



EFCA
European Fisheries Control Agency



2020

A year in review



**This publication summarises the main results as gathered in the Annual Report 2020,
the full text of which can be found at <https://www.efca.europa.eu/en/content/annual-report-2020>**

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Ensure the rationalisation, simplification, scalability and streamlining of EFCA's processes.

List of acronyms

AB	Administrative Board.	JAD	Joint Action Day.
AC	Advisory Council.	JDP	Joint Deployment Plan.
AR	Annual Report.	JISS	Joint Inspection and Surveillance Scheme.
CEG	Control Expert Group.	MS	Member States.
CFP	Common Fisheries Policy.	NAFO	Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation.
DG MARE	Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries.	NEAFC	Northeast Atlantic Fisheries Commission.
EMSA	European Maritime Safety Agency.	NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation.
ERS	Electronic Reporting System.	OPV	Offshore Patrol Vessel.
EUCG	European Union Coast Guard.	PACT	Partnership, Accountability, Cooperation and Transparency.
EUMSS	European Union Maritime Security Strategy.	RA	Regulatory Area.
FCWC	Fisheries Committee for the Western Central Gulf of Guinea.	REM	Remote Electronic Monitoring.
FISHNET	Fisheries Information System.	RFMO	Regional Fisheries Management Organisation.
FRONTEX	European Border and Coast Guard Agency.	RPAS	Remotely Piloted Aircraft System.
GFCM	General Fisheries Commission for Mediterranean.	SCIP	Specific Control and Inspection Programme.
ICAAT	International Commission for the Conservation of the Atlantic Tuna.	SG	Steering Group.
ICT (also IT)	Information and Communication Technologies.	SRFC	Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission.
IMS	Integrated Maritime System.	TWA	Tripartite Working Agreement.
IUU	Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (Fishing).	WW	Western Waters.



Foreword



Pascal Savouret
Executive Director

The fourth issue of A Year in Review provides a summarised version of the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) Annual Report 2020, and presents the main activities undertaken and results of the year. In 2020 EFCA successfully implemented its core tasks of operational coordination of fisheries control across the EU, as well as its contribution to the EU cooperation on Coast Guard despite the prevailing circumstances.

Following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Agency had to adapt its business model to the situation. This included a health protocol to ensure safer conditions of inspectors in operations on board of the EFCA inspection platform, as well as the response to the request of assistance to the European Commission through a specific risk analysis and development of actions to mitigate the lowered monitoring and control levels caused by the sanitary restrictions.

The Agency supported the Member States and the Commission in the implementation of the control regime of the Common Fisheries Policy [CFP] through the coordination of the Joint Deployments Plans [JDP] and the implementation of capacity building operations in the framework of the international dimension.

Also, in close cooperation with the Commission and the Member States, the Agency carried out important preparatory work to face the possible consequences for fisheries control deriving from Brexit in the framework of North Sea and the Western Waters of the Atlantic Joint Deployment Plans.

Moreover, the Agency assisted the Member States Control Expert Groups in areas such as risk assessment, compliance evaluation, and specific provisions relating to the Landing Obligation and remote electronic monitoring technologies through the promotion and development of standardised methods.

These activities are firmly embedded in the European Green Deal through their contribution to sustainable food systems and safeguarding biodiversity as well as by contributing to a Sustainable Blue Economy. By assisting national authorities to comply with the Common Fisheries Policy, EFCA contributed to create a level playing field in the EU fisheries.

The European Cooperation on Coast Guard functions, formalised by a tripartite working arrangement with EMSA and Frontex, enhanced EFCA's capacity to support the effective and uniform implementation of the CFP. In 2020 the Agency was notably involved in the delivery of the first version of the Practical Handbook on EUCG.

All the achievements were possible due to the strong commitment and flexibility of EFCA staff who moved to telework on 10 March 2020 and always ensured the business continuity of EFCA's activities.

The aim of this publication is to give the public and any interested party an accessible, reliable and objective information on EFCA's role and achievements of the year in the fisheries Monitoring, Control and surveillance domain and a record of the agency's ambition to deliver high level services to the citizens of the European Union, through the Member States authorities, and the Union institutions.

Getting to know the EFCA

What is the Agency's history?

EU governments agreed to establish the Agency in the 2002 reform of the CFP as part of the drive to instill a culture of compliance within the fisheries sector across Europe. In April 2005, they adopted the necessary legislation¹.

In 2016 EFCA's mandate was extended by Regulation (EU) 2016/1626, strengthening the cooperation on coast guard functions with the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) and the European

Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA). Therefore, in cooperation with Frontex and EMSA, each within its mandate, EFCA supports the national authorities carrying out coast guard functions by providing them with services, information, equipment and training, as well as by coordinating multipurpose operations.

In the interests of clarity and rationality, the Agency's Founding Regulation was codified in 2019 by Regulation (EU) 2019/473 of the European Parliament and of the Council, in force since 14 April 2019.

EFCA has its official seat in Vigo, Spain.



Mission

The objective of the Agency 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, helping to ensure its effective and uniform application.

Vision and values

EFCA will function at the highest level of excellence and transparency with a view to developing the necessary confidence and cooperation of all parties involved and, in so doing, to ensure effectiveness and efficiency of its operations.

The added value of the work of the agency lies in its contribution to a European-wide level playing field for the fishing industry so that European obligations are observed by everyone and everyone in the sector is treated equally, wherever they might be operating.

Secondly, it contributes towards sustainable fisheries by enhancing compliance with existing conservation and management measures to the benefit of present and future generations.

¹ www.efca.europa.eu/en/content/legal-basis



How does EFCA coordinate the EU Member States?

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

The Joint Deployment Plans

Referred to as EU or international waters, JDPs are the **principal instrument of coordination**.

The PACT approach

The PACT (Partnership, Accountability/Compliance, Cooperation & Transparency) approach is an additional option of assistance, when requested by one or more Member States in accordance with EFCA's Regulation.

What is a SCIP?

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. 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 2020 applied to:

- Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean²
- Black Sea
- Baltic Sea
- North Sea
- Western Waters of the Eastern Atlantic

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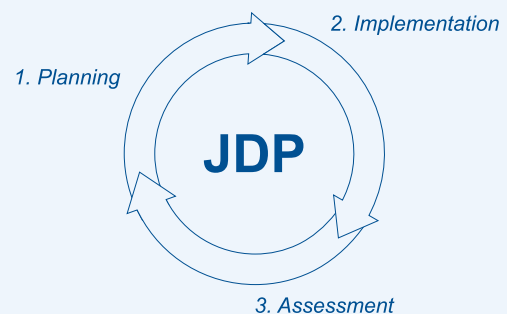


What is a JDP?

The Joint Deployment Plans are established for fisheries 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:

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

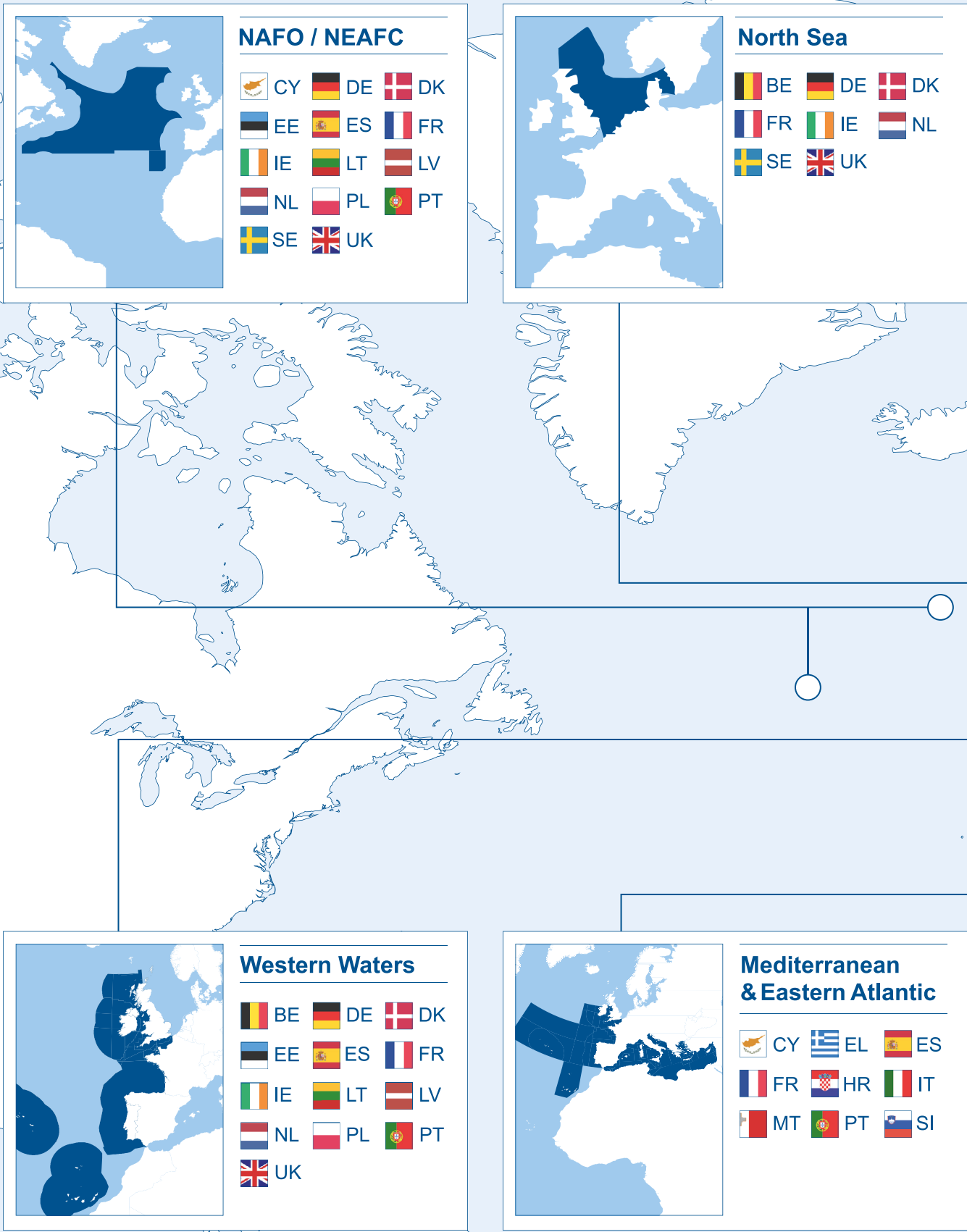
The JDP is implemented through a year-round continuous campaign. EFCA coordinates the deployment of control means in operational areas and the implementation of joint control operations through a Technical Joint Deployment Group. The coordination covers the implementation of specific actions and specific 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.

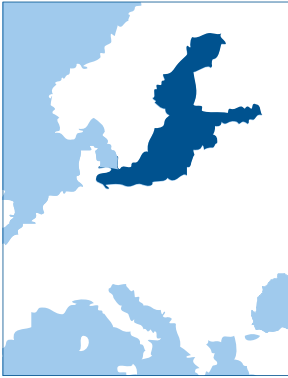
3. Assessment

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.

² Only Bluefin tuna fisheries (BFT) in the Eastern Atlantic

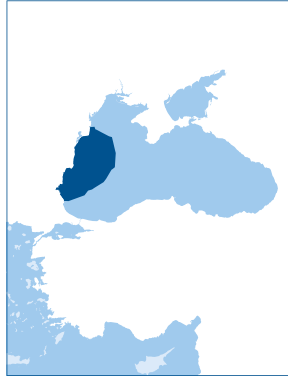
Implementation of JDP in EU Waters and International Waters in 2020



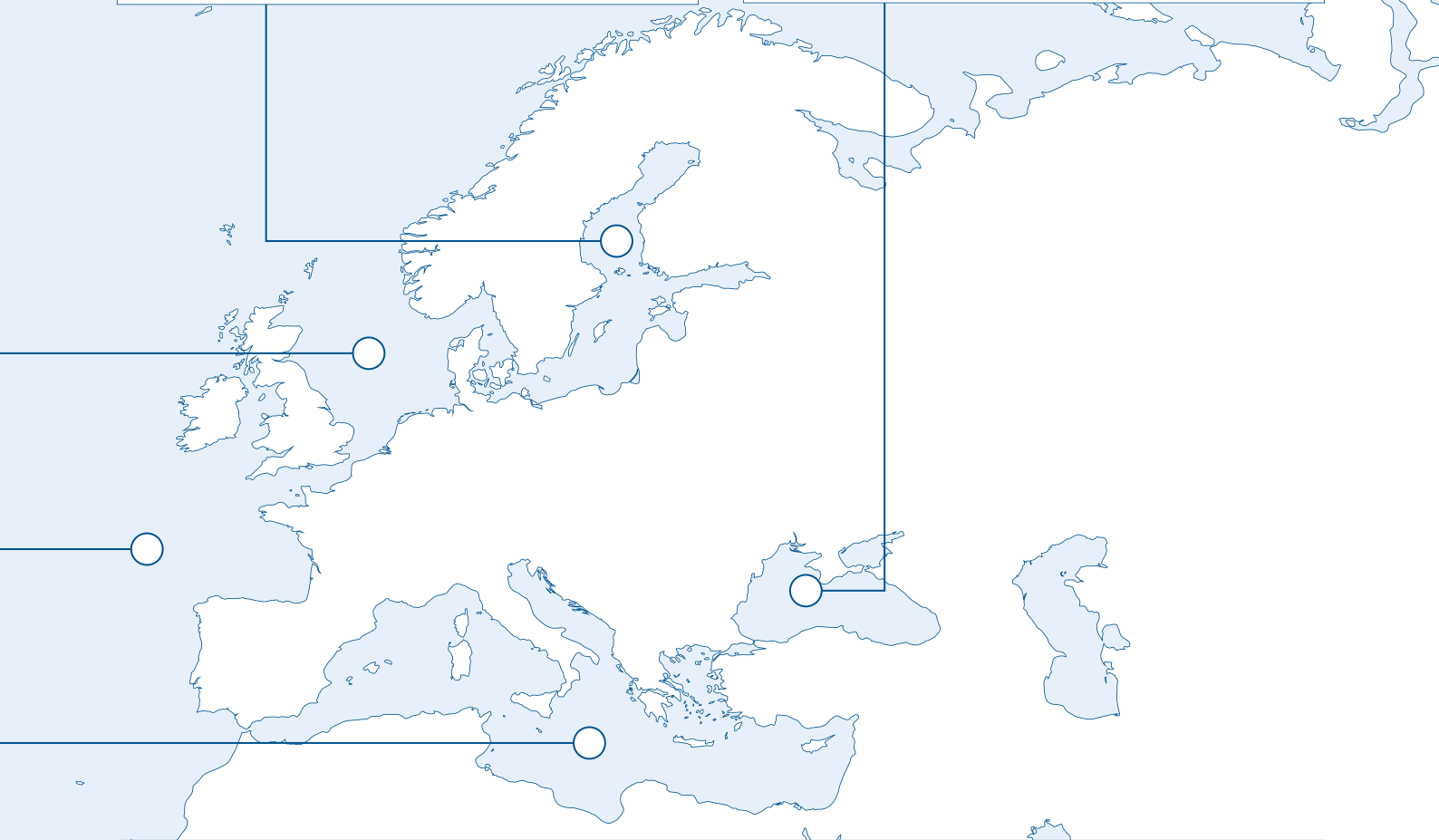
Baltic Sea

DE	DK	EE
FI	LT	LV
PL	SE	



Black Sea

BG	RO
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Country codes

DE Germany	BE Belgium	CY Cyprus	DK Denmark	EE Estonia	EL Greece	ES Spain
FI Finland	HR Croatia	IE Ireland	IT Italy	LT Lithuania	LV Latvia	MT Malta
FR France	NL Netherlands	PL Poland	PT Portugal	SE Sweden	SI Slovenia	UK* United Kingdom

**The UK remained within the territorial scope of the EU acquis until 31/12/2020*

How have JDPs evolved over the years?

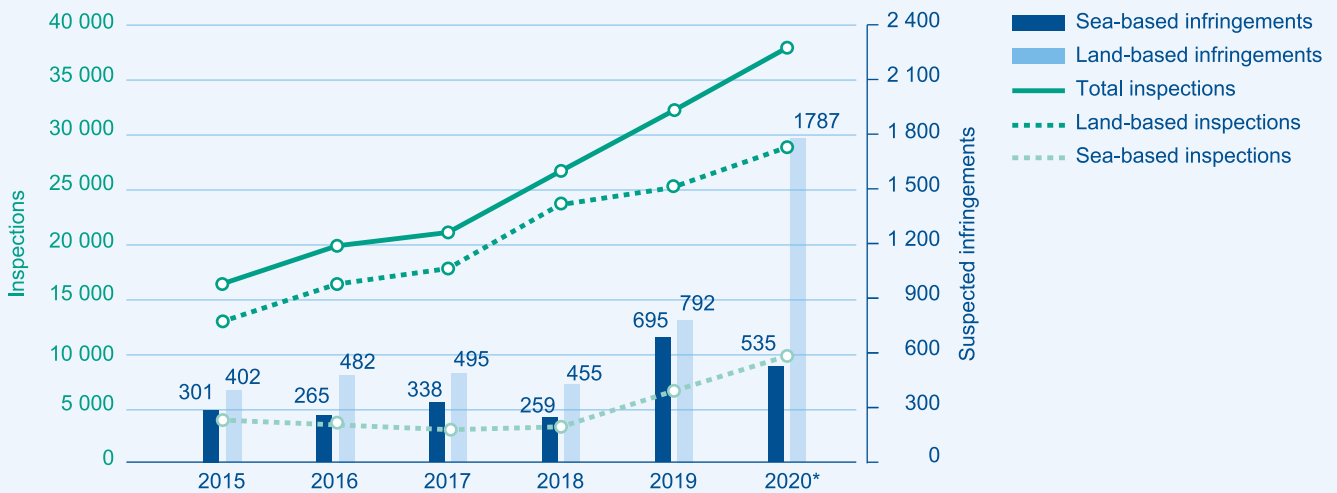
Currently, all JDPs are multiannual operations following the time framework defined in the SCIPs with control activities planned for each year on the basis of the results of regional risk assessment: Member States assess the existing risks with regard to fish stocks, areas, periods and fleet segments exploiting these stocks, in accordance with the methodology established in cooperation with EFCA.

The JDPs have continued to be a platform for information exchange and for collecting reference data on catch composition, which are key inputs for risk assessment and contribute to compliance evaluation.

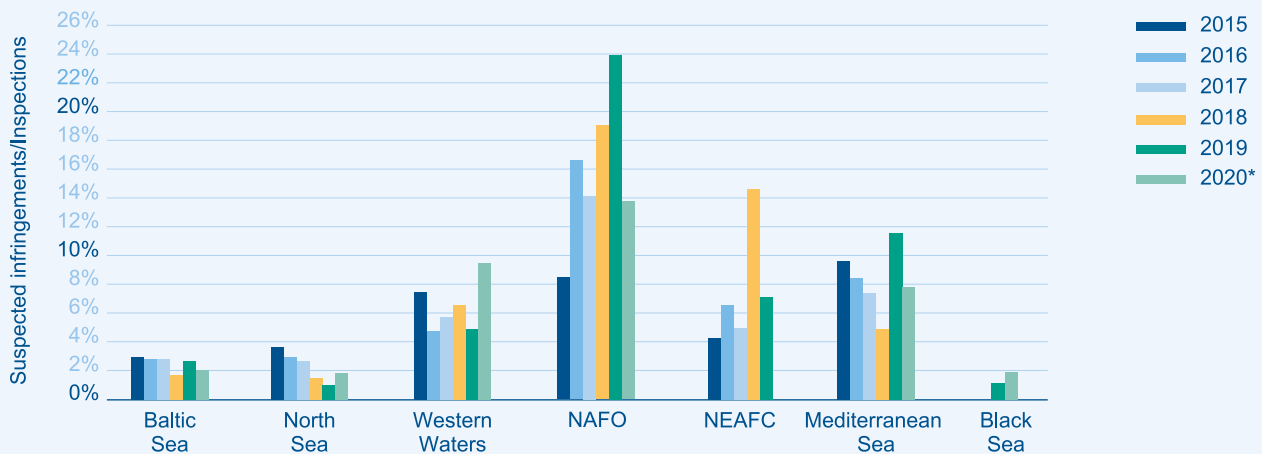
This joint coordination has contributed to Member States making optimal use of human and other resources, and enhanced the potential of national enforcement services in the application of CFP rules in a uniform and effective manner.

JDP Evolution

JDPs inspections and suspected infringements



Ratio of suspected infringements by inspection in the different JDP areas



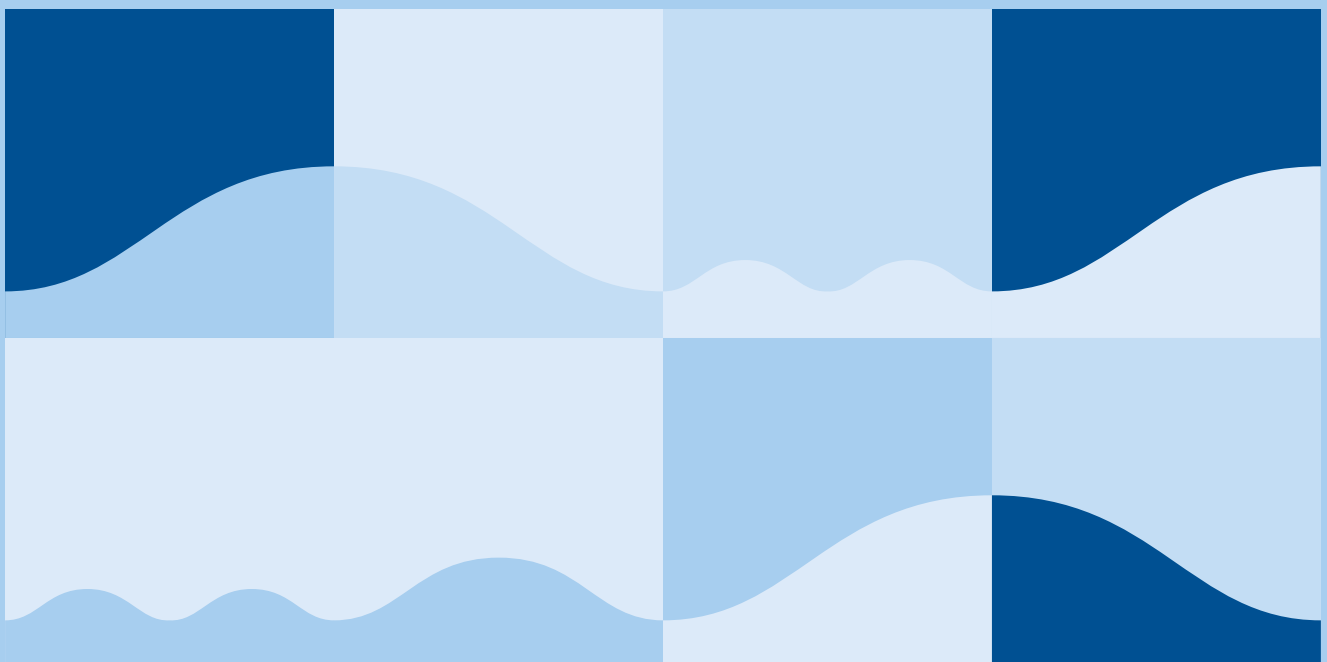
*Data available on 31 January 2021. Additional data may be received later from Member States.



Part I

Achievements of the year

Main results 2020



JDP main results in 2020

Through the use of Joint Deployment Plans (JDPs) co-ordination EFCA has 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 2020 the EFCA Coordination Centre activities were implemented online via a “Virtual Coordination Centre”, which allowed EFCA staff, national experts and personnel from other Agencies, to participate in the daily coordination activities during the specific campaigns and surveillance operations. All JDP activities, training actions and meetings with MS experts and other stakeholders were delivered as planned.

In 2020 all six JDPs (NAFO/NEAFC, North Sea, Baltic Sea, Black Sea, Western Waters, and Eastern Atlantic & Mediterranean) were implemented, with adjustments due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The cooperative efforts led to 38 452 coordinated inspections, and 1 787 suspected infringements detected.

EFCA conducted the annual assessment of JDP costs referred to the previous year. The overall cost evaluation for implementing JDPs in 2019 amounted to approximately €77 million.

EFCA’s chartered patrol vessel was operational for 335 days and provided a robust platform for fisheries inspections leading to a total of 40 inspections and 5 suspected infringements detected. The EFCA chartered OPV contributed to the implementation of JDPs in the EU sea basins by adding capacity to fisheries control operations outside the territorial waters of MS and providing a platform to deploy multinational Member State inspection teams.

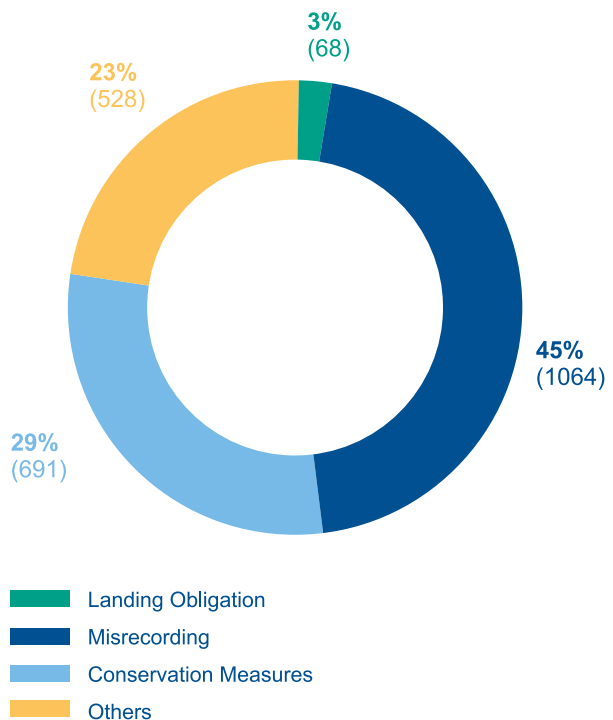
This promoted transparency and a level playing field and fostered a good exchange of knowledge and expertise. It also provided a first-hand understanding of fisheries situations in terms of compliance, to enable the fine tuning of risk assessments.

³ OJ L 317, 14.12.2018, p. 29–46

Suspected infringements by type and by JDP

In 2020 misreporting of catches and technical measures remained the most common non-compliance issues.

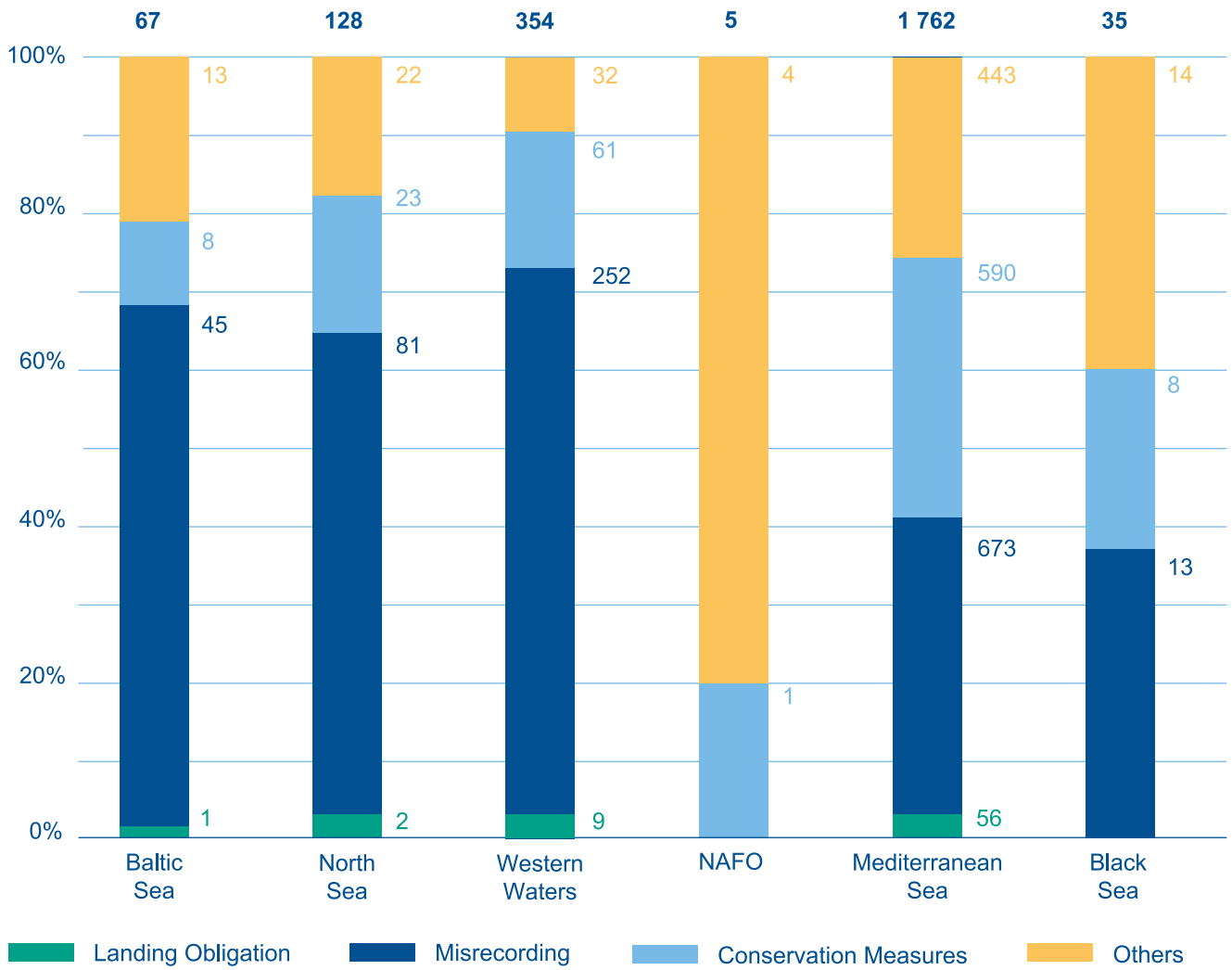
Suspected infringements by type and by Joint Deployment Plan (JDP)*



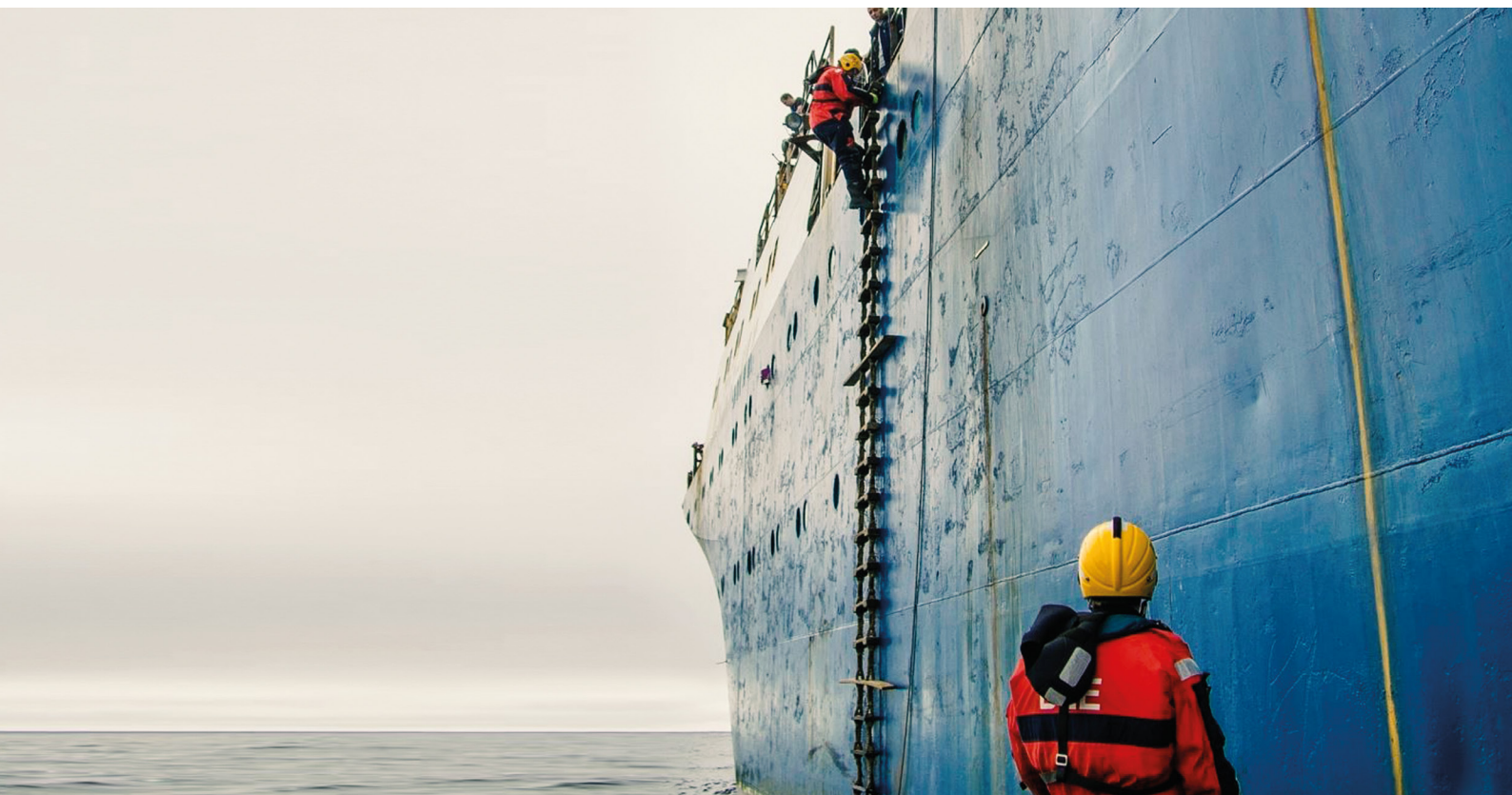
*Data available on 31 January 2021.



Overall classification of the suspected infringements



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ANTI COVID MEASURES

In 2020 the Agency adapted its operations to the challenges caused by COVID-19 and implemented 90% of the annual work programme, including the JDPs. The good cooperation with other EU Agencies, such as EMSA and Frontex continued.

Supporting the Union and the Member States

EFCA carried on assisting the Member States and the EU including to fulfil its international control and inspection obligations. As requested by the European Commission, EFCA analysed the impact of COVID-19 on fisheries inspections and enforcement. Specific actions were adapted to mitigate the risks linked to the lowered monitoring and control levels due to sanitary restrictions.

The operational plan of the OPV Lundy Sentinel had to be changed and adapted prioritising the implementation of the rules from RFMOs, such a NEAFC and NAFO.

Ensuring safer conditions for inspectors

The Member States operated under their nationally established health protocols. EFCA maintained the sharing of its operational capacity (e.g. OPV Lundy Sentinel) deployed in line with an established health safeguarding protocol. Two levels of measures were adopted for joining the EFCA chartered ship and for inspecting fishing vessels.

Moving to other inspection instruments

The Agency focused on available inspection tools such as data monitoring and analysis, based on the EFCA methodology for compliance indicators, and using also additional surveillance flights in cooperation with Frontex, deployment of drones within the cooperation with EMSA, and the analysis of satellite images from Copernicus.

Meetings, trainings and workshops

EFCA embraced new aspects of webinar technology to promote engagement and mitigate the absence of the face-to-face interaction. Interactivity remained a key element of great value to actively share views and experience.

Most of the meetings and training actions with EFCA stakeholders have been maintained; all JDPs, training actions and meetings with MS experts and other stakeholders planned were delivered, and webinar trainings had a more numerous attendance.

Corporate level

Due to the teleworking arrangements as a result of the pandemic situation, all processes and procedures were adapted. In 2020 most of the objectives of the e-Administration project were achieved earlier than expected.

10 March 2020

EFCA staff moved to structured teleworking

10 June 2020

A small percentage of staff resumed work from the headquarters

03 September 2020

Back to structured teleworking until the end of the year

In December the Spanish Certification Agency AENOR approved and certified the phased plan and protocols established by EFCA for a gradual return to the office to face COVID-19.



2020 in numbers



38 452

EFCA-coordinated inspections



1 787

Suspected infringements



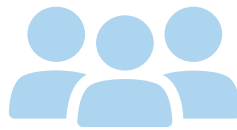
1 000

Officials in the EFCA e-learning platform



16 900 000

Budget (EUR)



73

EFCA staff members

Firsthand



Cristina Morgado

Deputy Head of Unit EU Waters and North Atlantic

“ Specific actions address priority fisheries threats, targeted inspections, sharing of fisheries related data and collection of inspection data for further analysis.

We ensure the overall coordination of JDPs. Member States experts are appointed to a Joint Coordination Team deployed to the EFCA Coordination Centre. ”



Carlos Couce

Seconded National Expert (Spain)

“ JDPs involve inspection teams composed of Member States inspectors and EFCA staff.

Thanks to all EFCA Fisheries Information Systems, we can get the positions of the fishing vessels deployed at sea practically in real time. All needed information is exchanged to facilitate fisheries control at sea and ashore. ”

Objective 1

Implementation of JDPs and assistance to the Member States and the European Commission in EU Waters and North Atlantic.

Expected results

1. Improved compliance, level playing field and cost-effectiveness in the North Sea, Baltic Sea, Western Waters and NAFO / NEAFC areas.
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.
4. Assistance to Member States, Regional Bodies and the European Commission in the implementation of the CFP, including the landing obligation.

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In 2020 EFCA continued coordinating the JDPs in the Baltic Sea, North Sea and Western Waters areas through joint campaigns in accordance with the plan adopted by the respective Steering Groups (SG). Following 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 30 specific actions proposed in the framework of the three JDPs.

The commitments agreed in the respective JDPs decisions were complied with until mid-March, period after which MS adapted the deployment of control assets in line with the national restrictive measures.

EFCA organised a series of meetings in cooperation with the concerned Member States and the European Commission to improve preparedness for scenarios related to Brexit. As part of the mitigation measures, both for an agreement and non-agreement scenario, a key objective was to develop a common situational awareness picture at regional level, through the continuous exchange of data, information and intelligence. Developing this common situational awareness picture would be facilitated by the EFCA Coordination Centre, joint with a virtual network of Fisheries Monitoring Centres and contact points of the Member States. EFCA performed a risk assessment only for the non-agreement scenario and committed to performing a risk assessment for the agreement scenario, after the new agreement would be in place and the stipulations in the agreement would be analysed.

EFCA used the framework of the JDPs to enhance the standardisation of inspections, in particular, through last haul observation procedures during inspections at sea in all EU JDP areas and the sampling procedure for unsorted pelagic landings in the Baltic Sea area.

The Agency organised regional workshops trainings and best practice meetings for Union inspectors, inspectors and Member States staff involved in the implementation of joint campaigns. It should be underlined that, in comparison to the previous years, the webinar format has more than doubled the participation to these trainings by MS inspectors.

The Agency also developed guidance documents for inspectors on best practices for conducting RTC

sampling as well as a video tutorial on Real Time Closures in the North Sea.

The EU kept committed to an inspection presence in the NAFO and NEAFC Regulatory Areas, based upon the number of EU fishing vessels operating in these areas. In 2020, following the cancellation of some missions by Member States due to the COVID-19 situation, EFCA chartered OPV Lundy Sentinel was deployed in NAFO and NEAFC Regulatory Areas (5 sea going missions) in order to fulfil the EU commitments. One mixed team was deployed for inspection of fishing vessel landing fish from NAFO Regulatory Areas (NAFO RA) in a EU port, coordinated by EFCA remotely.

In the context of this JDP, EFCA continued to contribute to the standardised assessment of risk for NAFO vessels landing in the ports of Member States, as well as in the development of NAFO port inspection guidelines.

EFCA maintained its efforts to support the Union in the framework of the Coastal States.

The cooperation with the Control Expert Groups (CEGs) of the main regional bodies such as the Control Expert Groups of Baltic Sea (BALTFISH), North Sea (Scheveningen), North Western Waters (NWW) and South Western Waters (SWW) continued.

In reply to a request from the Baltic Sea Control Expert Group, EFCA finalised the exercise of evaluation of compliance with the landing obligation for cod, plaice, herring, sprat and salmon in the Baltic Sea, for the period 2017 – 2018.

What are the regional CEGs?

The Regional Control Expert Groups (CEGs) are constituted by representatives MS control authorities' which aim to strengthen cooperation in fisheries control and enforcement.

CEGs have been particularly involved in the implementation of the landing obligation (LO) in the context of a regionalised CFP.

EFCA supports the CEGs in areas such as risk assessment, cooperation with industry and compliance evaluation.

⁴Executive Summary available at: [Compliance Evaluation | EFCA \(europa.eu\)](https://www.efca.europa.eu/en/compliance-evaluation)

Objective 2

Implementation of JDPs and assistance to the Member States and the European Commission in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea.

Expected results

1. Improved compliance, level playing field and cost-effectiveness in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea areas.
2. Increased synergies and transparency between the participating Member States.
3. Support to the EU in relation to RFMOs and third countries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea.
4. Assistance to Member States, including to Regional Bodies, and the European Commission in the implementation of the CFP, including the landing obligation.

In 2020, for the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, control means were deployed in accordance with the agreed JDP schedule. Moreover, within the framework of EU cooperation on coast guard functions in the Strait of Sicily, Adriatic Sea, Black Sea and Cyprus, Member States capacity for fisheries surveillance was increased in cooperation with Frontex.

EFCA continued coordinating both Joint Deployment Plans, permitting optimal coverage of the relevant fisheries with the allocated fisheries control resources deployed by the Member States concerned and EFCA in these regions. These were campaigns implemented in accordance with the plan adopted by the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Steering Group and Black Sea SG. The latter also covered the EU obligations under the ICCAT Joint Scheme of International Inspection and the GFCM International Joint Inspection and Surveillance Scheme in the Strait of Sicily.

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 Technical Joint Deployment Groups (TJDG) mainly via videoconference.

A continuous effort was 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





Objective 3

Promotion of a risk management based approach and compliance evaluation.

Expected results

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.

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.

Compliance indicators were further developed in 2020, namely those to calculate illegal discard rates, the estimation of the species misrecording in the Baltic Sea on unsorted pelagic landings, and salmon catches reported as sea trout, and the use of illegal gear in the beam trawler fleet in the North Sea. This work was conducted based on data collected during last haul programme and dedicated specific actions. Risk management was conducted at fleet segment level of several JDP areas.

In addition, in 2020 EFCA worked on the improvement of the Post-Activity Risk Assessment (also known as PARA) to assist landings of vessels that have been operating the NAFO Regulatory Area.

EFCA's information systems enabled the collection of data from each Member State providing details of

their fishing vessels, catches and other such information. 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:

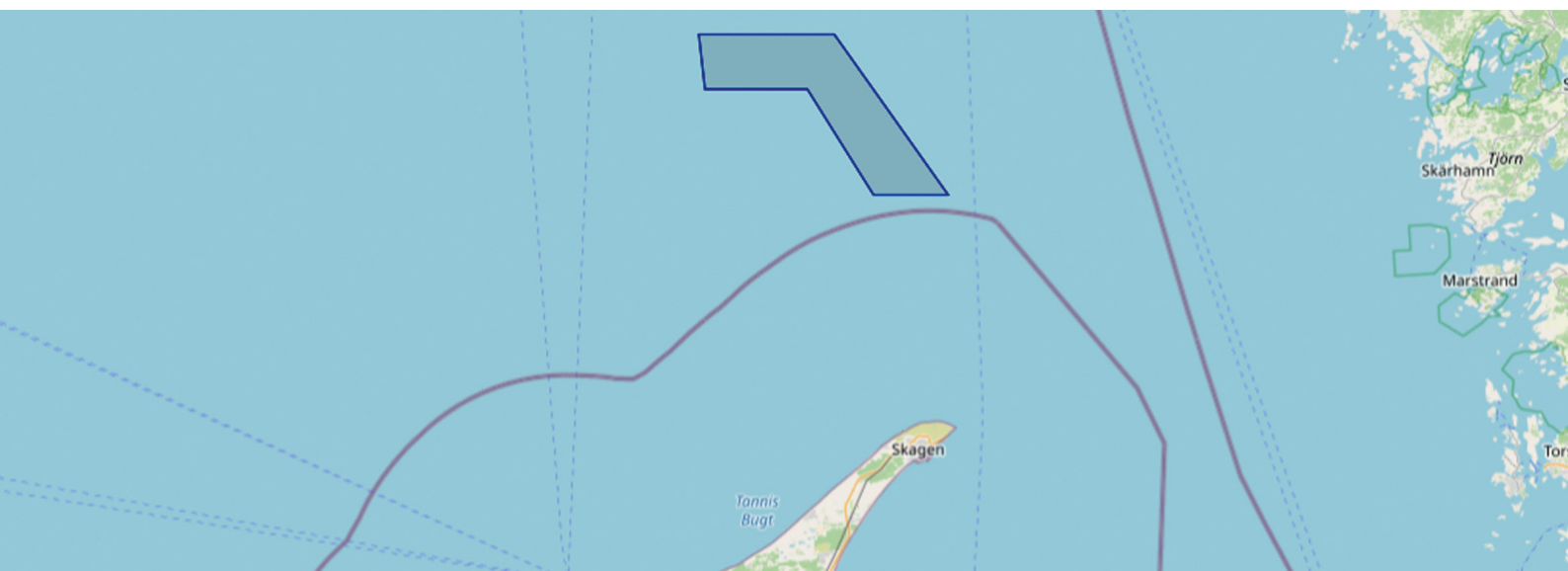
- vessel positions (VMS);
- electronic logbooks (ERS);
- summary of inspection and surveillance reports (Activity Reports);
- target vessels.

The data flow from Member States to EFCA was monitored on a daily basis. In 2020 there was an increase on the number of vessels for which EFCA is receiving VMS, in view of the extended SCIP scope.

In 2020, the EFCA Integrated Maritime Service was used for the first time to visualise and monitor Real Time Closures. Following the decision by the competent Member State, the declared RTC's could be visualised by all users.

EFCA established a working group with Member States to support the implementation of electronic inspection and surveillance reports (e-ISR).

Screenshot from EFCA Integrated Maritime System (IMS)

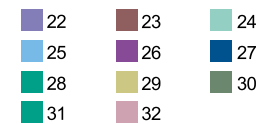
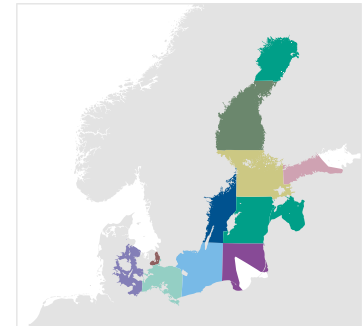




Results of risk assessment of non-compliance

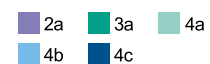
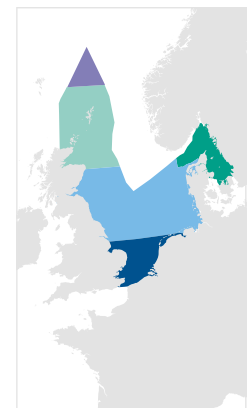
Baltic Sea - Fisheries with the highest risk of non-compliance

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



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

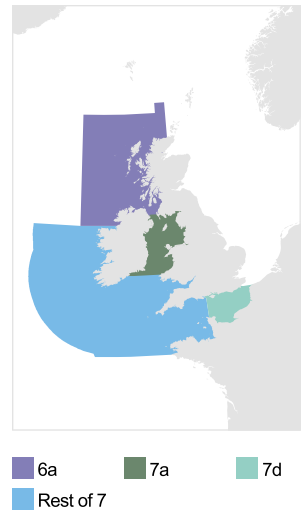
Gear – Mesh size – Fishery	Area	Main target species	Landing obligation	Mis-recording	Illegal gear
Otter trawls / Seines ≥ 120 mm	4.a	Cod	Very High	Very High	Very High
Otter trawls / Seines ≥ 100 and < 120 mm	4.a	Cod	Very High	Very High	Very High
	4.b	Cod	High	High	
Otter trawls / Seines ≥ 70 and < 100 mm	4.a	Norway lobster	High	High	High
	4.b	Plaice, Norway lobster	Very High	Very High	
	4.c	Plaice, Norway lobster	High	High	
Otter trawls / Seines ≥ 120 mm	3.a	Cod	High	High	
Otter trawls / Seines ≥ 90 and < 120 mm	3.a	Cod	Very High	Very High	High
Otter trawls / Seines ≥ 35 and < 70 mm	3.a	Northern prawn	Very High	Very High	
Beam trawls ≥ 80 and < 120 mm	4.b	Sole	High	High	High
	4.c	Sole	Very High	Very High	Very High
Eel Fishery	3.a, 4	Eel		High	



Level of risk: High Very High

North 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	Technical measures
Trawls ≥ 120 mm	6	Cod, haddock, saithe, sole, plaice, hake	■	■		
	7.a	Cod, haddock, saithe, sole, plaice, hake	■	■		
Trawls < 120 mm	6	Norway lobster, sole, plaice	■	■	■	■
	7.a	Norway lobster, sole, plaice	■	■		
	7.d	Norway lobster, sole, plaice	■	■		
	rest of 7	Norway lobster, sole, plaice	■	■	■	
Beam trawls < 120 mm	7.a	Plaice, sole	■	■	■	
	rest of 7	Plaice, sole	■	■	■	
Seines	rest of 7	Hake, whiting	■	■		
Gillnets	6	Plaice, sole		■		
Lines	6	Hake		■		
Eel Fishery	6, 7	Eel		■		



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

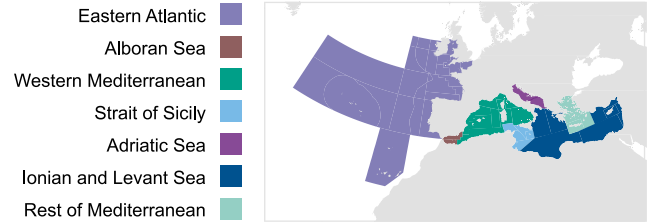
Gear – Mesh size – Fishery	Area	Main target species	Non-compliance with the LO	Mis-recording
Bottom trawls ≥ 70 and < 100 mm	8.a, 8.b	Hake, Norway lobster	■	■
Bottom trawls ≥ 55 and < 70 mm	9	Hake, Norway lobster	■	■
Gill and trammel nets	9	Anglerfishes, hake, sole		■
Eel Fishery	All	Eel		■



Level of risk: ■ High ■ Very High



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

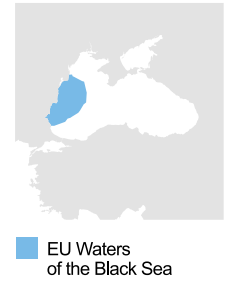


Gear–Fishery	Area	Main target species	Misreporting and/or misrecording	Non-compliance with quota or bycatch limit	Non-compliance with temporal/spatial closures	Non-compliance with the Minimum size of bluefin tuna and swordfish	Non-compliance with general technical and management rules	Non-compliance with the Landing Obligation
Trawlers	Strait of Sicily	Deep-sea rose shrimp, hake	■		■		■	■
	Ionian and Levant Sea	Blue and red shrimp	■				■	■
	Western Mediterranean	Deep-sea rose shrimp, hake, mullus spp.	■		■		■	■
	Adriatic Sea	Deep-sea rose shrimp, hake, mullus spp., Norway lobster, sole	■				■	■
	Mediterranean without Strait of Sicily, ionian and Levant Sea, Western Mediterranean and Adriatic Sea	Hake, mullus spp.	■		■		■	■
Purse seine	Mediterranean Sea without Adriatic Sea	Anchovy, sardine	■					■
	Adriatic Sea	Anchovy, sardine	■					■
Purse seine (catching vessels)	Mediterranean Sea	Bluefin tuna	■					
Purse seine (farms)	Mediterranean Sea	Bluefin tuna	■					
Purse seine (auxiliary vessels)	Mediterranean Sea	Bluefin tuna	■					
Purse seine (towing vessels)	Mediterranean Sea	Bluefin tuna	■					
Long Lines	Alboran Sea	Seabreams	■					
Long Lines, hand-liners	Mediterranean Sea	Albacore, bluefin tuna, swordfish	■	■	■	■	■	
Trammel nets and gill nets	Western Mediterranean Sea	Hake, mullus spp., seabreams	■					
	Adriatic Sea	Pandora, seabreams, sole	■					
	Mediterranean without Western Mediterranean and Adriatic Sea	Hake, mullus spp., seabreams	■					
Sport and Recreational fishery	Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea	Albacore, bluefin tuna, swordfish	■	■	■		■	

Level of risk: ■ High ■ Very High

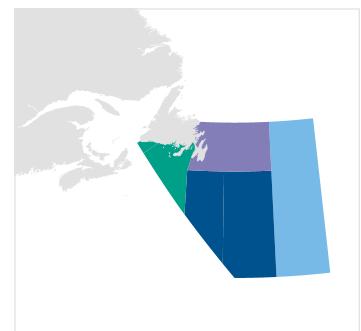
Black Sea - Fisheries with the highest risk of non-compliance

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	■	■	■	■	■	■



NAFO - Fisheries with the highest risk of non-compliance

Gear–Mesh size–Fishery	Main target species	Area	Species misrecording	Area misrecording	Move-on rules
Otter bottom trawlers	Redfish, green halibut	3L	■	■	
	Cod, redfish, green halibut	3M	■	■	
	Cod, white hake, redfish, green halibut	3N	■	■	
	Redfish, green halibut	3O	■		
	Skate	3N			■
Various	Skate	3O			■



■ 3L ■ 3O
■ 3M ■ 3N

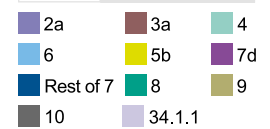
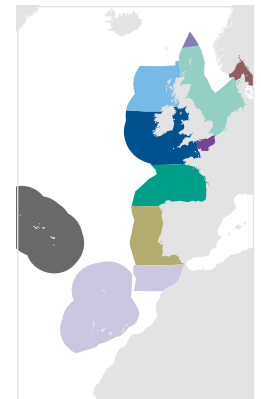
Level of risk: ■ High ■ Very High



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

Albacore

Gear	Area	Misrecording
Midwater trawls targeting albacore	7	High
	8	High



Anchovy

Gear	Area	Non-compliance with the LO	Misrecording
Polyvalent-Purse seines	8	Medium	Medium
	9	Medium	Medium

Blue whiting

Gear	Area	Illegal gear
Polyvalent-Bottom trawls and bottom pair trawls	9	Medium

Herring

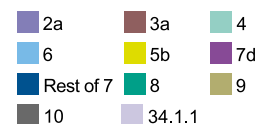
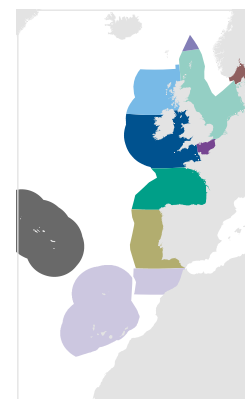
Gear	Area	Non-compliance with the LO	Misrecording
Freezer trawlers-Midwater trawls and midwater pair trawls	6	Medium	Medium
	Rest of 7	Medium	Medium
RSW tank vessels and Polyvalent-Midwater trawls and midwater pair trawls	3.a	Medium	Medium
	6	Medium	High
	Rest of 7	Medium	High

Level of risk: ■ Medium ■ High

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

Horse mackerel

Gear	Area	Non-compliance with the LO	Misrecording	Illegal gear
Freezer trawlers -Midwater trawls and midwater pair trawls	6	Medium	Medium	
	7.d	High	High	
	Rest of 7	Medium	Medium	
RSW tank vessels and Polyvalent -Midwater trawls and midwater pair trawls	6	Medium	Medium	
	Rest of 7	Medium	Medium	
Polyvalent - Bottom trawl and pair trawl	9			Medium
Polyvalent -Purse seines	8		Medium	
	9		Medium	
	10	Medium	Medium	
	CECAF	Medium	Medium	



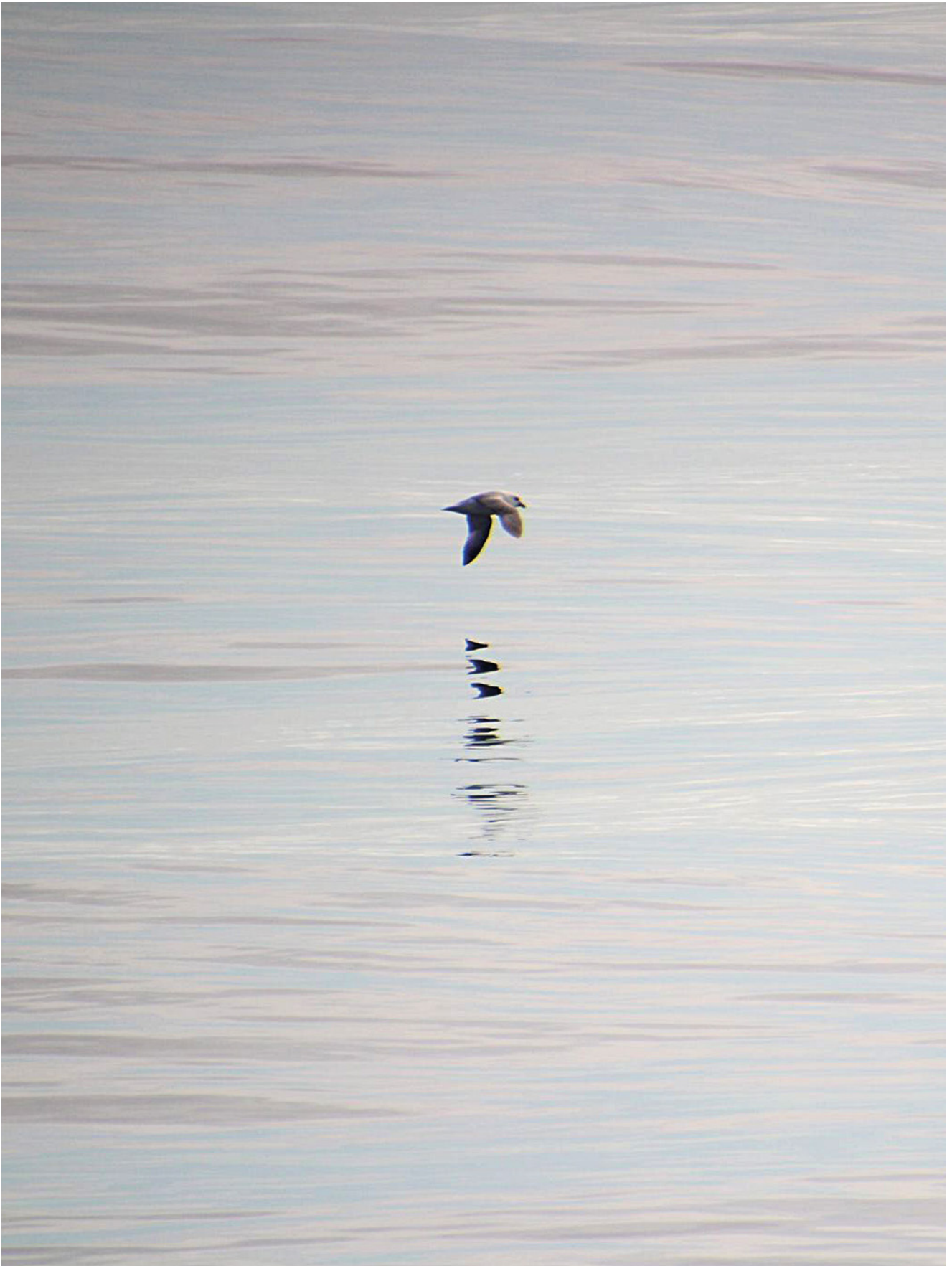
Mackerel

Gear	Area	Non-compliance with the LO	Misrecording
Freezer trawlers -Midwater trawls and midwater pair trawls	2.a, 4	Medium	Medium
	6	Medium	Medium
	Rest of 7	Medium	Medium
RSW tank vessels and Polyvalent -Midwater trawls and midwater pair trawls	2.a, 4	High	High
	6	High	High
	Rest of 7	Medium	Medium
Polyvalent -Bottom trawl and bottom pair trawls	7.d	Medium	Medium
	Rest of 7	Medium	Medium
	8		Medium
RSW tank vessel -Purse seines	2.a, 4		Medium
Polyvalent -Purse seines	8		Medium
Traps, pots and pound nets	8		Medium

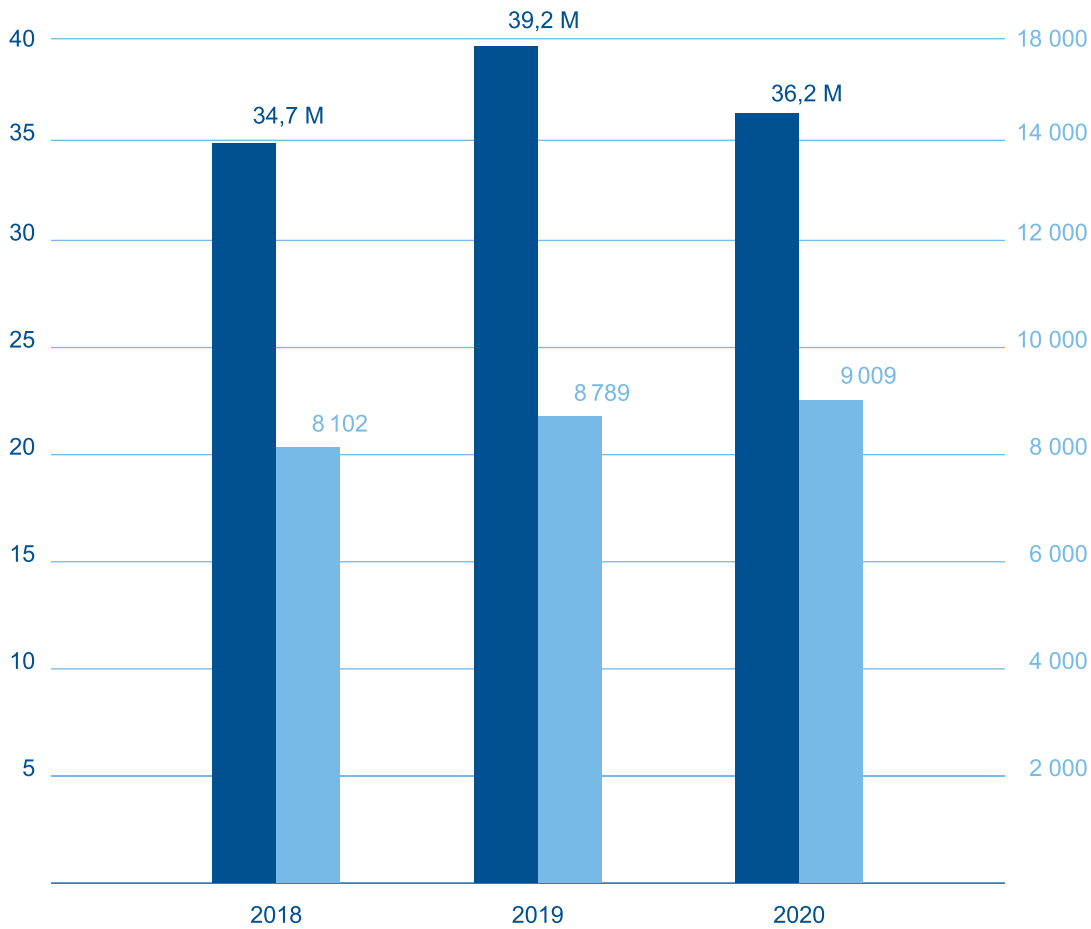
Industrial Fisheries

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

Level of risk: ■ Medium ■ High







EFCA Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)



■ Number of VMS messages received (in millions)
■ Number of distinct vessels

EFCA ERS data 2020

Messages	Vessels	Member States	JDP
 1 495 820 Total number of messages pulled from Member States	 4 185 Total number of vessels pulled from Member States	 13 Total number of Member States connected	 5 Number of JDPs configured



Objective 4

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/or, 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 Regulation⁵.
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.

In the international dimension of the Common Fisheries Policy, EFCA assisted the European Commission to cooperate with third countries and international organisations dealing with fisheries such as the Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (NAFO, NEAFC, ICCAT and GFCM), to strengthen the operational coordination and compliance.

The Agency assisted the Union to cooperate with third countries and international organisations dealing with fisheries, including RFMOs, in order to strengthen operational coordination and compliance. This assistance is in line with the CFP, the remit of EFCA and its Working Arrangements on international activities, upon request of the European Commission.

In the fight against IUU activities, EFCA assisted the European Commission with the analysis of 514 catch certificates and 191 processing statements for four third countries.



⁵OJ L 354, 28.12.2013, p. 22–61. Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013, Article 30





Objective 5

To strengthen compliance through the implementation of EU international projects as regards fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance.

Expected results

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.

EFCA has contributed to the achievement of the overall objective of the five-year EU funded PESCAO project for Improved regional fisheries governance in Western Africa, which is to enhance the contribution of fisheries resources to sustainable development, food security and poverty alleviation in that area.

In this context framework the EFCA provided technical support 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 its experience in the EU context.

In the framework of this 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.

In 2020 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 SRFC organised one joint control campaign during 2020, with EFCA expert's participation. This joint campaign "Sardinelle" was carried out from 23 to 26 January 2020 under the coordination of the SRFC with a representative from each participating state (Cape Verde, Mauritania, Senegal and The Gambia). The coordination centre was based in Dakar Fisheries Monitoring Centre (FMC) where all the participants were able to pool their surveillance data, which allowed the inspection of 67 fishing vessels during the operation.

In spite of the global COVID-19 pandemic, EFCA was engaged in several capacity building activities for third countries both in the SRFC and FCWC regions in 2020, online from March 2020.

Objective 6

Improve capacities to implement fisheries control and support other coast guard 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 Coast Guard 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.

Training activities in support of the effective and uniform application of the CFP are crucial to guarantee a fair and equitable treatment to the Union operators. More than 1000 staff from EU and non-EU countries are currently registered in the EFCA e-learning platform.

In May 2020 EFCA assumed the chairmanship of the European cooperation on coast guard functions with Frontex and EMSA and cooperated successfully in collaboration with the European Commission and the Member States.

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.

In this context, EFCA coordinated an inter-agency group to finalise, in close cooperation with the Member States, the drafting of Practical Handbook on European Cooperation on Coast Guard Functions. The first version of the Handbook was submitted to the European Commission in June 2020.

In addition to fisheries control tasks, EFCA's chartered patrol vessels was 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 opera-

tions, in cooperation with Member State authorities, Frontex and EMSA.

In the light of the interagency cooperation in the area of capacity sharing, EFCA took an initiative in order to support Bulgarian and Romanian fisheries control authorities in the context of the Joint Deployment Plan in the Black Sea. This was implemented in accordance with the Black Sea JDP decision, by means of a coordinated programme of control at sea and in ports and covered fishing activities related to turbot and sprat.

EFCA operational capacity

is available for **Multipurpose Operations in cooperation with FRONTEX, EMSA and Member States** relevant authorities in its support to coast guard functions

Primary

 **Fisheries inspection and control**

Support role

-  Search and rescue
-  Border Control and Customs control
-  Law enforcement
-  Maritime environmental protection and response
-  Maritime monitoring and surveillance
-  Maritime safety
-  Maritime accident and disaster response



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

The intensive and long-lasting cooperation between EMSA and EFCA in integrated maritime awareness, resulted in the development of the Integrated Maritime Service (IMS) application dedicated to fisheries control. By the end of 2020, there were 1053 credentials issued by EFCA (an increase of 8.3 % compared to 2019) to IMS fisheries control users in Member States and the European Commission. In 2020 EFCA also acquired from EMSA information obtained from the Copernicus Maritime Surveillance (CMS) Service, to support fisheries control operations.





EFCA was also involved in the Common Information Sharing Environment (CISE), which aims to integrate existing surveillance systems and make networks interoperable so that data and other information can be exchanged easily through the use of modern technologies.

EFCA is considered an agency inside the group of ‘security’ agencies and contributes to the EUMSS Strategy.


In 2020 the Agency provided additional operational support to Cyprus in the scope of the JDP of the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Joint Deployment Plan⁶.


Multipurpose Maritime Operation (MMO) in the Black Sea
8 June-24 August 2020

Main results




-  **45 joint patrols with fisheries inspections**
-  **6 fisheries inspections leading to 8 suspected infringements**
-  **200 fisheries sightings**
-  **22 Earth Observation Acquisitions (Copernicus Maritime Services) made available by EMSA in the IMS**

Interagency cooperation
Capacity sharing
Information exchange
Enhanced synergies
Coast Guard functions
Support to Member States
Economies of scale

 **Romania**
Border Police / Coast Guard
National Agency for Fishing and Aquacultures (NAFA)
Romania Naval Authority (RNA)

 **Bulgaria**
Border Police
Executive Agency for Fisheries and Aquacultures (EAFA)
Maritime Administration (MA)

Coordinated by:

⁶EFCA provides support to Cyprus in cooperation with Frontex during an airborne mission of fisheries surveillance | EFCA (europa.eu)

Thanks to the EFCA chartered and managed multipurpose offshore patrol vessel, in 2020 EFCA did its utmost to support the Member States in fisheries control, as well as other coast guard functions. This was in line with the EU Cooperation on Coast Guard functions, implemented under the Tripartite Working Arrangement (TWA) with EMSA and Frontex.





Part II

Horizontal Support

Main results 2020







Objective 7

Promote a culture of compliance of the Common Fisheries Policy and foster the European Union values.

Expected results

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. Stakeholders are informed about fisheries sustain 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 kept informed and involved in EFCA's work.

Through its Communication strategy, EFCA promotes a culture of compliance and fosters the European Union values by generating trust, confidence and accountability of the CFP measures.

In view of supporting the Communication Strategy defined by the European Commission, EFCA met in DG MARE premises to plan the year ahead. The Annual Communication Strategy had to be adapted to the new COVID-19 by further developing the digital presence of EFCA to reach its stakeholders, basically through social media.

EFCA took part in the meetings of the Advisory Councils relevant to EFCA work, such as those organised by the Pelagic AC in The Hague in March, and the NWWAC by videoconference in July, to present the compliance evaluation conducted in previous year.

In 2020 a new logo and visual identity were designed and implemented. The new visual identity aims to update the image of EFCA as the EU Agency promoting the highest standards of fisheries control.

Under the interagency cooperation, EFCA participated in the online celebration of the Euronaval fair. It shared a virtual stand together with Frontex and EMSA and EFCA Executive Director was part of the Euronaval Round Table on "EU maritime strategy".

One video was produced illustrating EFCA's participation in the European Coast Guard cooperation⁷.

With regards to local public, EFCA received the visit from the representatives from the University of Vigo and students from the school O Labor in Vigo; once the COVID restrictions were placed, the Agency participated in several events, both presential and online, such as that organised by Europe Direct with youth. Moreover, the Agency participated at the most relevant local events such as those convened by the City hall and the Port Authority.

EFCA also kept its staff updated about the epidemiological situation in its surroundings, the legislation and protocols applying to its region and the information coming from the EU institutions on health. The intranet homepage was redesigned to make internal news more visible, as they became a vital source of information for the staff.



⁷Video on the EU Coast Guard cooperation | EFCA (europa.eu)

Objective 8

Provide the EFCA Administrative Board with the capacity of 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.
3. Increased AB involvement and output legitimacy.

The 34th meeting of the Administrative Board (AB) planned for 2 April 2020 was cancelled due to the COVID restrictions. All the documents prepared following the agenda of the meeting were circulated to the Administrative Board members for comments and information. All necessary decisions were taken by written procedure.

The next AB meeting took place on 14 October 2020 and it was held online. In this meeting the EFCA Administrative Board elected Mrs Veronika Veits as the new Chair.

EFCA concluded the implementation of the recommendations issued by the Administrative Board following the Five-Year Independent External Evaluation of EFCA (period 2012-2016).



Objective 9

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 between the Administrative Board and Advisory Board of EFCA.

The Advisory Councils are stakeholder organisations composed of representatives from the industry, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and other groups of interest. The Advisory Board, composed of one representative of each Advisory Council (AC), The Advisory Board met twice in 2020, both of them online.

Throughout 2020, 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 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.





Objective 10

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 and
2. EU institutions and bodies and general stakeholders were informed on EFCA activities.

In 2020 EFCA attended the meetings convened by the European Commission, where its presence was desirable, required or in the interest of the Agency and also those convened by the different EU Agencies networks.

The Agency contributed 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 defined.



Objective 11

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

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.

From an administrative standpoint, in 2020 EFCA continued to benefit from efficiency-saving measures taken in the past and achieved the 100% paperless objective.

Among other efforts of rationalisation, EFCA has been strongly focused on paperless and electronic ways of working for the past 5 years; it has automated its administrative procedures through the implementation of systems, such as Sysper (HR), MIPS (mission management), e-Submission (Procurement) e-Invoicing and e-Request. Electronic workflows and the digitalisation of the communication tools was also reinforced.

Such 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.

In 2020 the budget execution was of 97.2%, above what was expected considering the circumstances of this special year. EFCA received a total budget of €16.9 million as a contribution from the General EU Budget for 2020, representing an increase of 0.9% in respect of 2019. In addition, EFCA received resources during 2020 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 €0.68 million was earmarked for 2020.

2020 Budget Implementation

Title	Budget (EUR)	Committed (EUR)	% exec	Paid (EUR)	% exec
TITLE I	8 591 000	8 123 488	95%	8 078 628	94%
TITLE II	1 570 000	1 803 815	115%	1 265 555	81%
TITLE III	6 739 000	6 511 832	97%	4 375 646	65%
JDP's, Operational plans and Pilot Projects	955 000	250 433	26%	170 856	18%
Risk assessment and Data Analysis	1 050 000	1 194 259	114%	520 664	50%
International dimension: compliance with international provisions	250 000	10 019	4%	10 019	4%
Coast Guard and Capacity Building	4 484 000	5 057 121	113%	3 674 108	82%
TOTAL	16 900 000	16 439 135	97%	13 719 830	81%

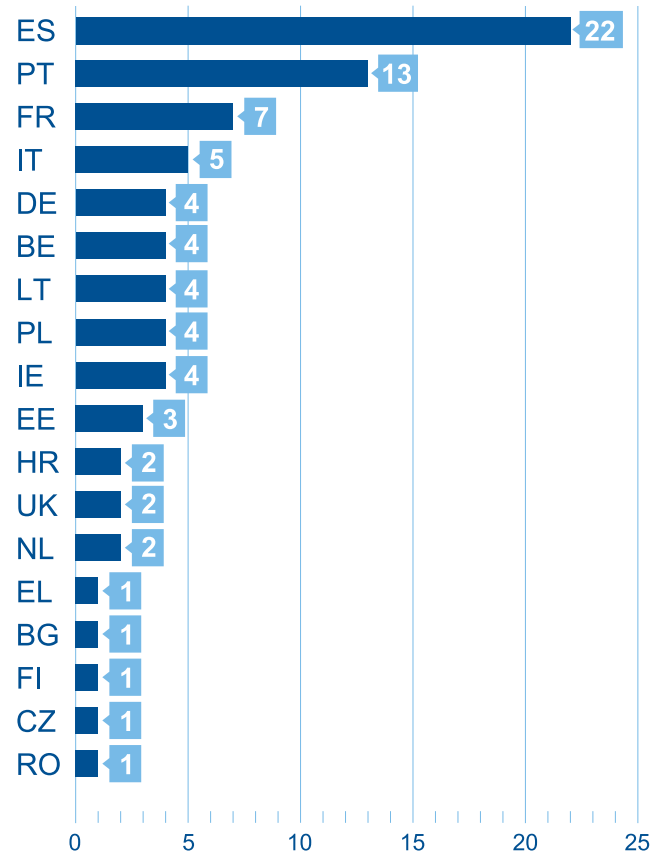
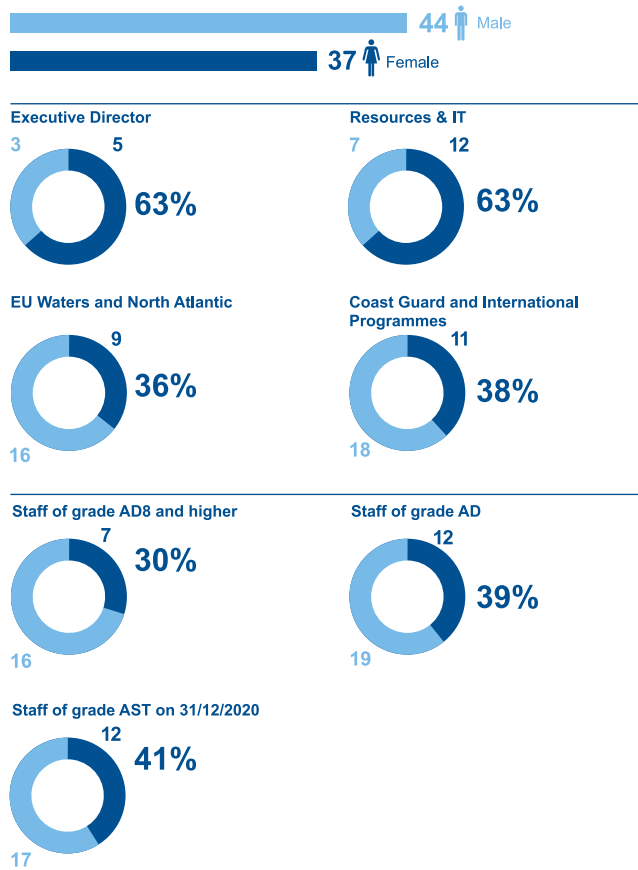


EFCA Staff

EFCA promotes a policy of equal treatment aiming to have an optimal gender balance among its staff. On 31 December 2020, the overall percentage of female staff members was 49%. The percentage of female staff members excluding Seconded National Experts (SNEs) was 46%. The percentage of female staff

grade AD8 (administrator’s function group, grade 8) or higher was 30%.

As in the previous years, there was a wide composition of staff in regard to nationalities. In 2020, EFCA staff included 73 employees in activity (with 60 Temporary Agents, and 13 Contract Agents) and 8 Seconded National Experts from 18 different EU Member States.



Gender and nationalities of EFCA staff members (31/12/2020)



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European Fisheries Control Agency

www.efca.europa.eu – efca@efca.europa.eu – +34 986 120 610
Edificio Odriozola, Avenida García Barbón 4, 36201, Vigo – Spain



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