheries inspection platform to Member States all year around, excluding the period from end of December to mid-January. Annual deployment is arranged as such for the OPV to maximise the time at sea and a maximum of 48 hours in port for crew and inspector' exchange and for bunkering as required. Through patrols both OPVs fulfilled close to 100% of the planned activities. Between 2018 and 2021 there were only a few occasions deviating from the plan with advanced entry to port or to delay exit due to adverse weather conditions, or due to

logistical issues preventing the crew/inspectors embarking on time (e.g. flight cancellations, delays). Figure 2 provides the overall patrol days by year for both OPVs.

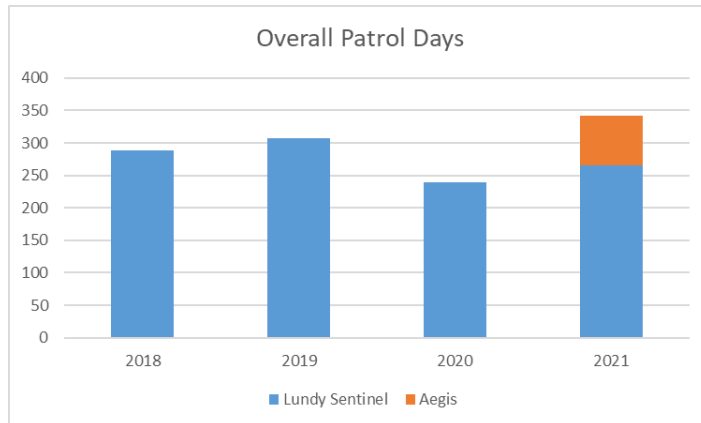


Figure 2: Number of patrol days at sea of both EFCA chartered vessels

During 2020 and 2021, and due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the operational planning had to be revised due to the closure of certain ports, and days of stand-by were needed as a preventive measure, as well as extend the period of stay at sea. EFCA had to adapt the operational planning and had also to include some days as stand-by to prevent contaminations when EFCA staff jointed the ship.

In 2020 and 2021, in order to mitigate the impact of stand-by periods, EFCA extended the duration of each patrol from 12 days (normal duration of patrols before the COVID-19 crisis) to around 5 weeks in order to reduce the frequency of port calls and crew exchanges and also to account for the longer steaming time to and from the operational areas of RFMOs. A specific COVID-19 protocol for embarkation and inspection of fishing vessels was implemented during 2020 and 2021. Figure 3 provides an overview of the number of operational days and days in transit or quarantine for OPV Lundy Sentinel.

Regarding the OPV Aegis, it has also fulfilled between September and mid-December 2021 its main purpose of providing a fisheries inspection and control platform for the waters adjoining the United Kingdom. The COVID-19 related protocol has also been strictly applied to the operations of this OPV.

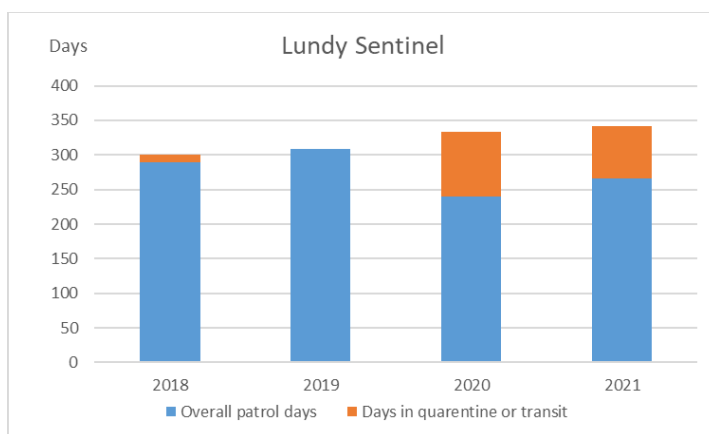


Figure 3: Number of patrol days and days in quarantine

In terms of operations between 2018 and 2021, the OPV Lundy Sentinel contributed to the implementation of the JDP's in all EU sea basins. Figure 4 provides an overview of the number of operational days, inspections and suspected infringements by JDP area. It is possible to see that the presence of the OPV Lundy Sentinel was shifted for some periods in 2020 and 2021 to international waters of NAFO and NEAFC to contribute to fulfil obligations of the EU in these RFMOs.

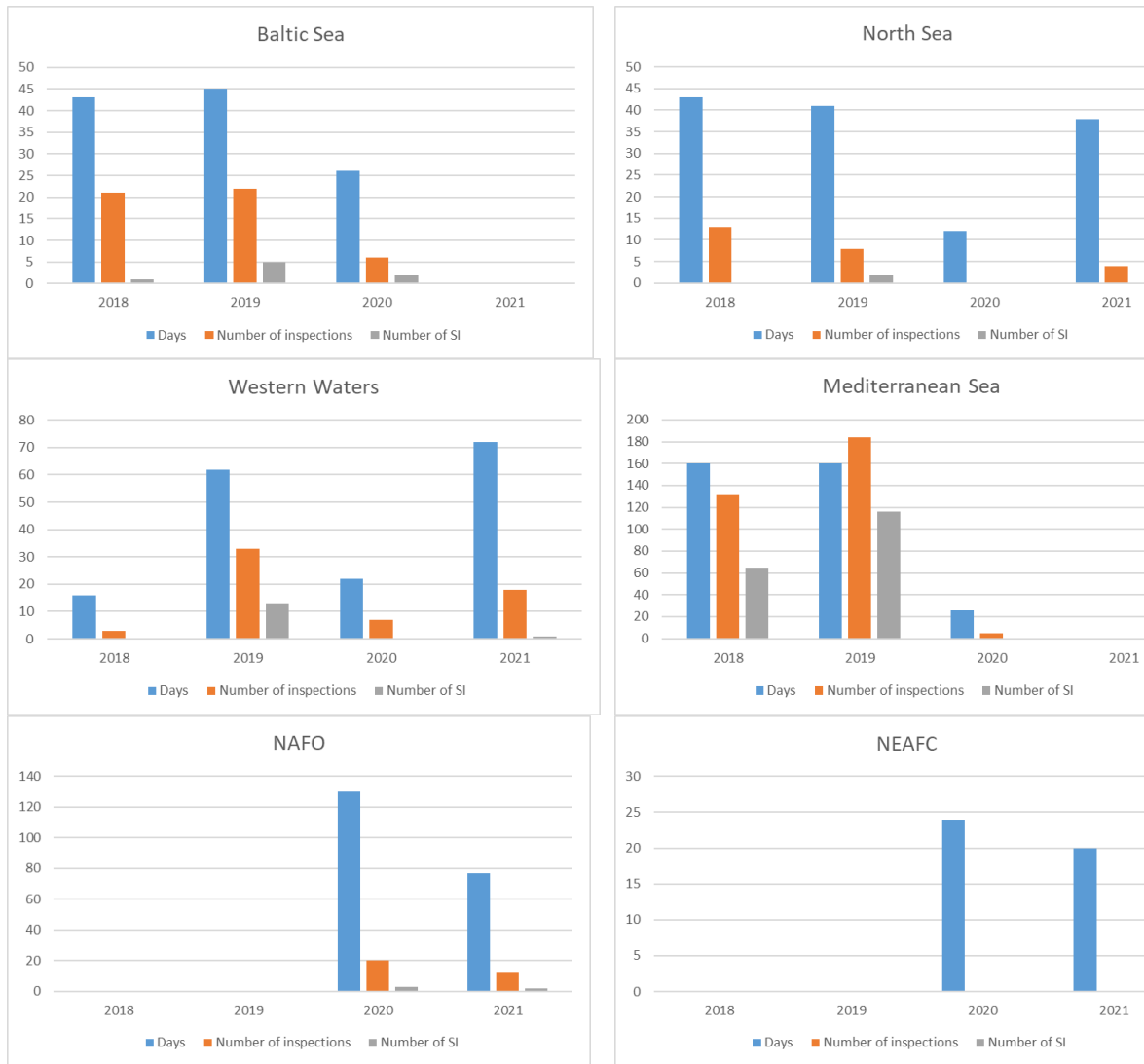


Figure 4: Lundy Sentinel, operational days, number of inspections and suspected infringements by JDP area for the period 2018-2021.

The OPV has added capacity to the control means of the Member States, beyond the territorial waters of the Member States. In addition, fisheries control operations in general provide an outstanding first-hand insight into the status of compliance in fisheries and offers the capacity to address them through the SG and TJDG, and also to facilitate a ‘fine tuning’ of the annual risk assessments.

Remotely Piloted Aircraft System

A Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS) has been operated on board OPV Lundy Sentinel since September 2018 to support maritime surveillance and fisheries control and inspection. The system is a light quadcopter (2.3 kg, battery powered) and the deployment of this system from on board the OPV is considered as an experience profiting also Member States inspectors on board. The endurance of the RPAS is limited to around 35 minutes and the working range is 2,5 Nm (4,5 km) from the target. The RPAS sensors have proven to be able to provide good image and video footage quality. Table 3 provides an overview of the number of flights performed between 2019 and 2021. In general, the operation of the RPAS is conditioned by winds above 10 m/s.

Table 3 - Number of RPAS flights by patrol dates and geographical area.

Dates	Geographical Area	Number of RPAS flights
2019		
1 - 14 Sep 19	Central Med	5 surveillance flights 9 test/training flights Totals 14 flights
16 - 29 Sep 19	Central Med / Adriatic Sea	9 surveillance flights 1 test/training flight Totals 10 flights
01 - 13 Oct 19	Central Med / Adriatic Sea	13 surveillance flights 6 test/training flights Totals 19 flights
15 - 29 Oct 19	Western Med North Atlantic	9 surveillance flights 1 test/training flight Totals 10 flights
31 Oct - 20 Nov 19	North Atlantic	4 surveillance flights
	Gulf of Biscay North Sea	1 test/training flight Totals 5 flights
22 Nov - 04 Dec 19	Baltic Sea	8 surveillance flights 1 test/training flight Totals 9 flights
06 – Dec – 11 Dec	Baltic Sea	0 Flights (poor weather conditions)
2020		
15 Jan. – 27 Jan. 2020	Baltic Sea	4 Surveillance Flights Total 4 flights
29 Jan. – 10 Feb. 2020	Baltic Sea	7 Surveillance Flights Total 7 flights
12 Feb. – 24 Feb. 2020	North Sea	0 Flights (poor weather conditions) Total 0 flights
26 Feb. – 09 March	Western Waters	5 Surveillance flights 1 training/test flight Total 6 flights
13 March – 20 March 2020	Western Waters	1 Surveillance flight
27 June – 22 July 2020	Mediterranean Sea	19 Surveillance flights 2 training/test flight Total 21 Flights
10 Aug. – 14 Sep. 2020	NAFO/NEAFC	16 Surveillance flights 3 training/test flight Total 19 Flights
06 Oct – 12 Nov 2020	NAFO/NEAFC	7 Surveillance flights 0 training/test flight Total 7 Flights
14 Nov – 13 Dec 2020	NAFO/NEAFC	5 Surveillance flights 2 training/test flight Total 7 Flights

Dates	Geographical Area	Number of RPAS flights
2021		
13 Jan. – 28 Jan. 2021	Western Waters	7 Flights 5 during Insp 1 Sight 1 training night flight
02 Feb. – 16 Feb. 2021	Western Waters North Sea	2 Flights 0 during Insp 1 Sight 1 Training
18 Feb. – 08 Mar. 2021	Western Waters North Sea	9 Flights 8 During Insp 1 Night Flight
11 Mar/ - 26 Mar. 2021	Western Waters North Sea	8 Flights 5 During inspection 1 test flight
16 Apr. – 07 May 2021	Mediterranean and NEAFC	11 Flights 8 During inspection 2 test flight 1 aborted flight
09 May – 29 May 2021	Mediterranean and NEAFC	7 Flights 6 During inspection 1 test flight
31 May – 24 June 2021	NAFO	6 Flights 5 During inspection 1 test flight
14 Jul. – 04 Aug. 2021	Western Waters and North Sea	3 Flights 3 During inspection
06 Aug. – 04 Sep. 2021	NAFO	12 Flights, 2 during inspection + 1 Test flight
06 Sep. – 27 Sep. 2021	NAFO	5 Flights during inspection + 2 Test flight
18 Oct. – 07 Nov. 2021	NEAFC	1 OPS Flight
09 Nov. – 25 Nov. 2021	North Sea	3 OPS Flight 2 during inspections
27 Nov. – 17 Dec. 2021	North Sea	1 OPS Flight 1 during inspections

The core task of the RPAS is to support pre-boarding phase, through enabling checks of the security and safety conditions for the inspection team before the actual boarding, during boarding and when leaving the inspected vessel. Other tasks are related to fisheries control e.g. observing behaviour on-board that might suggest potential infringements such as: discarding, use of illegal gear and identification of fishing activity in prohibited areas or during closure season. Furthermore, the RPAS video is also reviewed by the boarding team and the master of the vessel in order to perform a post boarding assessment to facilitate the continued improvement of procedures.

Exchange of inspectors

The OPV has also provided a platform for the exchange of inspectors between Member States. Table 4 indicates the number of inspectors deployed on board the OPV in 2018, 2019 and 2020 by Member State and 3rd countries.

Table 4 - Number of inspectors from Member States on board Lundy Sentinel

Member States	Lundy Sentinel					Aegis		
	2018	2019	2020	2021	Total		2021	Total
Belgium	5	2	1	1	9		-	9
Bulgaria	5	-	-	-	5		-	5
Croatia	3	3	-	-	6		-	6
Cyprus	1	2	-	-	3		-	3
Denmark	3	3	2	1	9		-	9
Estonia	-	3	-	2	5		-	5
Finland	-	2	-	-	2		-	2
France	2	4	2	2	10		-	10
Germany	3	3	1	-	7		-	7
Greece	4	5	-	-	9		-	9
Ireland	3	-	2	4	9		6	15
Italy	16	17	-	-	33		-	33
Latvia	4	4	1	-	9		1	10
Lithuania	1	1	2	1	5		-	5
Malta	5	6	-	-	11		-	11
Netherlands	4	1	-	-	5		-	5
Poland	3	2	1	-	6		-	6
Romania	4	-	-	-	4		-	4
Portugal	-	3	2	6	11		1	12
Spain	9	6	1	4	20		1	21
Sweden	2	2	-	1	5		-	5
Total	77	69	15	22	183		9	192

Table 5 - Number of third country observers or inspectors on board Lundy Sentinel between 2018 and 2021.

Third Countries	2018	2019	2020	2021	Total
Albania	-	2	-	-	2
Algeria	8	2	-	-	10
Bosnia and Herzegovina	-	1	-	-	1
Libya	-	1	-	-	1
Montenegro	-	1	-	-	1
Norway	-	-	-	1	1
Tunisia	8	2	-	-	10
Ukraine	2	-	-	-	2
United Kingdom	-	-	-	1	1
Total	18	9	0	2	29

Due to the availability of the OPV for the deployment of various MS inspectors, it has contributed to the standardisation of inspection methods, information sharing and the promotion of best practices (e.g. the use of check lists, the use of the electronic mesh gauges, performing the last haul inspections).

The EFCA is carefully following the performance of the OPV; following each patrol a performance report is produced by the EFCA Liaison Officer on board (LOB) which is submitted to EFCA and analysed. In addition, MS representatives have an opportunity to submit their observations on the performance of the OPV. No significant issues have been reported. Safety, security and other related elements are duly addressed by EFCA and discussed with the company Sentinel Marine Ltd and the flag state (Portugal).

As mentioned in previous sections, during the COVID-19 crisis, some 2020 operational days were on stand-by as a quarantine period and preventive measure. However, during these periods the OPV was available to support multipurpose maritime operations under the framework of European cooperation on Coast Guard functions in support of MS competent authorities, if requested by specific EU MS and/or an EU agency.

5. Conclusion

Considering the above mentioned technical and operational performance elements it can be concluded that the EFCA chartered OPVs are efficient and performing well.

The OPVs have proven to be important platforms for the exchange of experience and are serving as a testbed for emerging technologies (such as the use of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems) for fisheries control. Also, the OPVs provide permanent availability and access to fisheries control surveillance systems on board (such as the Integrated Maritime Service for fisheries and Copernicus acquisitions), and opportunity for MS inspectors to increase their experience in their use. All of which demonstrate the significant added value of the OPVs.

Also, during the COVID-19 crisis and in spite of the vast and numerous restrictions in Europe in 2020 and 2021, EFCA was still able to develop an alternative plan and to get the maximum out of the OPV operations. The OPVs maintained activities during the whole period of the crisis to perform fisheries control and inspection and to support other coast guard functions.

ANNEX II: STATISTICS ON FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Description	Result/ Figures of the period	
	2021	2020
Budget implementation % of commitment appropriations (C1)	99.1%	97.3%
Budget implementation % of payment appropriations (C1)	74.5%	81.2%
Budget implementation % of commitment appropriations excluding salaries (chapters 11 and 12) (C1)	100.7%	98.8%
Implementation of carried over appropriations (C8)	82.9%	93.5%
Budget implementation % of PESCAO grant (R0 to implement in 2018-2022)	53%	36%
Budget implementation % of commitment appropriations (C1, R0, C4)	96.4%	97.4%
Budget implementation % of payment appropriations (C1, C8, R0, C4)	74.0%	80.7%
Payment delay	0.8%	2%

Budget Implementation (C1)

STAFF EXPENDITURE				Commitments (€)			Payments (€)			Carried Forward	
Chapter	Description	Budget 2021	Transfers	CA (€)	Committed	%	PA (€)	Paid	%	€	%
1.1	Staff in active employment	8,604,000	-140,000	8,464,000	8,444,038	100%	8,464,000	8,373,308	99%	70,730	1%
1.2	Expenditure related to recruitment	220,000	-92,000	128,000	100,714	79%	128,000	98,764	77%	1950	2%
1.3	Administrative missions and duty travel	70,000	-7,000	63,000	5,628	9%	63,000	3,187	5%	2,441	4%
1.4	Socio-medical infrastructure, training	147,000	30,300	177,300	160,212	90%	177,300	58,183	33%	102,029	58%
1.7	Reception and representation expenses	2,000	-200	1,800	0	0%	1,800	0	0%	0	0%
	TOTAL TITLE I	9,043,000	-208,900	8,834,100	8,710,592	99%	8,834,100	8,533,442	97%	177,151	2%

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENDITURE				Commitments (€)			Payments (€)			Carried Forward	
Chapter	Description	Budget 2021	Transfers	CA (€)	Committed	%	PA (€)	Paid	%	€	%
2	Rental of building and associated costs	413,000	-51,000	362,000	358,254	99%	362,000	320,588	89%	37,666	10%
2.1	Data processing expenditure and associated costs	723,300	85,300	808,600	807,837	100%	808,600	502,219	62%	305,618	38%
2.2	Movable property and associated costs	108,000	-48,600	59,400	56,841	96%	59,400	18,185	31%	38,656	65%
2.3	Current administrative expenditure	45,700	-8,400	37,300	35,795	96%	37,300	19,116	51%	16,679	45%
2.5	Meeting expenses	72,000	-60,500	11,500	11,408	99%	11,500	11,408	99%	0	0%
2.6	Supplementary Services	380,000	-41,700	338,300	336,529	99%	338,300	210,316	62%	126,214	37%
2.7	General Info/Communications	55,000	46,000	101,000	100,655	100%	101,000	37,834	37%	62,821	62%
	TOTAL TITLE II	1,797,000	-78,900	1,718,100	1,707,319	99%	1,718,100	1,119,667	65%	587,653	34%

OPERATIONAL EXPENDITURE				Commitments (€)			Payments (€)			Carried Forward	
Chapt er	Description	Budget 2021	Transfer s	CA (€)	Committed	%	PA (€)	Paid	%	€	%
31	JDP´s, Operational plans and Pilot Projects	550,000	-228,600	321,400	314,278	98%	321,400	191,008	59%	123,270	38%
32	Risk assessment and Data Analysis	520,000	-266,100	253,900	224,599	88%	253,900	144,720	57%	79,878	31%
33	International dimension: compliance with international provisions	550,000	26,000	576,000	571,832	99%	576,000	91,240	16%	480,592	83%
34	Coast Guard and Capacity Building	110,000	-103,500	6,500	6,251	96%	6,500	4,944	76%	1,307	20%
	TOTAL TITLE III	8,430,000	860,000	9,290,000	9,269,857	100%	9,290,000	5,556,524	60%	3,713,333	40%

	Description	Budget 2020	Transfer s	CA (€)	Committed	%	PA (€)	Paid	%	€	%
	TOTAL BUDGET	21,000,000	0	21,000,000	20,804,728	99%	21,000,000	15,641,545	74%	5,163,183	25%

Budget Implementation (C8)

STAFF EXPENDITURE

Chapter	Description	Carry forward 2020-2021	Paid	Cancelled	% Paid
1.1	Staff in active employment	19,649	16,621	3,028	85%
1.3	Administrative missions and duty travel	90.10	-	90.10	0%
1.4	Socio-medical infrastructure, training	25,119	19,018	6,102	76%
	TOTAL TITLE I	44,859	35,639	9,220	79%

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENDITURE

Chapter	Description	Carry forward 2020-2021	Paid	Cancelled	% Paid
2	Rental of building and associated costs	37,514	35,043	2,472	93%
2.1	Data processing expenditure and associated costs	347,552	347,152	399	100%
2.2	Movable property and associated costs	44,724	44,724	0	100%
2.3	Current administrative expenditure	11,066	10,877	189	98%
2.5	Meeting expenses				
2.6	Supplementary Services	57,547	51,247	6,300	89%
2.7	General Info/Communications	39,857	38,906	951	98%
	TOTAL TITLE II	538,260	527,949	10,311	98%

OPERATIONAL EXPENDITURE

Chapter	Description	Carry forward 2020-2021	Paid	Cancelled	% Paid
30	ICT Support and Infrastructure Operational	134,902	123,960	10,942	92%
31	JDP's, Operational plans and Pilot Projects	79,578	72,282	7,296	91%
32	Risk assessment and Data Analysis	538,692	192,203	346,489	36%
33	International dimension: compliance with international provisions				
34	Coast Guard and Capacity Building	1,383,013	1,302,567	80,446	94%
	TOTAL TITLE III	2,136,185	1,691,012	445,174	79%

	Description	Carry forward 2020-2021	Paid	Cancelled	% Paid
	TOTAL BUDGET	2,719,305	2,254,600	464,705	83%

Table Budget outturn and cancellation of appropriations

Budget outturn	2019	2020	2021
Revenue actually received (+)	17,279,871	17,696,710	21 530 538
Payments made (-)	-14,818,472	-14,079,299	-16 183 202
Carry-over of appropriations (-)	-2,698,742	-3,283,568	-5 806 790
Cancellation of appropriations carried over (+)	136,104	154,635	464 705
Adjustment for carry over of assigned revenue appropriations from previous year (+)	360,524	113,013	564 264
Exchange rate differences (+/-)	-328	-361	-6 848
Adjustment for negative balance from previous year (-)			
Total	258,957	601,130	562 667

Budget outturn justification

The budget outturn has decreased slightly in respect of 2020 outturn, mainly due to the higher budget implementation of 2021.

The revenue and carry over figures in 2021 include the funds received for one ad-hoc grant for PESCAO with an implementation period 2018-2022 (R0 fund source).

Cancellation of commitment appropriations

The unused commitment appropriations in 2021 represent 0.9% of the total commitment appropriations of 2021. This includes all the fund sources with commitment appropriations (C1, C4 and R0).

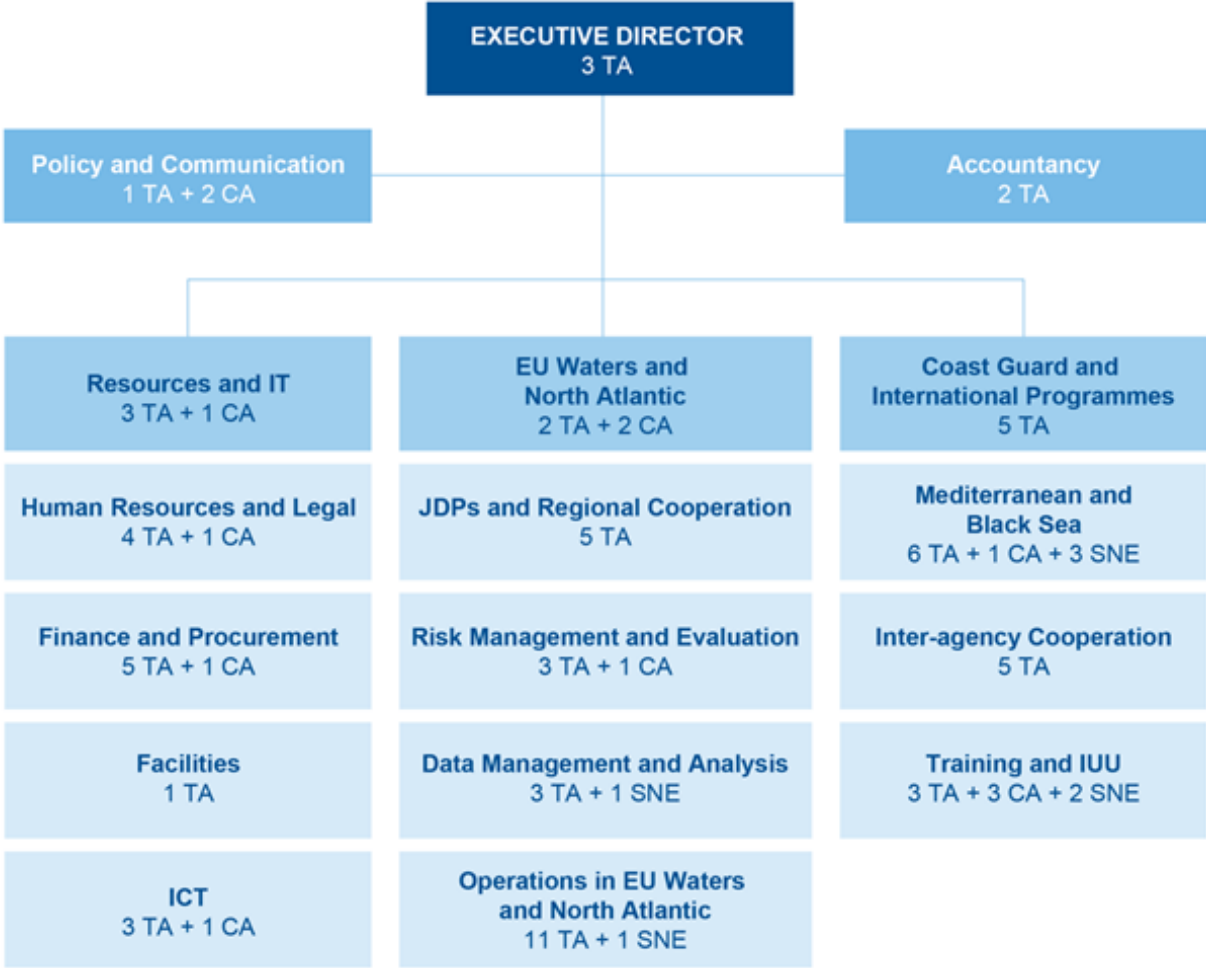
Cancellation of payment appropriations and payment appropriations carried over

The total cancellation of payment appropriations in 2021 was 2.6%. This includes the ad-hoc grants revenue and amounts carried forward from 2020.

In respect to cancellation of the C1 payment appropriations, in 2021 EFCA executed 99.1% of its budget and did not consume 0.9% of the payment appropriations.

The appropriations entered as R0 and not used in 2021 have been automatically carried forward for its use in 2022.

ANNEX III: ORGANISATION CHART



ANNEX IV: ESTABLISHMENT PLAN AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Category	2021			
	Authorised under the EU Budget		Filled as of 31/12/2021 ⁹⁷	
	Officials	TA	Officials	TA
AD 16				
AD 15		1		1
AD 14		2		2
AD 13		1		1
AD 12		2		2
AD 11		2		2
AD 10		7		7
AD 9		5		5
AD 8		11		11
AD 7		3		3
AD 6				
AD 5				
TOTAL AD		34		34
AST 11				
AST 10		6		6
AST 9		3		3
AST 8		3		3
AST 7		8		8
AST 6		2		2
AST 5		7		7
AST 4		2		2
AST 3				
AST 2				
AST 1				
TOTAL AST		31		31
TOTAL AST/SC				
TOTAL		65		65

⁹⁷ This includes job offers sent before 31 December 2021.

Information on the entry levels for each type of post

Key functions (examples)	Type of contract (official, TA or CA)	Function group, grade of recruitment (or bottom of the brackets if published in brackets)	Indication whether the function is dedicated to administrative support or operational or neutral
Operational			
Head of Department, Deputy Director, etc.	Not applicable		
Head of Unit (level 2)	TA	AD9	Operational
Head of Sector (level 3)	TA	AD7	Operational
Senior Officer	TA	AD7	Operational
Officer, Specialist	TA	AD6	Operational
Officer	TA	AD5	Operational
Senior Assistant	TA, CA	AST10-11, FG III	Operational
Assistant	TA, CA	AST1, FG II	Operational
Assistant to the Director	TA	AST4	Operational
Support			
Head of Administration (level 2)	TA	AD11	Support
Head of Sector (level 3)	TA	AD7	Support
Senior Officer	TA	AD7	Support
Officer, Specialist	TA	AD6	Support
Officer	TA	AD5	Support
Senior Assistant	TA, CA	AST10-11, FG III	Support
Assistant	TA, CA	AST1, FG II	Support
Head of Human Resources	Not applicable		
Head of Finance	Not applicable		
Head of Communication	Not applicable		
Head of IT	Not applicable		
Webmaster- Editor	Not applicable		
Secretary	CA	FG II	Support
Mail Clerk	Not applicable		
Data Protection Officer	TA, CA	AD/ AST 6, FG IV	Support
Accounting Officer	TA	AD9	Neutral
Internal Auditor	Not applicable		

Human resources by job type**Human resources by job type 2020 and 2021**

EFCA carried out a benchmarking exercise following the Methodology for agencies job screening. The analysis was made for the situation of 2020 and 2021. The results are displayed in the table below and allow a comparative view on the allocation of human resources (measured by working time) into predefined types of activities.

Job Type (sub) category	2020	2021
Administrative support and Coordination	25.4%	24.8%
Administrative Support	22.4%	22.0%
Coordination	3%	2.8%
Operational	65.2%	66.0%
Top level Operational Coordination	2.4%	2.2%
Programme management & Implementation	48.3%	49.4%
Evaluation & Impact assessment	4.3%	4.0%
General Operational	10.2%	10.4%
Neutral	9.4%	9.2%
Finance/Control	9.4%	9.2%
Linguistics	0%	0%
Total	100%	100%

ANNEX V: HUMAN AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES BY ACTIVITY

ACTIVITIES	2021 execution			2022			2023			2024		
	TA	CA & SNE (FTE)	Budget allocated	TA	CA & SNE (FTE)	Budget allocated	TA	CA & SNE (FTE)	Budget allocated	TA	CA & SNE (FTE)	Budget allocated
Operational coordination	23.8	6.2	4,475,451	28.9	5.2	5,704,834	28.9	5.2	5,850,000	28.2	5.6	6,504,278
Assistance to cooperation	9.9	3.9	2,939,898	10.6	3.9	4,533,103	10.6	3.9	4,650,000	11.7	3.6	4,272,623
International dimension	7.3	1.2	1,275,729	6.3	1.2	1,442,319	6.3	1.2	1,500,000	8.7	1.0	1,854,047
EU cooperation in Coast Guard	7.4	0.2	12,113,650	11.4	0.2	17,659,744	11.4	0.2	17,757,000	8.7	0.1	17,605,051
TOTAL	48.4	11.4	20,804,728	57.3	10.35	29,340,000	57.3	10.4	29,757,000	57.3	10.4	30,236,000

ANNEX VI: CONTRIBUTION, GRANT AND SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT. FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS

	General information					Financial and HR impacts				
	Actual or expected date of signature	Total Amount	Duration	Counterpart	Short description		2021	2022	2023	2024
Grant Agreements										
1. PESCAO - Commission Decision C(2017)2951	28/04/2017	2,585,000	5 years		Improved regional fisheries governance in the region through better coordination of national fisheries policies Financed under 11th European Development Fund (EDF)	Amount	621,000	1,117,797	p.m	p.m
			(2018-2022)			No CA	3	4	4	4
						No SNE	1	2	2	2
2. Cooperation with Algeria	(Pending to be signed)					Amount		1,000,000	-	-
						No CA		1	1	1
						No SNE		1	1	1
Contribution Agreements										
1. Virtual regional training academy on fisheries control and inspection (e-fishmed)	15/12/2021	1,000,000	3 years		Virtual regional training academy on fisheries control and inspection (e-Fishmed)	Amount		1,000,000	-	-
			(2022-2025)			No CA		2.3	2.3	2.3
						No SNE				
2. Coastguard qualifications network and the CGF handbook	08/12/2021	2,437,500	5 years		Coastguard qualifications network and the CGF handbook	Amount		2,437,500	-	-
			(2022-2027)			No CA		3.7	3.7	3.7
						No SNE				
3. Study on the weighing process of fisheries products	06/12/2021	837,100	2 years		Study on the weighing process of fisheries products	Amount		837,100	-	-
			(2022-2024)			No CA		4	4	4
						No SNE				
Service level Agreements										
1.EMSA	28/03/2018	No revenues		EMSA	SLA between the EFCA and EMSA for the MARSURV service	Amount				
						No CA				
						No SNE				

	General information					Financial and HR impacts				
	Actual or expected date of signature	Total Amount	Duration	Counterpart	Short description		2021	2022	2023	2024
2.EMSA/FRONTEX/EFCA	17/03/2017	No revenues	4 years	EMSA/FRONTEX/EFCA	Tripartite Working Arrangement	Amount				
						No CA				
						No SNE				
3.FRONTEX	26/07/2018	No revenues		FRONTEX	MoU for the Inter Institutional Procurement on Aerial Surveillance Services	Amount				
						No CA				
						No SNE				
4.FRONTEX	06/02/2017	No revenues	1 year (automatically extended each year)	FRONTEX	SLA between EFCA and Frontex for the joint use of Frontex capability - Aerial and maritime surveillance in support of EFCA activities	Amount				
						No CA				
						No SNE				
5.SRFC, FCWC, ISMI	15/03/2019	No revenues	2021 onwards tacit renewal every year	SRFC, FCWC, ISMI	MoU between EFCA, SRFC, FCWC and the Regional Academy of Science and Technology of the Sea for optimising the training in the scope of Pescao	Amount				
						No CA				
						No SNE				
6.French Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Directorate	24/09/2010	No revenues	2012 onwards tacit renewal every year	French Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Directorate	Cooperation in Capacity building activities	Amount				
						No CA				
						No SNE				
TOTALS										
						Amount	621,000	6,392,397	p.m	p.m
						No CA	3	15	15	15
						No SNE	1	3	3	3

ANNEX VII: ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT

1. EFCA environmental management strategy

In 2019, EFCA adopted its Environment Policy (ED Decision 2019/02) with the objective of:

- Obtaining the EMAS certification
- Decrease the EFCA impact on the environment
- Develop and implement an internal and external environmental communication strategy

while maintaining its overall core business efficiency.

2. Agency's project for an environmental management system

EFCA is currently working towards the obtention of the EMAS (Eco-Management and Audit Scheme) Certification that will be the cornerstone for all improvement actions.

3. Environmental aspects, indicators, actions, and targets

EFCA activities have both direct and indirect impacts on the environment. Under the future EMS and in the scope of the EMAS certification, EFCA will monitor the following indicators:

- Energy efficiency: total direct energy use, including renewable energy use;
- Material efficiency: annual mass-flow of different materials used;
- Water: total annual water consumption;
- Waste: total annual generation of waste, including hazardous waste;
- Biodiversity: use of land;
- Emissions: total annual emission of greenhouse gases and total annual air emission.

EFCA is already has taken actions in order to reduce its environmental impact:

- Green procurement: in most of the procurement procedures launched, at least one criterion is focusing on the efficient environmental behaviour of the potential tenderers. Furthermore, all Open Call for Tender procedures are launched via the e-tendering system of the EU institutions, permitting the reception of electronic offers and saving thousands of printed pages each year.
- Electricity consumption: Led Lighting has been fitted in 80% of the EFCA premises with an expected reduction of the electricity consumption on these areas.
- Paper and toner consumption VS electronic circulation and digital signature: EFCA has established a series of electronic workflows for the circulation of documents, avoiding multiple copies. In the same way, the electronic signature has been generalized and around 95% of the documents are electronically signed.
- Systematic separation of residues: all "domestic" residues are separated and treated accordingly by the contractor in charge. The same applies to the electrical and electronic material and equipment that the Agency is decommissioning. A specialized contractor oversees the retirement, scrapping and separation of the materials proceeding from these residues, and, where possible, gives a second life to the declassified electrical and electronic equipment.

Each year will target on the improvement of one of the indicators listed (ex: 5% reduction of toner consumption)

4. Communication
The Environmental results of the EFCA will be communicated internally via intranet and to the stakeholders via the Annual Report.
5. Other Aspects
<p>Offsetting of CO2 emissions: Emissions related to operational activities at sea (emissions of the EFCA chartered FPV/MPV) and to mission flights travel may be compensated by the adhesion to a carbon-offsetting scheme, still to be defined.</p> <p>Collaboration with other Agencies and Institutions: EMAS, ISO 14001, Carbon Offsetting, environmental initiatives, are few of the various subjects on which the EFCA is collaborating with other Agencies and Institutions in the framework of the Greening Network and of the GIME.</p>



ANNEX VIII: ANNUAL ACCOUNTS⁹⁸

BALANCE SHEET 31 December 2021	31/12/2021 (provisional)	31/12/2020 (final)	Variation
ASSETS			
NON- CURRENT ASSETS	324.864	268.071	56.793
Intangible assets	11.562	25.832	-14.270
Property, plant and equipment	313.302	242.239	71.063
CURRENT ASSETS	7.316.092	4.527.214	2.788.878
Short-term pre-financing	363.559	97.593	265.966
Short-term receivables	562.360	530.994	31.366
Cash and cash equivalents	6.390.173	3.898.627	2.491.546
TOTAL ASSETS	7.640.956	4.795.285	2.845.671
LIABILITIES			0
NON- CURRENT LIABILITIES	0	0	0
CURRENT LIABILITIES	2.206.820	1.928.989	277.831
Provisions for risks and charges	0	2.644	-2.644
Accounts payable	1.115.855	725.238	390.617
Other financial liabilities	528.298	599.689	-71.391
Accounts payable with EC	562.667	601.418	-38.751
TOTAL LIABILITIES	2.206.820	1.928.989	277.831
TOTAL NET ASSETS	5.434.136	2.866.296	2.567.840
Accumulated surplus/deficit	2.866.296	2.625.906	240.390
Result of the Year	2.567.840	240.390	2.327.450

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE (SFP)	2021 (provisional)	2020 (final)	Variation
REVENUES			
Revenues from EU subsidy	20.437.333	16.298.870	4.138.463
Other non-exchange operating revenue	593.567	373.816	219.751
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE	21.030.900	16.672.686	4.358.214
EXPENSES			0
<u>Operational expenses</u>	<u>-7.536.357</u>	<u>-5.659.066</u>	<u>-1.877.291</u>
<u>Administrative expenses</u>	<u>-10.925.309</u>	<u>-10.772.354</u>	<u>-152.955</u>
All Staff expenses	-8.587.152	-8.334.388	-252.764
Fixed assets related expenses	-173.529	-157.242	-16.287
Other administrative expenses	-2.160.575	-2.280.363	119.788
Net foreign exchange result	-4.053	-361	-3.692
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	-18.461.666	-16.431.420	-2.030.246
Interest Income	99	137	-38
Other Financial expenses	-1.493	-1.013	-480
TOTAL FINANCIAL RESULT	-1.394	-876	-518
SFP – Result of the Year	2.567.840	240.390	2.327.450

⁹⁸ The information presented above is an extract of the EFCA 2021 Provisional Annual Accounts which are still subject to audit by the External auditors. It is thus possible that amounts included in these tables may have to be adjusted.

ANNEX IX: MATERIALITY CRITERIA

According to current EC guidelines and reporting instructions as well as best practices, a reservation should be included in the annual declaration of assurance in the context of the annual activity reporting on the basis of the materiality criteria.

Even if no reservation has been issued, the Agency should explain the materiality criteria that are applicable in its operations.

On the basis of the materiality criteria, the Authorising Officer is enabled to determine significant deficiencies that would lead to a formal reservation in the declaration of assurance.

The types of possible weaknesses that are considered include:

- Significant occurrence of errors in the underlying transactions (legality and regularity) detected during the controls or supervision exercises;
- Significant control system weaknesses;
- Insufficient audit coverage and/or inadequate information from internal control systems;
- Critical issues outlined by the European Court of Auditors, the Internal Audit Service and the European Anti-Fraud Office (Office européen de lutte antifraude – OLAF);
- Significant reputational events.

Materiality includes qualitative and quantitative criteria.

From a qualitative point of view, significance of a weakness is judged on the basis of:

- Nature and scope of the weakness;
- Duration of the weakness;
- Existence of satisfactory compensatory measures (mitigating controls);
- Existence of probably effective corrective actions (action plans).

From a quantitative point of view, a weakness is considered material and could lead to reservation if the financial impact or risk of loss is greater than 1% of the total budget (excepting salaries) or if it implies a significant reputational risk.

The materiality level is subject to a yearly review.

ANNEX X: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR KPI'S

Executive Director KPI's		
KPIs in Relation to Operational Objectives		
• <i>To provide evidence of the Agency performance</i>		
Deliverable	Target	Achieved
Timely submission of the draft AWP (SPD)	100%	100%
Percentage of completion of the activities of the AWP	> 80%	98,6%
Timely achievement of objectives of the AWP	> 80%	100%
KPIs in Relation to Management of Financial and Human Resources		
a) <i>To provide evidence of the swift, timely and full use of the financial resources allocated by the budgetary authorities</i>		
Deliverable	Target	Achieved
Rate (%) of implementation of Commitment Appropriations	>95%	99.1%
Rate (%) of cancellation of Payment Appropriations	<5%	2.6%
Rate (%) of outturn (Total payments in year N and carry-forwards to Year N+1, as a % of the total EU funding and fee income, where applicable, received in Year N)	>95%	97.4%
Rate (%) of payments executed within the legal/contractual deadlines	> 98%	99.2%
b) <i>To provide evidence of timely improvements in the adequacy and effectiveness of internal control systems</i>		
Deliverable	Target	Achieved
Rate (%) of external and accepted internal audit recommendations implemented within agreed deadlines	100%	100%
c) <i>To provide evidence of the level of staff wellbeing</i>		
Deliverable	Target	Achieved
Average vacancy rate (% of authorised posts of the annual establishment plan which are vacant at the end of the year, including job offers sent before 31st December)	<5%	0%
Annual average number of days of short-term sick leave per staff member (excluding week ends and public holidays)	<6	2.6
Number of complaints under Article 90 (2) SR with a positive outcome per 100 staff members	≤ 5	0

ANNEX XI: LIST OF THE MOST RELEVANT ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AAC	Aquaculture Advisory Council
AB	Administrative Board
ABAC	Accrual Based Accounting
ABB	Activity Based Budgeting
ABM	Automatic Behaviour Monitoring
ABMS	Activity Based Management System
AC	Advisory Council
ACTREP	Activity Report
AD	Action Document
AD	Administrator (Staff)
ADDs	Acoustic Deterrent Devices
AENOR	Spanish Association for Standardization and Certification
AGM	Advanced Gateway to your Meetings
AIS	Automatic Identification Systems
ARES	Advanced Records System
ARVI	Cooperativa de Armadores de Pesca del Puerto de Vigo
ASP	Annual Strategic Plan
AST	Assistant (Staff)
ATLAS	Sysper module to facilitate the ABB and also to facilitate the yearly job screening exercise
ATS	Sysper module for stand by duty time management
AWP	Annual Work Programme
BALTFISH	Baltic Sea Control Expert Group
BAPT	Budget Programming and execution automation project
BCP	Business Continuity Plan
BFT	Bluefin Tuna
BIS	Black Sea
BMS	Below Minimum Size
BS	Baltic Sea
BSAC	Baltic Sea Advisory Council
C8	Carried over appropriations fund source type
CA	Contract Agent
CATCH IT	EU-wide database for seafood import catch documentation
CC	Coordination Centre
CCTV	Closed-circuit television
CECAF	Fisheries Ccommittee for the Eastern Central Atlantic
CECIS	Common Emergency Communication Information System
CEG	Control Expert Group
CFP	Common Fisheries Policy
CG	Coast Guard
CGGS	Coast Guard Global Summit
CISE	Common Information Sharing Environment
CMS	Copernicus Maritime Surveillance Service
COM	Communication from European Commission
DPO	Data Protection Officer
eBCD	Electronic Bluefin Catch Document Programme
eBCD TWG	Technical Working Group for the Electronic Bluefin Catch Document Programme
EC	European Commission
ECA	European Court of Auditors
ECGFA-NET	European Coast Guard Functions Academy Network Project
ECGFF	European Coast Guard Function Forum
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
eCV	Sysper module for the staff to enter their Electronic Curriculum
ED	Executive Director
EDA	European Defence Agency
EDG	Editorial Drafting Group

EDPS	European Data Protection Supervisor
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EFCA	European Fisheries Control Agency
EFCA IMS	EFCA Integrated Maritime Service
EIR	Electronic Inspection Report
e-ISR	Electronic Inspection & Surveillance Report
EMAS	EU Eco-Management and Audit Scheme
EMFAF	European Maritime Fisheries and aquaculture Fund
EMPACT	European multidisciplinary platform against criminal threats
EMS	Environmental Management Strategy
EMSA	European Maritime Safety Agency
EO	Earth Observation
EP	European Parliament
ERS	Electronic Recording and Reporting System
ESA	European Space Agency
EU	European Union
EUAN	European Agencies' Network
EUCG	European Coast Guard
EUDPR	Data Protection Regulation applicable to Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies (OJ L 295, 21.11.2018)
EUIPO	European Union Intellectual Property Office
EUMOFA	European Market Observatory for fisheries and aquaculture
EUMSS	European Union Maritime Security Strategy
EUROJUST	European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation
EUROPOL	European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation
EUSPA	European Union Agency for the Space Programme
EU-UK TCA	EU and UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement
EVAL	Sysper module for the appraisal of staff
F4E	Fusion for Energy
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FAQs	Frequently Asked Questions
FCWC	Fisheries Committee of the West Central Gulf of Guinea
FFR	Framework Financial Regulation
FIUUFRA	Fighting Illegal Unreported and Unregulated Fisheries Fishing Regional Academy
FLUX	Fisheries Language for Universal Exchange
FMC	Fisheries Monitoring Centre
FPV	Fisheries Patrol Vessel
FR	Financial Regulation
FRA	Fisheries Restricted Area
FRONTEX	European Border and Coast Guard Agency
FSA	Frontex Surveillance Airplanes
FTE	Full-time equivalent
FWA	Fixed Wing Aircraft
GANo	Grand African Nemo
GFCM	General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean
GIME	Groupe Interinstitutionnel de Management Environnemental
GIP	General Implementation Provisions
GNR/PT	Guarda Nacional Republicana Portugal
GOVSATCOM	European Union Governmental Satellite Communications
HR	Human Resources
IAS	Internal Audit Service
ICCAT	International Commission for the Conservation of the Atlantic Tuna
ICES	International Council for the Exploration of the Sea
ICF	Internal Control Framework
ICT (also IT)	Information and Communication Technology
IMS	Integrated Maritime System (former MARSURV)
INTERPOL	The International Criminal Police Organization
IUU	Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing

ISMI	Institut de Sécurité Maritime Interrégional
ISMS	Information Security Management System
ISO	International Organisation for Standardisation
ITSC	Information Technology Steering Committee
JAD	Joint Action Day
JaDE	Joint deployment plan Activity Database
JDP	Joint Deployment Plan
JPG	Japan Coast Guard
JRC	Joint Research Centre
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
LCK	Legal Commitment Kernel
LDAC	Long Distance Advisory Council
LH	Last haul
LO	Landing Obligation
LOB	Liaison Officer on board
LRIT	Long-Range Identification and Tracking
LSC	Legal Size Catch
MCRS	Minimum Conservation Reference Size
MCS	Monitoring, control and surveillance
MCSWG	Monitoring Control and Surveillance Working Group
MDA	Maritime Domain Awareness
MED	Mediterranean
MedAC	Mediterranean Advisory Council
MED-OSMoSIS	Mediterranean Governance for Strategic Maritime Surveillance and Safety Issues
MIPS	Mission Processing System
MMO	Multipurpose Maritime Operation
MOC	Maritime Coordination Centre
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MPV	Multipurpose Patrol Vessel
MRCC	Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre
MS	Member State
MSC	Mediterranean specific campaigns
MWP	Multiannual Work Programme
NACGF	North Atlantic Coast Guard Forum
NAFO	Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Operation
NAFO CEM	NAFO Control and Enforcement Measures
NEAFC	Northeast Atlantic Fisheries Commission
NS	North Sea
NSAC	North Sea Advisory Council
NWWAC	North Western Waters Advisory Council
OA	Operational Action
OJ	Official Journal
OLAF	European Anti-Fraud Office/Office européen de lutte antifraude
OPV	Offshore Patrol Vessel
PAD	Public Access to Documents
PARA	Post-Activity Risk Assessment
PCR	Polymerase chain reaction
PE21	Phoenix Express 2021
PECMAC	Permanent Committee on Monitoring and Compliance
PELAC	Pelagic Advisory Council
PDN	Performance Development Network
PPMT	Public Procurement Management Tool
PRO	Sysper module for the reclassification of staff
PWG	Permanent Working Group
QES	Qualified Electronic Signature
R0	Assigned revenue appropriations fund source type
RA	Regulatory Area
REM	Remote Electronic Monitoring
RFMO	Regional Fisheries Management Organization

RPAS	Remotely Piloted Aircraft System
RSW	Refrigerated Sea Water
RTC	Real time closure
SAP	Systems Applications and Products
SAR	Search and Rescue
SatCen	European Union Satellite Centre
SatCom	Satellite communication
SCIP	Specific Control and Inspection Programme
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SFC	Specialised Fisheries Committee
SG	Steering Group
SGTEE	Steering Group on Training and Exchange of Experience
SI	Suspected infringements
SITREP	Situation Report
SLA	Service Level Agreement
SNE	Seconded National Expert
SPD	Single Programming Document
SQF	Sectoral Qualification Framework
SQFCGF	Sectoral Qualifications Framework for Coast Guard Functions
SRFC	Subregional Fisheries Commission
STACTIC	Standing Committee on International Control
SUMMA	Financial system of the Commission
SWO	Swordfish
SWW	South West Waters
TA	Temporary Agent
TCA	Trade and Cooperation Agreement
TJDG	Technical Joint Deployment Group
TMR	Technical Measures Regulations
ToR	Terms of Reference
TSC2	Technical Subcommittee No2
TWA	Tripartite Working Arrangement
UN	Unknown
UNE/EN	Spanish Association for Standardization/European Standard
VAC	Vacancies
VCN	Virtual Coordination Network
VDS	Vessel Detection Service
VMS	Vessel Monitoring System
VOO	Vessel of Opportunity
WG	Working Group
WW	Western Waters

ANNEX XII: LIST OF ISO COUNTRY CODES

Albania	AL	Ivory Coast/ Côte d'Ivoire	IC
Algeria	DZ	Japan	JP
Belgium	BE	Latvia	LV
Benin	BJ	Lebanon	LB
Bosnia and Herzegovina	BA	Liberia	LR
Bulgaria	BG	Libya	LY
Cabo Verde/Cape Verde	CV	Lithuania	LT
Canada	CA	Malta	MT
China	CN	Mauritania	MR
Congo	CG	Montenegro	ME
Croatia	HR	Morocco	MA
Cyprus	CY	Netherlands	NL
Czech Republic	CZ	Nigeria	NG
Denmark	DK	Norway	NO
Ecuador	EC	Panama	PA
Egypt	EG	Poland	PL
Estonia	EE	Portugal	PT
Faroe Islands	FO	Philippines (the)	PH
Finland	FI	Romania	RO
France	FR	Russian Federation	RU
Gambia	GM	Senegal	SN
Georgia	GE	Serbia	SR
Germany	DE	Sierra Leone	SL
Ghana	GH	Slovenia	SI
Greece	EL	Spain	ES
Greenland	GL	Sweden	SE
Guinea	GN	Syrian Arab Republic	SY
Guinea Bissau	GW	Togo	TG
Iceland	IS	Tunisia	TN
Iran	IR	Turkey	TR
Ireland	IE	Ukraine	UA
Italy	IT	United Kingdom	UK