

ANNUAL REPORT 2015





Legal basis:

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

The Annual Report 2015 follows the Activity Based Management System under the Multiannual Work Programme 2015-2019 and Annual Work Programme 2015 adopted on 17 October 2014.

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

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

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

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Foreword by the Chair

Reinhard Priebe, Chair of the Administrative Board



This Annual Report provides a comprehensive overview of the performance and the achievements of the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) in 2015. The coordination of the Member States fisheries control activities and the support to the Member States and to the European Commission in the monitoring, control and surveillance of the Common Fisheries Policy constitute the overarching role of the EFCA. Its tasks also encompass the international dimension of this policy.

The Regional Groups of Member States and the Agency have developed a successful cooperation model, based on the principles of the reformed Common Fisheries Policy as laid down in the 2014 basic regulation. This cooperation significantly contributes to a smooth implementation by the Member States of the monitoring measures with regard to the landing obligation.

EFCA has also assisted the European Union to cooperate with third countries and international fisheries organisations, to improve compliance with fishery control rules and measures and in particular those to combat IUU fishing. This assistance includes the cooperation within the Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) as well as the implementation of Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements.



The Annual Report demonstrates the high degree of efficiency and cost-effectiveness that can be achieved through cooperation, with Member States and amongst them as well as between EFCA and other EU agencies dealing with matters relevant to maritime control. This is particularly relevant in times of financial constraints. EFCA's cooperation with Frontex and the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) also paves the way of EFCA collaboration with the future EU Border and Coast Guard.

As Chair of the Administrative Board, in which Member States and the Commission are represented, I am confident that we are all together on a good way to reach a level playing field and to promote a culture of compliance with the rules of the Common Fisheries Policy. Bearing in mind that these complex rules are in the first place to be implemented by national administrations, with all their different traditions and cultures, EFCA's daily work is a key in supporting those administrations to achieve the high level of compliance, which is indispensable for reaching the objectives of the Common Fisheries Policy.

Introductory Statement by the Executive Director

Pascal Savouret, Executive Director

The European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) Annual Report for 2015 is prepared in accordance with the annual reporting framework developed by the European Inter-Agencies Network and approved by the European Commission. This Annual Report provides the EFCA Administrative Board, the European Parliament, the European Council, the European Commission, the European Court of Auditors and the European citizens with a comprehensive and transparent insight into the achievements of the Agency in accordance with its Annual Work Programme for 2015. The resources granted by the European Union budget have been fully used reaching almost 100% of commitment appropriations and 92% in payments. The Agency also benefits from synergy with other agencies, from Commission framework contracts and also from the best practices stemming from the European Inter-Agencies Network.

I can declare with reasonable assurance that the resources were assigned and used in total compliance with the principles derived from the Framework Financial Regulation applicable to agencies.

This Annual Report will give you a comprehensive presentation of the efforts and dedication of EFCA staff to deliver the Agency's Work Programme 2015 as adopted by the Administrative Board. In accordance with the Agency's mission statement, those efforts are directed to the Member States and to the European Commission through coordination, assistance and harmonisation.

EFCA had the opportunity to present and report its achievements to Mr Karmenu Vella the Commissioner for Environment, Maritime affairs and Fisheries who visited the Agency, in October, at the time of the 20th Anniversary of the FAO Code of Conduct Responsible Fisheries which took place in Vigo.

EFCA has placed special attention on the implementation of the key features of the Common Fisheries Policy and above all the landing obligation. For this purpose, all JDPs have implemented a data collection programme to evaluate as far as possible the catch composition of the "Last observed haul", to improve the risk analysis relating to the landing obligation. Moreover, much work has been done in the support of the Member States Regional bodies in this regard as well as through inter-regional cooperation and dialogue with stakeholders.





The coordination of the ongoing Joint Deployment Plans has increased further its intensity reaching 17.000 inspections (from 12.700 in 2014). All JDPs are now multispecies, multiannual and continuous throughout the year.

The Agency has also supported the European Commission in providing support in activities relating to the International Dimension of the Common Fisheries Policy and the fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing. In this context, it has assisted the European Union in fulfilling its obligations towards the Regional Fisheries Management Organisations and in capacity building missions in Third Countries, in the framework of Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements.

During 2015, EFCA held 38 training events including regional workshops, exchange of best practices, training the trainers, Union inspector training, Fisheries Information System-training and training for Third Countries at the request of the Commission as well at the request of individual Member States. EFCA trained more than 12% of the Union inspectors, as indicated in one of the key performance indicators.

EFCA has also contributed to the ERS and data management meetings and associated Working Groups hosted by the European Commission throughout the year. Special attention has been given to the Union VMS project where the Commission together with Sweden jointly developed an open source VMS system to be available to Member States, and to the Agency.

The last quarter saw considerable effort for preparing EFCA for the future European Border and Coastguard capacity

working together with the Commission, FRONTEX and EMSA.

In its March 2015 meeting the EFCA Administrative Board elected a new Deputy Chair, Ms Andreina Fenech Farrugia, Director General of Fisheries and Aquaculture in Malta.

Overall, 2015 was a very productive year, in line with our efforts to broker operational coordination in fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance measures to achieve compliance, a level playing field and cost effectiveness in the implementation of the control regime of the Common Fisheries Policy.

Administrative Board's analysis and assessment

The Administrative Board analysed and assessed the Authorising Officer's (Executive Director's) Annual Report for the financial year 2015.

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 768/2005 of 26 April 2005 and subsequent amendments,

Having regard to the Financial Regulation of the European Fisheries Control Agency of 31 December 2013 and in particular Article 47 therein,

Having regard to the Multiannual Work Programme 2015-2019 and Annual Work Programme 2015 adopted by the Administrative Board on 17 October 2014, and its amendment of 26 June 2015

The Administrative Board appreciates the results achieved by the Agency.

Based on the results and outputs of the JDPs across the areas the level of compliance has been maintained if not undergoing an increasing trend. Infringements/inspection ratios might be influenced by the marked improvement of the risk analysis processes as described in the Programmes, Plans and Assessment section of the Annual Report. The following contributions can be underlined in this regard:

- The significant efforts made by Member States through contribution of committed means, including inspector exchanges, and the increasing trends in the number of inspections coordinated under the JDPs;
- The significant advances in the creation of a level playing field for fisheries control across the Union as a result of ongoing and increasing training and support activities delivered to Member States in support of JDP activities;
- The need to continue working in standardisation and refining of inspection procedures, and
- The improved information reporting, exchange and treatment, that contributes to a greater transparency between the Member States. Moreover, the Administrative Board notes, in particular, the following:
 - The Annual Report 2015 provides a faithful and comprehensive account of the work undertaken by the Agency in 2015 and reflects the achievements of the Agency as set in the Multiannual Work Programme 2015-2019 and in the Annual Work Programme 2015 adopted by the Administrative Board on 17 October 2014.



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- The efforts of the Agency to assist the Member States and the European Commission in the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). The support of the implementation of landing obligation remained at the forefront of the operational priorities.

- Currently all the JDPs are multispecies, multiannual and continuous during the year.

- In respect of the exchange of inspectors in the JDPs, there were achieved more than 1.900 man/days of exchanges.

- Cooperation with regional bodies through the PACT concept (Partnership, Accountability (compliance), Cooperation and Transparency) allowed assistance to be given by EFCA to the Member States in accordance with provisions of articles 7 and 15 of EFCA founding regulation.

- EFCA cooperated with control expert groups of the four regional bodies created in the framework of regionalisation and carried out a project in the Black Sea.

- EFCA continued to assist and support the European Commission and the Member States in the international dimension of the CFP, including in the fight against IUU activities.

• The following facts and figures were found specifically relevant:

- Five Joint Deployment Plans and a Joint Operational Programme successfully implemented;

- Number of coordinated inspections⁴ (at sea and ashore): just above 17.000;

- Number of suspected infringements⁵ detected: 703;

- EFCA held 38 training events consisting of regional workshops, exchange of best practices, training the trainers, Union inspector training, Fisheries Information System training and training for Third Countries at the request of the Commission as well at the request of individual Member States;

- By the end of the year, EFCA trained a total of 690 officials including more than 12% of the Union inspectors;

- Publication of the volume III of the Core Curricula “General principles and specific types of fisheries inspection” and the work done to keep updated the “Inspection at sea” training material so that to cover the landing obligation and regional aspects of the new CFP;

- Efforts made to develop an e-learning platform and to move towards website-based training materials and interactive training modules;

- Support to the European Commission in the preparation and/or conduction of evaluations/audits in nine Third Countries to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU);

- The availability of the suite of collaborative and data exchange tools as Fishnet, the Electronic Reporting System (ERS), the Electronic Inspection Report system (EIR).

- Intense collaboration with other Agencies in the domain of data sharing for the purpose of creating an Integrated Maritime Picture and in projects exploring future technologies for possible use in fisheries control.

- The budget implementation reached 99,6% for commitment appropriations and 92,2% for payment appropriations;
- Notes that the Agency has continued to implement the staff cut foreseen in the establishment plan to comply with the Inter-institutional agreement;
- Acknowledges the information provided under the Annual Report 2015, parts III “Building Blocks of Assurance” and IV “Management Assurance”.

Vigo, 10 March 2016

(Signed)

Reinhard Priebe
Chair of the Administrative Board

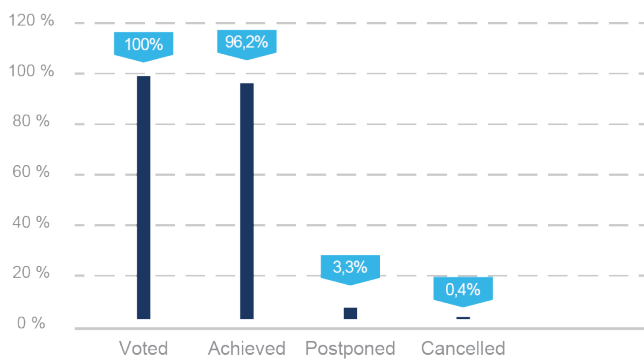
⁴ Provisional data based on the information provided by Member States up to January 2016.

⁵ Provisional data based on the information provided by Member States up to January 2016.

Executive Summary

In 2015 EFCA achieved important results in promoting cooperation amongst Member States, assisting the European Commission and contributing to a strengthened European Union system of monitoring, control and surveillance, with a view to guaranteeing a level playing field and a culture of compliance in the most cost-efficient way.

EFCA ACTIVITIES - Overall achievements 2015⁶



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- The need to continue working in standardisation and refining of inspection procedures, and
- The improved information reporting, exchange and treatment, that contributes to a greater transparency between the Member States.

The following highlights represent a summary of this year's achievements and events:

- Joint Deployment Plans continues to be the mainstay of EFCA operational coordination. The Western Waters JDP was enlarged to cover species which were not previously in the SCIP, and the geographical area was enlarged. In total EFCA coordinated 17.000 inspections (12.700 in 2014) in which 703 suspected infringements were identified.

- Cooperation with regional bodies through the PACT concept (Partnership, Accountability (compliance), Cooperation and Transparency) allowed assistance to be given by EFCA to the Member States in accordance with provisions of articles 7 and 15 of EFCA's founding regulation. EFCA cooperated with control expert groups from the four regional bodies created in the framework of regionalisation and carried out an Operational Plan to support joint inspection/control activities of the Member States in the Black Sea.

- There were more than 1.900 man/days of exchange of inspectors achieved in the JDPs. The availability of fishing vessels target lists provided by Member States for the joint campaign was improved compared with 2014. The web integrated platform FISHNET was introduced to support the Joint Deployment Plans (JDPs).

- The support of the implementation of the landing obligation was an important part of EFCA's work in 2015. Through the JDP framework, the Agency

⁶ Voted 2015 budget.
 Achieved 2015 budget consumed and carried-forward regarding 2015 activities.
 Postponed 2015 budget carried-forward regarding 2016 activities.
 Cancelled 2015 budget cancelled and not carried-forward.



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has implemented regional projects and specific training workshops, supported the Regional bodies facilitating control cooperation in all the areas, promoted inter-regional cooperation through the organisation of two seminars for EFCA Administrative Board members, strengthened the dialogue with stakeholders and promoted compliance by stakeholders with a specific workshop organised together with BALTFISH.

- EFCA has operated within the JDP framework the suite of operational applications fostering interoperability and common information availability. The output of VMS system continues to be of great value, and the EFCA Electronic Inspection Report (EIR) was made available to Member States on a voluntary basis.

- A significant achievement of the year was the development of an EFCA Enterprise Architecture (EFCA-EA), providing one of the basis on which the components of the EFCA FIS will be integrated.

- The Agency also contributed to the ERS and Data management meetings and other associated Working Groups hosted by the European Commission throughout the year.

- Regarding new technologies, the Agency participated in projects exploring the possible added value of using Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) for fisheries control activities.

- The Agency staff trained 690 inspectors. The last volume of the Core Curricula was published and made available online. The volume on Inspection at Sea was updated in order to cover the landing obligation and regional aspects of the CFP, whereas a new course for Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements countries was drafted. EFCA developed an e-learning platform based on the structure and content of the Core Curricula volume on Inspection at Sea.

- EFCA supported the Union in the international dimension of the CFP and the fight against IUU activities. In this regard, EFCA assisted the EU in their relations with RFMOs, namely NAFO, NEAFC, ICCAT and GFCM. The

EU control commitments were fully achieved. The Agency also organised training seminars for the GFCM partner countries and assisted the Commission in providing on-the-spot training on Fisheries inspection for countries which concluded SFPAs with the European Union.

- EFCA fostered a close dialogue with the Agency's stakeholders, so as to promote a culture of compliance. During 2015, EFCA attended and contributed to several meetings of the different Advisory Councils. Particular focus was given to meetings related to the introduction of the new landing obligation.

- A completely new website (www.efca.europa.eu) was deployed under a more attractive and user-friendly design and EFCA started to be present in the social media by launching its own pages.

- Before the end of 2015, the EFCA's second Five Year Independent External Evaluation was initiated.

- EFCA improved its Business Continuity strategy and its IT master plan, being committed to continue and conclude their practical implementation.

- In general, EFCA consolidated the achievements of the previous year in the areas of monitoring and reporting performance, of moving towards a risk-oriented approach and enhancing its Internal Control system with beneficial results at all levels.

- In terms of budget available in 2015, the financial resources remained at the same level of 2013 and 2014 budgets namely €9.217 million.

- EFCA has implemented 99,6% (2014: 99,1%) of commitment appropriations, and 92,2% (2014: 88,4%) of the payment appropriations. The level of funds carried forward from 2015 to 2016 has decreased to 7% from 11% in the previous year.

Part I. Achievements of the year

1.1. Main initiatives within the multiannual framework 2015 - 2019

EFCA’s multiannual framework is influenced, inter alia, by the implementation of the features of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) that entered into force on 1 January 2014, the recommendations issued by the Administrative Board following the Five Year Independent External

Evaluation of the European Fisheries Control Agency on 15 March 2012, the revised Framework Financial Regulation (FFR) and the Roadmap on the follow-up to the Common Approach on EU decentralised agencies.

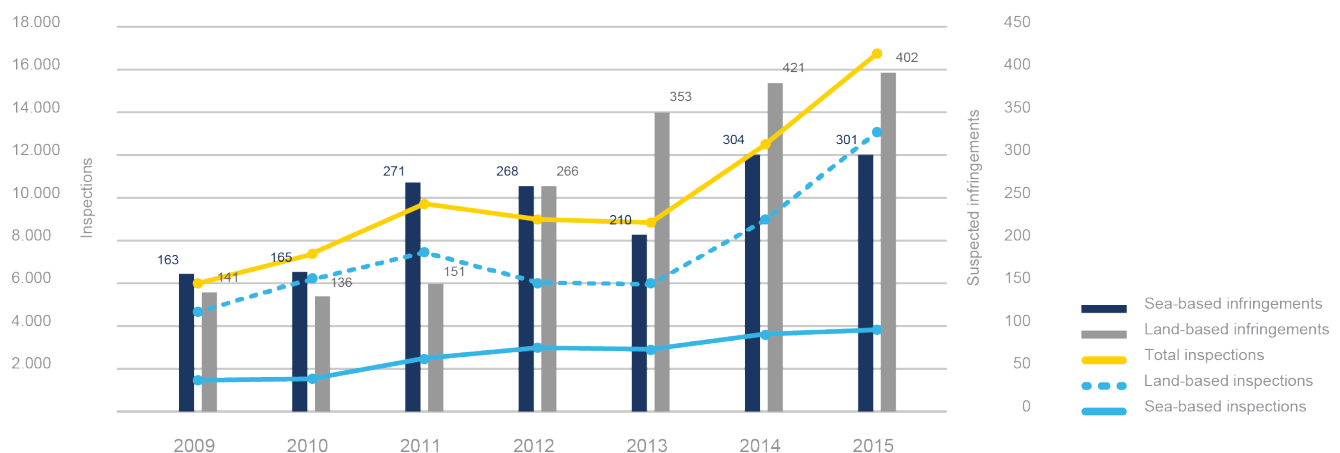
1.1.1. Assistance to the European Commission and to the Member States for the implementation of the CFP

Evolution of Joint Deployment Plans

In accordance with the Multiannual Work Programme (MWP) and the Five Year Independent External Evaluation of EFCA and the related recommendations⁷ issued by the Administrative Board, EFCA Joint Deployment Plans (JDPs) are now a year-round activity, covering a wider range of species with permanent exchange of information and intelligence.

In 2015, the scope of the Western Waters JDP was enlarged from 2016 on to cover the pelagic species that were not previously in the Specific Control and Inspection Programme (SCIP) and that are included in article 15 of CFP Regulation (namely boarfish, argentine, sardine and sprat). Furthermore, the geographical area was enlarged to cover mackerel and herring fisheries in ICES division IVa

(Northern North Sea). A specific objective on compliance with the landing obligation provisions was also added. Currently all JDPs are multispecies, multiannual (same period as the SCIP) and continuous throughout the year. The results of the cooperation between Member States (MS) regarding the implementation of the JDPs have shown an increase of inspections (see graph below) to just above 17.000 (from 12.700 in 2014). This is mostly related to the rise of shore national inspections notified by MS in the scope of the JDPs. This follows the implementation of the regional control areas concept, with a better integration of national control activities at EU regional level in priority areas as defined by the SCIP.



⁷ <http://www.efca.europa.eu/en/library-type/evaluation>

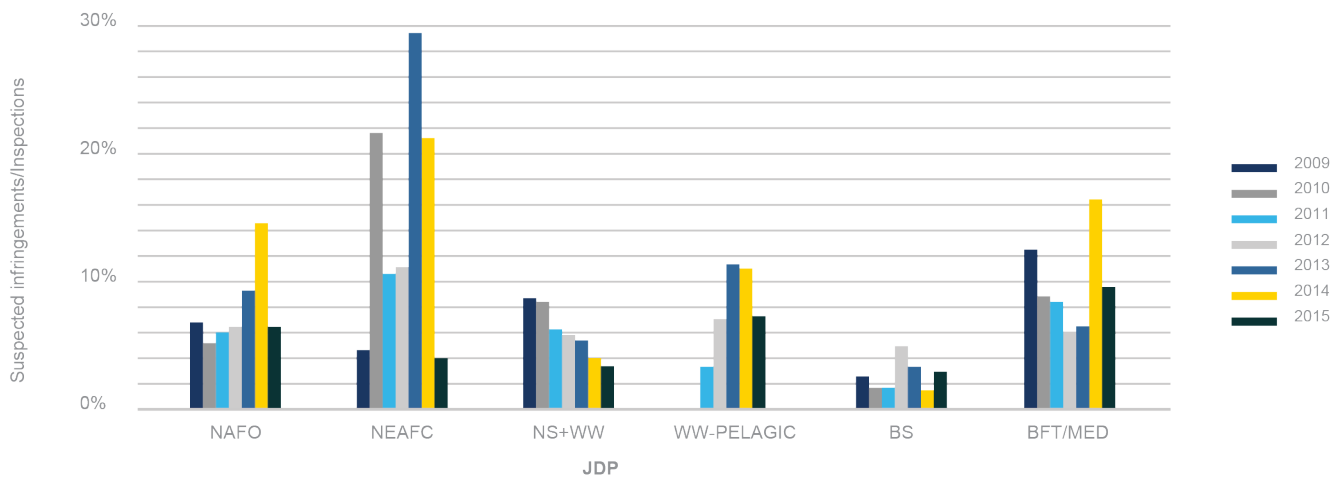


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The ratio of suspected infringements by inspection in the different JDP areas as from 2009 is provided below. There has been a decrease in the ratio of suspected infringements for the NEAFC and MED area. This was mostly due to the measures adopted to solve the problems

with vessel documentation identified in 2014 (NEAFC) and to the consolidation of the coordinated deployment of control effort in the MED JDP. For other areas there is no noticeable change, with an overall decrease over the recent years.



A detailed analysis by type of the most significant suspected infringements of 2015 (see table below), confirms that misreporting of catches and technical measures remain the most common non-compliance issues. This was further

analysed within the regional risk assessment to support the planning of the 2016 JDP activities (see section 1.2.2 “Level playing Field enhancement”).

SUSPECTED INFRINGEMENTS	TOTAL	%
Not fulfilling reporting obligations	336	48%
Use of prohibited or non-compliant fishing gear	95	13%
Falsification or concealing of markings, identity or registration	12	2%
Taking on board, transshipping or landing of undersized fish in contravention of the legislation in force	19	3%
Fishing without a valid license, fishing permit or authorisation or with falsified documentation	17	2%
Fishing in a closed area, closed season or beyond a close depth	25	4%
Obstruction of work of inspectors	21	3%
Others	178	25%
TOTAL	703	100%

Implementation of the landing obligation

One of the main priorities for EFCA during 2015 was to support the effective and efficient implementation of the landing obligation, by:

- **Using the Joint Deployment Plans**, the main EFCA coordination tool, to implement regional projects and specific training workshops for inspectors related to the Regulation (EU) 2015/812⁸ (so called “Omnibus” regulation) in the different regions.

- **Supporting the new Regional bodies** created by the Member States, facilitating control cooperation in all the areas. Specific risk assessment in the context of the landing obligation has been carried out for demersal and pelagic fisheries in the Baltic Sea and South Western Waters, and for demersal fisheries in the North Sea and North Western Waters.

- **Promoting inter-regional cooperation** through the organisation of two seminars attended by the members of the EFCA Administrative Board to analyse the implementation of the landing obligation in all the areas and facilitate dialogue. One of the seminars was also attended by members of the different Advisory Councils (ACs).

- **Supporting the dialogue with stakeholders** with the participation of EFCA staff in the different fora where the landing obligation is discussed (ACs, Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF), other dedicated projects).

- **Promoting compliance by stakeholders** with a specific workshop organised together with BALTFISH attended by representatives of the Baltic Sea AC, industry and control authorities.

PACT Projects: Cooperation with regional bodies and Black Sea

The PACT approach (Partnership, Accountability (compliance), Cooperation and Transparency) allows assistance to the Member States in accordance with articles 7 and 15 of EFCA founding regulation. The current PACT projects delivered by EFCA on request from Member States are the following:

- Cooperation with Regional Bodies

EFCA has cooperated with the control expert groups (CEGs) of the four regional bodies created by Member States and active in the framework of the CFP regionalisation:

- Scheveningen Group (North Sea)
- BALTFISH (Baltic Sea)
- North Western Waters
- South Western Waters

EFCA has also established preliminary contacts with the recently created Adriatic regional group.

- Black Sea Project

Following a request from Bulgaria and Romania, EFCA supported these Member States through joint control and inspection operations related to turbot fisheries, and training activities.

A coordination meeting between Bulgaria, Romania, EFCA and the European Commission took place in February 2015. During this meeting, a 3 year Operational Plan was agreed covering four main areas: enforcement guidelines, risk analysis, training and coordination of joint inspection/control activities.

⁸ OJ L 133, 29.5.2015, p.1.



Data monitoring and network

EFCA is providing support also through a suite of operational applications.

During the course of 2015, EFCA continued the work with the development and enhancement of IT systems in order to provide the best collaborative tools to the Member States, thereby fostering interoperability and common information availability. This was demonstrated by the increased number of Member States that provided data through the EFCA ERS system and the increased number of documents shared and video conferences held through Fishnet.

The VMS continues to be of great use, complemented by the significant added value that the Maritime Surveillance Information System (Marsurv) brings for coordination purposes. With its AIS and Satellite-AIS as well as LRIT data, Marsurv provided a very detailed picture of the vessel activities, on various occasions identifying fishing activities where traditional Vessel Monitoring Systems were not able to.

The EFCA Electronic Inspection Report system (EIR) was made available to Member States on a voluntary basis during the last part of 2014. Throughout 2015, one Member State was using the EFCA EIR as 'Software as a Service', utilising the functionality within the system to enter, store and manage their own EIR data within a discrete, private and secure 'area'. The access to this area is controlled by the Member State concerned. In this particular instance the Member State is entering EIR data manually. However, a further three Member States have successfully tested the automated transmission of data via the Transportation Layer.

EFCA continued to participate in a number of projects to test new technologies or improve maritime surveillance in any other way. This year in particular, EFCA participated

in projects with the purpose of finding the possible added value of using Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) for fisheries control activities.

EFCA is participating in the DeSIRE II demonstration project as an operational end-user, with a view to demonstrate the use of satellite guided RPAS for fisheries control in an operational environment. Furthermore, EFCA is a full member of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) for the Common Information Sharing Environment (CISE) initiative. In this respect, EFCA also participates in the EUCISE 2020 project for the creation of a pre-operational version of the CISE.

Training

In line with the related Administrative Board recommendation⁹, EFCA continued to follow the implemented working methods for the establishment and development of the Core Curricula (CC). The volume III was published and made available on the Publications Office and EFCA websites, as well as on the Core Curricula Development Platform. The first volume on Inspection at Sea was updated in order to cover the landing obligation and regional aspects of the new CFP for the benefit of the Union Inspectors and a new course for SFPAs countries was drafted.

During 2015, EFCA worked intensely on the creation of an e-learning platform (based on the open-source software "Moodle") and published the first interactive modules on Inspection at Sea. EFCA held 38 training events including regional workshops, exchange of best practices, training the trainers, Union inspector training, FIS-training and training for Third Countries at the request of the Commission as well as tailored training at request of individual Member States.

⁹Administrative Board recommendation no. 2.3.2., following the Five Year Independent External Evaluation of EFCA. Both documents are available at <http://www.efca.europa.eu/en/library-type/evaluation>

1.1.2. Support the Union in the International Dimension of the CFP and the fight against IUU activities

Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) and Third Countries

EFCA assists the EU in their relations with RFMOs, namely NAFO, NEAFC, ICCAT and GFCM, to:

1. Facilitate compliance of the EU with their commitments at international level (inspection effort deployment, training and notifications);
2. Support the EU delegation in the different meetings organised by each RFMO;
3. Facilitate cooperation with Third Countries (exchange of inspectors and training);
4. On request of the European Commission, EFCA organised a working-group seminar on fisheries control in the context of the EC – US High level dialogue on Fisheries.

General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) training seminars

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) has adopted two roadmaps for the fight against IUU fishing both in the Black Sea and Mediterranean Sea. These include specific training actions for inspectors and general capacity building in monitoring, control and inspection procedures.

In accordance with EFCA's Work Programme for 2015 and subsequent requests from the European Commission, and in line with the EU's commitment to offer assistance to GFCM partner countries, EFCA carried out the following training activities:

- A Mediterranean inspector "training for trainers" at EFCA on 17 and 18 March 2015 with participants from eight non-EU GFCM members (Albania, Algeria, Egypt, Israel,

Lebanon, Morocco, Montenegro and Turkey) and four EU Member States (Croatia, Italy, Malta and Spain);

- A training seminar for inspectors from Black Sea riparian countries, including non-EU GFCM members (Georgia and Ukraine) on the 24 and 25 November 2015 in Constanta, Romania.

Capacity building for Third Countries in the framework of Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements (SFPAs)

Upon request, EFCA together with Member States experts provided assistance to the European Commission by giving on-the-spot training for Fisheries inspection in countries which have concluded SFPAs with the European Union.

IUU

EFCA continued to assist the European Commission with the analysis of documents for the preparation and conduction of evaluation missions in Third Countries. To assist Member States in their verification tasks at import, EFCA also developed a common methodology for IUU catch certificate verification and cross checks, which was presented to the IUU Steering Group on 5 November 2015.



1.1.3. Support the proceedings of the Expert Group on Compliance

EFCA attended the inaugural meeting of the Expert Group on Compliance which set the work framework and established the rules of procedure. During this meeting the following topics were discussed: the Member States control action plans, the state of play regarding the evaluation of the Control Regulation, the Member States sanctions systems and the adaptation of the data exchange rules under the control regulation.

EFCA explored the synergies with its related projects on compliance evaluation and identification of legal requirements (see section 1.2.3 “Programmes, plans and assessment”).

1.2. Operational Activities

EFCA is the European body responsible for organising operational coordination of control activities and provide assistance on that respect to the Member States and the Commission. These activities are conducted mainly through regional JDPs, but also include assistance to the European Commission on their relations with international fisheries organisations and organisation of training activities.

The JDPs are established for fisheries/areas that are considered a priority by the European Commission and the Member States concerned. They can refer to:

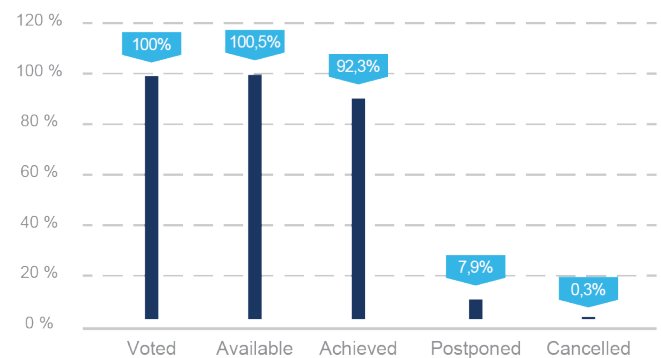
- European waters to which a Specific Control and Inspection Programme (SCIP) adopted by the Commission in concert with the Member States applies, or
- International waters under the competence of a RFMO, where EFCA is requested to coordinate the implementation of the European obligations under a Joint Inspection and Surveillance Scheme (JISS).

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

1. The JDPs establish the planning of the fisheries control means to be deployed by the Member States at sea and ashore, the information to be shared, the communication details and common rules to ensure a cooperative deployment of the control means in the area, based on a regional risk analysis developed by the Member States and EFCA.

2. The JDPs establish that the deployment of pooled national means is coordinated by EFCA through

EFCA OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES - Achievements 2015¹⁰



coordination centres in charge (CCIC) in a Member State or the presence of national coordinators at EFCA premises. It is implemented through two common groups: a) A Regional Steering Group (SG) composed of Commission, Member States and EFCA representatives is in charge of ensuring the proper implementation of the JDP;

b) A Technical Joint Deployment Group (TJDG), composed of Member States and EFCA staff, is in charge of the follow-up of the daily control activities and adopts the decisions needed to guarantee an effective deployment of the control means.

3. The JDP is evaluated and assessed yearly by EFCA in cooperation with the Member States. Special attention is given to the risks for non-compliance that are considered in the risk analysis of the following period.

¹⁰ Voted 2015 budget allocated to Operations (Title III).
 Available 2015 budget allocated to Operations (Title III) after transfers from other titles.
 Achieved 2015 budget consumed and carried-forward regarding 2015 activities.
 Postponed 2015 budget carried-forward regarding 2016 activities.
 Cancelled 2015 budget cancelled and not carried-forward.

Through the JDPs, different elements to improve the control and inspection at a regional level are discussed and implemented. The Regional SG serves as a forum for discussion and exchange of best practices at a regional level. It includes the implementation at a regional level of projects concerning regional risk analysis, best practices for coordination and the optimum use of information tools, and the assessment of cost effectiveness of control operations.

In the context of the JDPs, EFCA is also providing assistance to the Member States and the European Commission in the area of control, inspection and surveillance, with specific regard to activities enhancing

the potential of national enforcement services to apply the rules of the CFP in a uniform and effective manner. These activities include reporting and exchange of data on fishing, control and inspection activities, arranging the accessibility of those data to the CCIC and Associated Coordination Centres (ACCs), developing and coordinating training programmes, fighting against IUU and the possible acquisition of equipment necessary for the implementation of JDPs or on the request of Member States. The objective is to provide shared and cost effective data availability to Member States inspection and surveillance means in the JDPs and Operational Plans.

1.2.1. Implementation of JDPs & Operational Plans

	Planned				Consumed				Implementation rate / staff variation			
Standard Budget	127.000 €				137.209 €				108%			
ABMS 1.1	1.364.912 €				1.187.961 €				87%			
Staff	AD	AST	SNE	CA	AD	AST	SNE	CA	AD	AST	SNE	CA
	0,5	4	2,5	0	0,5	4,5	2,7	0	0	0,5	0,2	0

DELIVERABLES	
Planned	Achieved
Regional JDPs and Operational Plans for 2015 in North Sea, Baltic Sea and Black Sea implemented	Yes
JDPs in International waters managed by NAFO, NEAFC and ICCAT implemented	Yes
Joint campaigns reports delivered	Yes
PACT regional projects implemented	Yes
System availability rate for the real-time exchange of data, documents and information in relation to JDPs/Operational Plans	Yes ¹¹
Improved operational monitoring capabilities for JDPs/Operational Plans	Yes
Management and use of tailored IT applications (e.g. MARSURV) in different JDP/operational areas	Yes

¹¹ See section 1.2.1 c) and 1.2.4 "Main activity report" b) for further explanation about ERS.



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Introduction

Through JDPs, EFCA ensures the best use of human and material resources pooled by Member States in a coordinated way to improve compliance in the fisheries concerned and to guarantee the level playing field in accordance with the specific objectives as proposed by each Regional Steering Group.

The implementation of JDPs was carried out in tight cooperation with Member States experts of the TJDG, under a responsive system able to adapt the joint control plans to the fisheries situations as they occurred.

Objectives

1. Coordinate the implementation of JDPs and Operational Plans, including PACT regional projects by the MS in EU waters, namely:

- The North Sea, the Kattegat, the Skagerrak, the eastern Channel, the waters west of Scotland and the Irish Sea (North Sea JDP)
- The Baltic Sea (Baltic Sea JDP)
- Western Waters (Western Waters JDP)
- Mediterranean Sea and Eastern Atlantic (Med and E Atlantic JDP)
- Black Sea

2. Coordinate the implementation of the EU contribution to the International Control and Inspection Programmes in RFMOs, namely:

- NAFO & NEAFC
- ICCAT

3. Provide shared and cost effective data which shall be available to Member States inspection and surveillance means in the JDPs and Operational Plans.



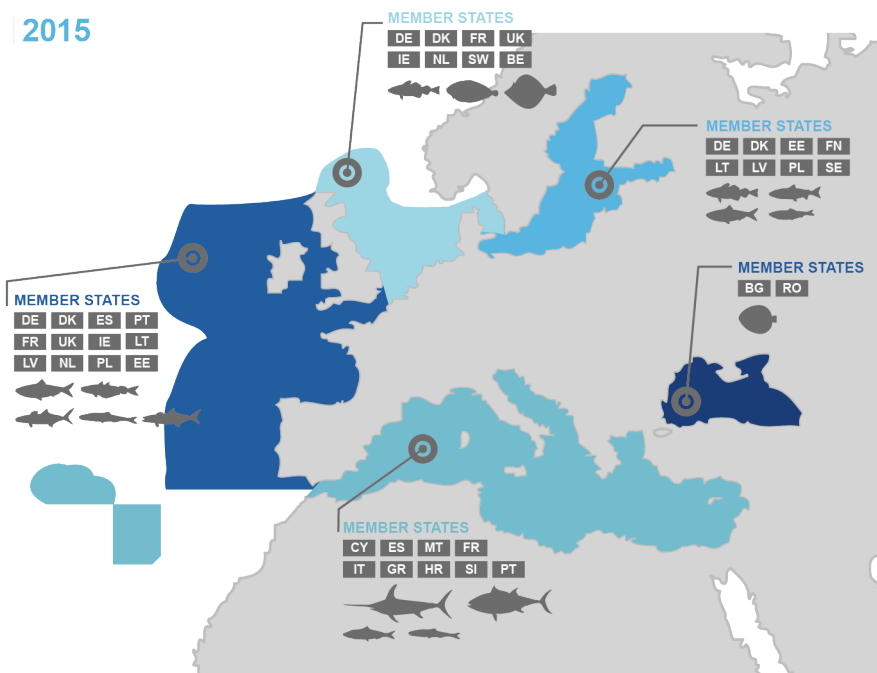
Main activity results

A - Implementation of JDP and Operational Plans in European Union waters

In 2015, all JDP campaigns were year-round. As in the previous year, the organisational arrangements were based on the permanent exchange of information through the TJDG which allowed for a flexible deployment of control means, able to adapt to the fisheries situation as they occurred.

▶ IMPLEMENTATION OF JDP AND OPERATIONAL PLANS IN EU WATERS

2015



OPERATION PLANS

In 2015, all JDP campaigns were year-round. As in the previous year, the organisational arrangements were based on the permanent exchange of information through the TJDG which allowed for a flexible deployment of control means, able to adapt to the fisheries situation as the occurred.

JDP

- BALTIC SEA
- NORTH SEA
- WESTERN WATERS
- MEDITERRANEAN SEA¹
- BLACK SEA

¹ EU WATERS

FISHERIES

- Sprat
- Mackerel
- Plaice
- Salmon
- Cod
- Sole
- Herring
- Sardine
- Horse Mackerel
- Greenland halibut
- Blue whiting
- Bluefin tuna
- Swordfish



PACT regional projects were also implemented in the context of EU waters. In the Black Sea an Operational Plan was established and a total of 13 missions of 3 days each were carried out. EFCA also supported 4 Member States Control Expert Groups (CEGs - see section “Level playing field enhancement” for more details).

Performance indicators	Target	Achieved
Number of PACT regional projects implemented	2	5

A detailed analysis of activities of each JDP, including inspections and suspected infringements detected, is presented in Annex I.

In all areas, the actual deployment of control means was higher than the one agreed at the planning JDP, ensuring an increased operational coverage. This was mostly due to flight coverage, as whilst MS are not in a position at the planning phase of JDPs to commit a high number of fisheries directed flights, a lot of fisheries related sightings are reported during implementation of JDPs (including those derived from “non-specific” fisheries flights). This follows the trend of a greater and more cost-effective integration of means in the wider maritime scenario.

The improved use of “non-core vessels” (vessels that are primordially planned for national control activities outside JDPs) due to a better coordination and integration of national control means under fisheries of relevance to JDPs has also contributed to this increase.

In general, the significant increase on the deployment of control means is reflecting a higher level of integration of national control plans under JDP coordination, in accordance with the regional control areas principles.

Exchange of inspectors

In 2015, the secondments of EU inspectors to multinational inspector teams at sea and ashore continued to be a key element of the cooperation by Member States, facilitating the standardisation of inspection procedures and promoting a level playing field for the fishing industry. There were more than 1.100 man/days of exchanges achieved in the JDPs. It should be noticed that the minimum required target was clearly overpassed, confirming that exchanges of different Member States inspectors at regional level is now a common practice.

Risk Analysis

In accordance with the protocols developed in the context of the regional risk management project (see section “1.2.3 Programmes, plans and assessment”), there was an improvement of the availability of fishing vessels target lists provided by Member States in the JDP campaigns. This has greatly contributed to the tactical coordination of JDP campaigns.

Coordination of Campaigns

All 8 JDP campaigns were coordinated at some stage from EFCA. This allowed for an exchange of best practices in JDP coordination with Member States experts seconded at EFCA. There was an increase in the number of Member States that carried out the coordination of joint operations from the EFCA operational rooms in Vigo, including: BE, DE, ES, EE, HR, LT, LV, NL, PL, PT and SE.

The web integrated platform FISHNET was introduced to support the coordination of joint campaigns and the TJDG tasks, including: the exchange of inspection data, the planning of means, the exchange of target vessels and any other useful information to the campaign.

Performance indicators	Target	Achieved
Number of campaigns coordinated by EFCA	5 ¹²	8

¹²Target defined for all JDPs (including EU and international waters)

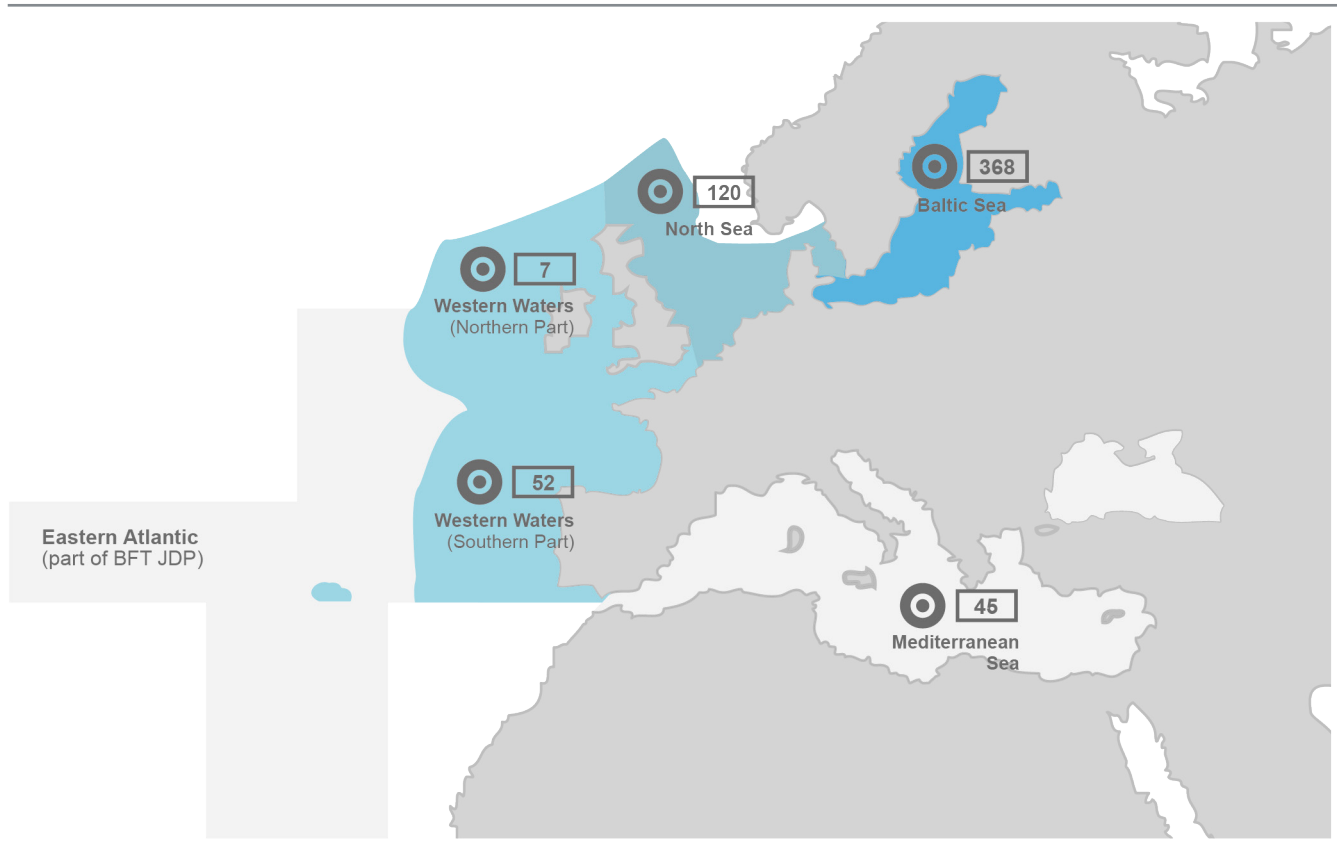
JDP implementation in support of the Landing obligation

In order to support the introduction of the CFP provisions related to the landing obligation, all JDPs implemented a data collection programme to facilitate the information on catch composition and establish the basis for a monitoring and evaluation of compliance. Inspection teams deployed at sea collected catch data of the “last observed haul” detected during the inspections. This valuable information

facilitated a comparison of quantities of fish recorded in fishing logbooks and estimated aboard of fishing vessels, which supported the different regional Member States CEGs risk analysis (see section “1.2.3. Programmes, plans and assessment”).

EFCA coordinators actively contributed to this exercise during sea campaigns, providing methodological support and guidance to Member States inspectors.

Last observed haul inspections by area



In the North Western Waters campaign of the Western Waters JDP, a protocol to collect gramme size data from landing / factory was developed, with the objective to allow for the spatial and temporal mapping of gramme size data to form a baseline for future analysis.



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Performance Indicators	Target	Achieved		
		Baltic Sea	North Sea	Western Waters
Number of campaigns days per JDP	> 300	348	348	348
Percentage of campaign, sea and ashore days carried out vs planned	95%	97%	99%	>100%
Control and inspection means deployed in accordance with the JDP schedule (% of total planned)	90%	>100%	>100%	>100%
Man/days in joint inspection teams	75	>75	>75	>75
Percentage of Member States providing a list of target fishing vessels in joint campaigns	80%	100%	88%	89%

Multiannual index to be used as a tendency for compliance evaluation purposes ¹³	Baltic Sea	North Sea	Western Waters
Number of inspections	6.216	7.571	2.561
Number of inspections with at least 1 suspected infringement	175	233	170
Ratios for inspections with at least 1 suspected infringement detected/ per activity day	2,8%	3,1%	6,6%

¹³Data available at the end of January 2016. Additional data may be received later from Member States.

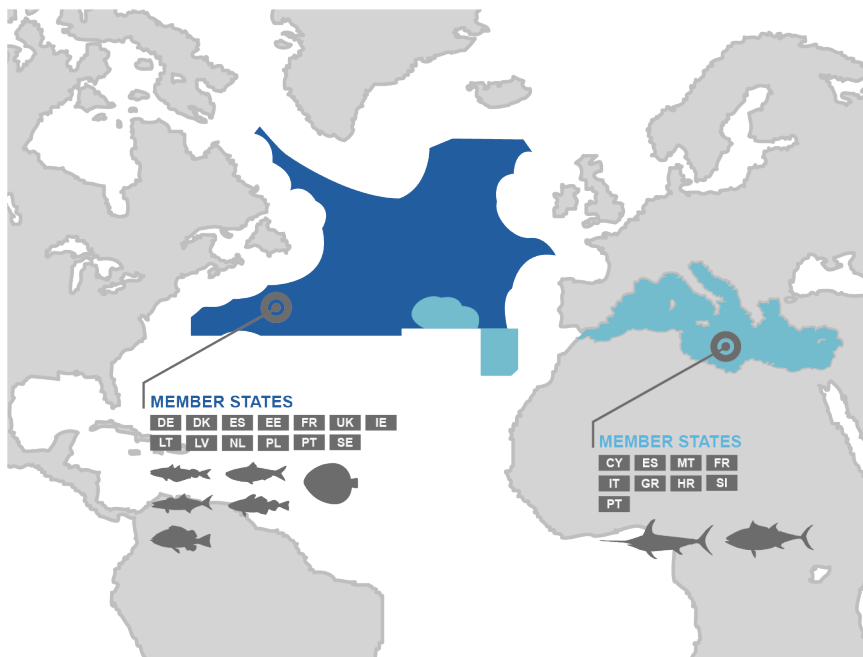
B - Implementation of JDPs in international waters

EFCA coordinated the EU contribution to the JISS of NAFO, NEAFC and ICCAT through the NAFO/NEAFC and Mediterranean JDPs. The European Union control commitments were fully achieved.

The scope of the different EFCA JDPs:



IMPLEMENTATION OF JDP AND OPERATIONAL PLANS IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS



OPERATION PLANS

EFCA coordinated the EU contribution to the international inspections and control schemes of NAFO, NEAFC and ICCAT through the NAFO/NEAFC and MED JDPs. The EU commitments were fully achieved in this respect.

JDP	
●	NAFO / NEAFC
●	MEDITERRANEAN SEA ²
² INTERNATIONAL WATERS	

FISHERIES	
	Mackerel
	Herring
	Cod
	Greenland halibut
	Bluefin tuna
	Swordfish
	Redfish
	Blue whiting

A detailed analysis of activities of each JDP, including inspections and suspected infringements detected, is presented in Annex I.

Overall, the deployment of control means were carried out in accordance with plans. In the case of the Mediterranean JDP the deployment was slightly less than foreseen due to early closure of the Bluefin tuna purse seine fishery, together with the fact that naval and Coastguard means were absorbed by other priorities in the area.



Exchange of inspectors

In 2015, the secondments of EU inspectors to multinational inspector teams continued to be the key element of the cooperation by Member States. More than 800 man/days of exchanges were achieved, a value clearly above the minimum established target. This was mostly due to the fact that NAFO / NEAFC sea campaigns are of a long duration and always involving a joint team of EU inspectors.

Mixed team inspections in the Member States ports are not benchmarked in the NAFO JDP. In accordance with the decision of the TJDG, EFCA coordinated the deployment of mixed teams. Three mixed teams were actually deployed.

An ongoing action in the 2015 Mediterranean JDP was the deployment of a Special Mixed Team (SMT) in the Bluefin tuna farms at the time of inspection of caging activities. This facilitate the representation of both the fishing and farming Member States throughout the inspection activities involving the use of stereoscopic cameras to define the number and weight of Bluefin tuna being caged. The SMT was deployed in Spanish farms over 17 days and in Malta over 17 days. As provided for in the JDP, EFCA coordinators participated in all these deployments.

Risk Analysis

EFCA continued to implement the risk analysis procedure which provides for a standardised assessment of risk to be submitted by the flag Member State of the fishing vessel to the port Member State of landing in the context of the NAFO JDP. In respect of landings from a fishing vessel from another Contracting Party, EFCA prepared and sent the risk analysis to the port Member State.

Coordination of Campaigns

The NAFO, NEAFC and the MED JDP campaigns were coordinated from EFCA. The MED campaign included hosting the TJDG throughout the period between 15 of May to 30 of June 2015.

The web integrated platform FISHNET was introduced to support the coordination of joint campaigns and the TJDG tasks, including: the exchange of inspection data, the planning of means, and any other useful information to the campaign.

Performance indicators	Target	Achieved
Number of campaigns coordinated by EFCA	5 ¹⁴	3

Participation of Agency staff as Union inspectors in international waters

During 2015 EFCA coordinators participated in all 4 missions on board MS Fishing Patrol Vessels (FPVs) in NAFO Regulatory Area and in 4 missions in NEAFC Regulatory Area. In 3 of the 4 missions in NEAFC Regulatory Area, EFCA coordinator acted as EU NEAFC inspector and participated in boarding of fishing vessels.

Performance indicators	Target	Achieved	
		NAFO NEAFC	MED
Number of campaigns days per JDP	> 300	365	365
Percentage of campaign, sea and ashore days carried out vs planned	95%	98%	>100%
Control and inspection means deployed in accordance with the JDP schedule (% of total planned)	90%	>100%	77%
Man/days in joint inspection teams	75	>75	>75
Percentage of Member States providing a list of target fishing vessels in joint campaigns	80%	N/A	86%

¹⁴Target defined for all JDPs (including EU and international waters)

Multiannual index to be used as a tendency for compliance evaluation purposes ¹⁵	NAFO NEAFC	MED
Number of inspections	131	599
Number of inspections with at least 1 suspected infringement	5	56
Ratios for inspections with at least 1 suspected infringement detected / per activity day	3,8%	9,3%

Systems available for the real-time exchange of data, documents and information in relation to JDPs/Operational Plans

The EFCA VMS system is providing fishing vessel positional and movement data to the relevant operations as well as routing this data to EMSA to feed the integrated maritime data environment for the EFCA MARSURV service. In addition, the relevant operations are also provided with electronic logbook information through the EFCA Electronic Reporting System, as well as JDP related management data through JADE and EFCA Fishnet for facilitating collaboration amongst Member States, and between Member States and EFCA. During the year, the EFCA ERS has experienced some performance issues which have limited the number of messages the system could process, thereby reducing the number of queries sent from the ERS system to the Member States.

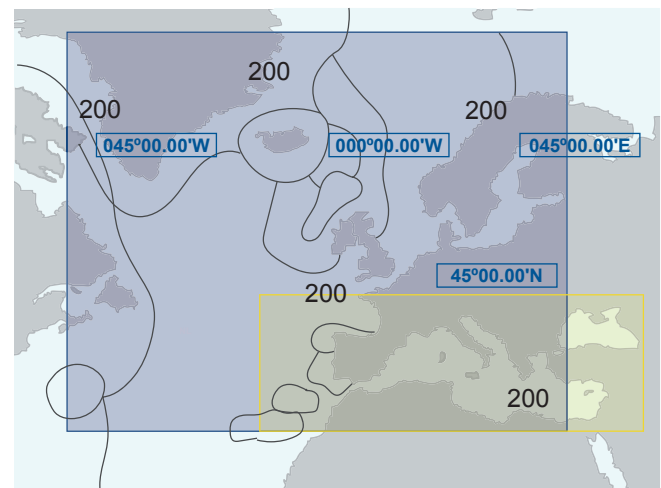
Improved operational monitoring capabilities for JDPs/Operational Plans

In support of the operational activities in the JDPs, the suite of operational fisheries information applications has been feeding the operations with data. Fishnet was used for all coordination activities throughout the year and increased the transparency with each JDP having its own secure area where shared documents were made available to all participating parties as well as the video conferencing capability which made coordination meetings more efficient. The use of EFCA Fishnet also added to the cost

effectiveness in that there was less need for travel of the EFCA staff to MS during the JDPs. More than 280 users from 28 MS's were registered on the system by year end.

Management and use of tailored IT applications (e.g. EFCA-EMSA MARSURV Service) in different JDP/operational areas

The EFCA-EMSA MARSURV Service is an operational application with two main services, i.e. the North Atlantic area and the Mediterranean-Black Sea area. The use of MARSURV has increased during 2015 now having 215 individual users stemming from 21 different Member States and EFCA.



■ North Atlantic area ■ Mediterranean-Black Sea area

Performance indicators	Target	Achieved
VMS, ERS, Fishnet and JADE availability rate	96%	98%
VMS, ERS connected MS rate	100%	65% ¹⁶
Connected MS rate for Fishnet	75%	100%
User evaluation on availability of Maritime applications and IT tools, including at EFCA Operations coordination centre	<10% non-satisfaction per participating MS	25% ¹⁷

¹⁵ Data available at the end of January 2016. Additional data may be received later from Member States.

¹⁶ VMS 100%, ERS on reduced speed due to technical problems.

¹⁷ Estimation made that all maritime applications' availability rate was satisfactory but for the ERS due to the reduced speed.



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1.2.2. Level playing field enhancement

	Planned				Consumed				Implementation rate / staff variation			
Standard Budget	404.000 €				345.410 €				85%			
ABMS 1.2	2.526.445 €				2.477.653 €				98%			
Staff	AD	AST	SNE	CA	AD	AST	SNE	CA	AD	AST	SNE	CA
	3,5	8,5	0,3	0	3,5	8,1	0,3	0	0	-0,4	0	0

DELIVERABLES	
Planned	Achieved
Assistance to MS and the Commission in projects related to the implementation of the CFP, including PACT regional projects	Yes
Organisation and reports of the regional steering group meetings	Yes
Planning and assessment of the regional control operations, including PACT regional projects	Yes
Support to MS pilot projects or ToR for evaluation of emerging technologies	Yes
Mission preparation, on the spot visits and reports on evaluation missions in Third Countries	Yes
Analysis of catch certificates and processing statements	Yes
Development of a common methodology for IUU Catch Certificate verification and cross checks	Yes
Organisation and reports on the IUU steering group meetings	Yes
Report of results of assistance in relation with thirds countries	Yes
Report on the implementation of the tasks delegated to EFCA in relation to RFMOs	Yes

Introduction

The JDPs are organised in three phases: planning, implementation and assessment, which are coordinated by EFCA in tight cooperation with the Commission and Member States under the Regional Steering Group. Further to overseeing the overall coordination of JDPs, the SG also serve as a forum for discussion and exchange of best practices at a regional level. The SG is also involved in projects related to the regional risk analysis, the optimum use of fisheries information tools and the assessment of cost effectiveness of control operations.

EFCA has worked closely with the regional bodies created by the Member States to promote the adoption of decisions facilitating control in all areas. The full offer of cooperation and support to these regional Member States groups has been a central area of work of EFCA in 2015. EFCA is implementing cooperation projects for assistance with the CEG of all constituted regional Member States groups (BALTFISH, Group of Scheveningen, North Western Waters and South Western Waters).

In the domain of Maritime Surveillance, there is a need to harness the cost efficiency offered by the new technologies that may be used in the area of fisheries control. EFCA has contributed to that need by assuming the expert role and has given input to various research projects under the 7th Framework Programme and Horizon 2020.

In the domain of assisting the European Commission and the Member States to uniformly and effectively apply the rules of the IUU Regulation, EFCA has worked to create a cross checking methodology which was presented to the IUU Steering group in November and which was received very positively. Equally important as for the European Union to have a uniform and effective control of the imports is to ensure that there is a good control system in place in the Third Country of origin. To that end, EFCA has upon request of the European Commission, conducted training in the area of fisheries control as well as assisted the European Commission in evaluation missions to Third Countries and in general, in analysing catch certificates from Third Countries to contribute to the establishment of maturity of the control systems in those countries.

Objective

1. To assist Member States and the Commission in harmonising the application of the Common Fisheries Policy, including through PACT regional projects.
2. To provide assistance to the European Commission and the Member States in order to ensure uniform and effective application of the rules of Council Regulation (EC) No. 1005/2008 and fight against IUU fishing.
3. To promote a level playing field at EU level and vis-à-vis RFMO's and Third Countries.



Main activity results

A - Adoption of Regional JDPs and Joint Operational Plans

The Steering Groups successfully concluded the planning of the fisheries control means to be deployed in 2016 by the Member States at sea and ashore, as well as the information to be shared. This planning was done on a risk-based approach, supported by a regional risk analysis workshop (see point 1.2.2 d).

The table below shows details of the adoption date of the different JDPs and provides a short description of main features.

2016 JDPs	Adoption date	Main features
Baltic Sea	7 December 2015	- Year-round campaign with permanent exchange of VMS, ERS, inspection information and intelligence
North Sea	8 December 2015	- Strategic risk analysis and sharing of MS target list Operational coordination at TJDG level
Western Waters	8 December 2015	- Coordination centres both in Member States and EFCA
NAFO and NEAFC	4 September 2015	- Deployment of control means on the basis of the flexible, risk-based planning
Mediterranean and Eastern Atlantic JDP	30 March 2015 6 July 2015	- Joined/mixed teams of inspectors which may also include EFCA coordinators
		- Standardised information exchange workflow (FISHNET)
		- Specific action foreseen in the context of the implementation of the landing obligation
		- Development and implementation of common inspection protocols

B - Cooperation with Regional Groups (PACT regional projects)

The cooperation and support to the CEGs of all constituted regional MS groups has been a central area of EFCA activity during 2015. This cooperation was organised upon request of the Member States groups directed to EFCA. Cooperation with these groups mostly concerned the implementation of the landing obligation and can be summarised in the following terms:

Cooperation with the Scheveningen Group

EFCA is cooperating with Scheveningen Group in this area since February 2014. The High Level Group, by the formal letter of 3 March 2015, has specifically requested EFCA's assistance to develop risk analysis on North Sea Demersal fisheries. A Work Plan is being implemented in cooperation with the Scheveningen Control Expert Group. During 2015, the main supporting activities included:

- A first risk assessment exercise for demersal fisheries in the North Sea done in May 2015 (see section 1.2.3, part e);
- Assistance in the evaluation control and monitoring tools available for monitoring the implementation of the landing obligation.



Cooperation with the Baltfish Group

EFCA is cooperating with Baltfish since the end of 2013. In accordance with the High Level Group request at the end of 2014, a Work Plan is being implemented in cooperation with the BALTFISH Control Expert Group.

During 2015, the main supporting activities included:

- An update of the risk assessment for 2016 (see section 1.2.3, part e);
- Preparation of guidelines for inspectors, in cooperation with BALTFISH;
- Organisation of an event with the stakeholders to evaluate the implementation of the landing obligation BALTFISH -Industry-EFCA Workshop (June 2015).

Cooperation with the North Western Waters (NWW) Group

EFCA is cooperating with NWW since February 2015. The chairman of the CEG, by the formal letter of 1 April 2015 requested EFCA's assistance in the risk assessment of demersal fisheries in North Western Waters regarding compliance with the landing obligation. A Work Plan is being implemented in cooperation with the NWW Control Expert Group.

During 2015, the main supporting activities included:

- Assistance to the NWW CEG in the development of draft joint recommendations to achieve compliance with the LO in pelagic fisheries in NWW. These recommendations included:
 - Evaluation of compliance with the landing obligation;
 - Standardisation of inspection methodologies;
 - Use the JDP as a platform to exchange information on the implementation of the LO.
- A first risk assessment exercise for demersal fisheries in the NWW carried out in September 2015 (see section 1.2.3, part e).

Cooperation with the South Western Waters (SWW) Group

EFCA is cooperating with the SWW Group since June 2015. The chairman of the CEG, by the formal letter of 3 September 2015, requested EFCA assistance in the risk assessment of pelagic and demersal fisheries regarding compliance with the landing obligation. A Work Plan is being implemented in close cooperation with the SWW Control Expert Group.

During 2015, the main supporting activities included:

- Assistance to the SWW CEG in the development of recommended measures to achieve compliance with the LO in pelagic fisheries in SWW. These recommendations included:
 - Evaluation of compliance with the landing obligation;
 - Standardisation of inspection methodologies;
 - Use the JDP as a platform to exchange information on the implementation of the LO.
- A first risk assessment exercise for demersal and pelagic fisheries in the SWW done in December 2015 (see section 1.2.3, part e).

Cooperation with the Adriatic Sea High Level Group (HLG)

EFCA is discussing the cooperation with MED-Adriatic HLG since February 2015. A Work Plan is currently being discussed. The Adriatic HLG has requested EFCA to study a possible assistance in the implementation of the landing obligation.

Cooperation with Romania and Bulgaria in the Black Sea

A joint work-plan for three years was established and implemented by detailing activities related to:

- Joint Control and inspection actions
- Risk analysis
- Training

Annex I presents in detail the different meetings in which cooperation with CEGs was established.



C - Cooperation with Advisory Councils

EFCA promotes a close dialogue with all stakeholders, so as to promote a culture of compliance. During 2015, EFCA attended and contributed to several meetings of the different ACs as summarised in the table below. A particular focus was given to the meetings related to the introduction of the new landing obligation.

D - JDP Planning

EFCA Regional Risk Analysis system has facilitated the planning by providing the medium to long-term strategic objectives for the JDPs. EFCA organised four Regional Risk Analysis Workshops with the participation of experts from the MS concerned, as presented below:

Advisory Council	Place	Date
North Sea	Copenhagen	4 February
	Paris	14 April
	Brussels	13 July
Baltic Sea	Copenhagen	19 February
	Warsaw	31 August - 1 September
Pelagic	Bilbao	21 April
	The Hague	8-9 July
	Edinburgh	7-8 October
Long Distance	Brussels	21-23 April
Mediterranean Sea	Rome	9-11 March
	Marseilles	23 April
	Athens	6-8 October
North Western Waters	Bilbao Edinburgh	22-23 April 7-9 July
South Western Waters	Bilbao London	23 April 26 May

JDP / Operational Plans	Workshop date
Baltic Sea	16 June
North Sea & adjacent waters	17 June
Western Waters (Pelagic) JDP	18-19 June
MED JDP	24-25 November

The following tables summarise the priority risks of non-compliance identified for the different areas and fisheries which are to be addressed in 2016:

MAIN THREATS IN COD FISHERIES IN THE BALTIC SEA

FISHING VESSELS USING ACTIVE GEAR

- High grading or illegal discarding of catches ⁽¹⁾
- Incorrect recording of species/weight in logbook
- Failure to comply with the landing obligation

Western BS 22-24 Eastern BS 25-32



(1) for fisheries where the landing obligation does not apply

Low ● Medium ● High ●

MAIN THREATS IN SALMON FISHERIES IN THE BALTIC SEA

FISHING VESSELS USING PASSIVE GEAR

	Southern BS 22-26	Northern BS 27-32
Fishing in closed areas, closed seasons etc.	○	●
Prohibited fishing gear	○	●
Fishing without a licence or special permit	○	●
Incorrect recording of species/weight in logbook	○	●
Failure to report a landing	○	●
Failure to comply with the landing obligation	●	○

Low ● Medium ● High ●

MAIN THREATS IN SPRAT & HERRING FISHERIES IN THE BALTIC SEA



FISHING VESSELS USING ACTIVE GEAR

	Sprat		Herring		
	ENTIRE BS 22-32	WESTERN BS 22-24	WESTERN BS 25+26+27 +28 2+29+32	EASTERN BS 30+31	EASTERN BS 28.1
Incorrect catch composition	●	○	●	○	●
High grading or illegal discarding of catches ⁽¹⁾	○	○	○	○	●
Incorrect recording of species / weight in logbook	●	○	●	●	○

(1) for fisheries where the landing obligation does not apply

WW PELAGIC NORTH THREATS

THREAT

	Herring	Horse Mackerel	Mackerel	Blue whiting
Misrecording of catches	○	○	●	○
Not complying with the Landing Obligation	●	●	●	○
Slipping	●	○	●	○
Misreporting of Fishing Area	●	○	●	●
Illegal landing	○	○	●	○

Low ● Medium ● High ●

WW PELAGIC SOUTH THREATS

THREAT

	Herring	Horse Mackerel	Mackerel	Blue whiting
Misrecording of catches	○	○	●	●
Illegal landing	○	○	○	●
Transport / Marketing	○	○	●	●

Low ● Medium ● High ●



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FISHING VESSELS USING ACTIVE GEAR

THREAT

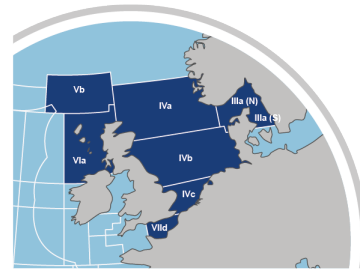
	IIIa (S)	IIIa (N)	IVa	IVb	IVc & VIId	Vb & VIa
High grading or illegal discarding of catches ¹	●	●	●	●	○	●
Fishing in closed areas, closed seasons, etc.	○	○	●	○	○	●
Incorrect escape windows	○	○	●	○	○	○
Use of illegal attachments	○	○	●	○	○	○
Incorrect recording of species/weight in logbook	●	○	○	○	○	○
Miss-recording of fishing area in logbook	○	○	●	○	○	○
Failure to report a landing	●	○	○	○	○	○

¹For fisheries where landing obligation does not apply

Low ● Medium ● High ●



THE NORTH SEA JDP



Main threats in cod fisheries in the North Sea, the Skagerrak, the Kattegat, the eastern Channel and the waters west of Scotland.

FISHING VESSELS USING ACTIVE GEAR

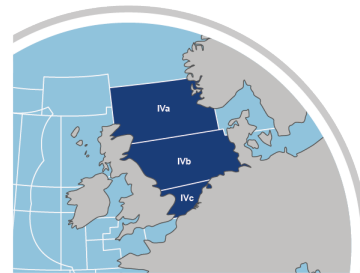
THREAT

	IVa	IVb	IVc
High grading or illegal discarding of catches ¹	●	○	●
Failure to comply with landing obligation ²	●	●	●
Fishing in closed areas, closed seasons, etc.	○	●	○
Incorrect mesh sizes	○	○	●
Prohibited fishing gear	○	○	●
Use of illegal attachments	○	○	●

¹For fisheries where landing obligation does not apply

²Refers to discard plan

Low ● Medium ● High ●



Main threats in plaice fisheries in the North Sea.

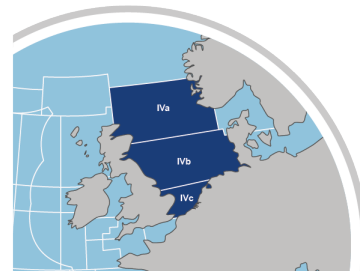
FISHING VESSELS USING ACTIVE GEAR

THREAT

	IVa	IVb	IVc
Failure to comply with landing obligation ¹	●	●	●
Incorrect mesh sizes	○	○	●
Prohibited fishing gear	○	●	●
Use of illegal attachments	○	○	●
Incorrect recording of species/weight in logbook	●	○	●
Failure to report a landing	○	○	●

¹Refers to discard plan

Low ● Medium ● High ●



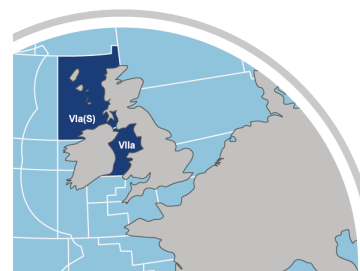
Main threats in sole fisheries in the North Sea.

FISHING VESSELS USING ACTIVE GEAR

THREAT

	VIa(S) & VIa
Failure to comply with the landing obligation	●

Low ● Medium ● High ●



Main threats in cod fisheries in the Irish Sea.



BLUEFIN TUNA AND SWORDFISH

*** FISHERIES ***



AT SEA



LANDING

MISREPORTING of catch

Illegal transshipment
at sea by **towing, auxiliary**
and **support vessels**



Non-compliant conventional video

Fishing undersize SWO

Mis-recording
of transfer operations in
towing vessel log book

Fishing SWO
outside authorised
fishing season

LANDING BFT outside designated port

Mis-recording
of catch **in logbook**



Vessels fishing BFT and/or
SWO outside open
fishing season

Landing of undersize BFT
and SWO



by recreational vessels

24 **Landing** of more than
per day one BFT
by recreational vessels

Landing of BFT and/or
SWO not whole or gilled/gutted

Vessels fishing BFT
and/or SWO without
specific autorisation



MAIN THREATS FOR BLUEFIN TUNA
AND SWORDFISH FISHERIES



SARDINES AND ANCHOVY

*** FISHERIES ***



AT SEA



LANDING

Non-compliance
with fishing effort measures

No respect of logbook provisions



Non-compliant
with temporal/spatial closures

Use of illegal GEAR

 **Non-compliance**
with VMS

MISREPORTING of discards

No respect of logbook 

Use of illegal GEAR

 **Non-compliance**
with VMS

Non-compliance
with fishing effort measures

 **MISREPORTING**
of weight
(catch/discards)

MAIN THREATS FOR SARDINES AND ANCHOVY IN THE ADRIATIC

E - JDP assessment

EFCA assesses the effectiveness of the JDPs on the basis of performance indicators and benchmarks by a common evaluation in cooperation with the Member States, including common reporting of joint control activities at regional level.

The JDPs annual assessment reports regarding 2014 were sent to the European Parliament, the European Commission and Member States on 22 June 2015.

The assessment reports highlighted some recommendations that are being considered in the implementation of the different JDPs. The key recommendations are summed up below:

- Continue to enhance an effective coordination of risk management strategies;
- Explore the use of compliance oriented benchmarks for the assessment of JDPs;
- Improve the inspection data exchange arrangements utilising EIR as a platform;
- Optimise the use of target vessels lists deriving from risk analysis;
- Promote exchange of inspectors for the sake of knowledge transfer and the establishment of best practices;
- Reduce the administrative burden via improved data exchange systems;
- Continue the provision of EFCA training courses and workshops as fundamental support to the JDPs.

F - Assistance to EU in relations with Third Countries

As in previous years, EFCA staff have participated and provided technical assistance to the EU Delegations in different meetings with RFMOs and Third Countries at international level.

During 2015, EFCA participated as follows:

NAFO: STACTIC¹⁸ Intersessional meeting and Working Group on Port State Control (4-8 May), Working Group on by-catches, discards and selectivity (13-14 July) and NAFO Annual Meeting (21-25 September).

NEAFC: assistance by EFCA was provided in the 3 PECCOE¹⁹ meetings (27-28 January, 14-15 April and 9-10 September).

ICCAT: EFCA assistance was provided in the Annual ICCAT meeting (9-16 November) as in the inter-sessional meetings of the Compliance Committee, Permanent Working Group and Integrated Monitoring Measures Working Groups (23-27 February). An EFCA staff member has the position of Chair of the ICCAT e-BCD²⁰ Technical Working Group that has also met several times during 2015 (21-22 January, 7-10 April and 17-19 September). EFCA organised in its headquarters the ICCAT e-BCD Technical Working Group of January 2015.

GFCM: EFCA assistance was provided in the GFCM Annual Meeting (Milan, 26-27 May) and in the Compliance Committee Meeting (Rome, 19-20 January). Also in cooperation with GFCM, and on a request from the Commission, EFCA has also organised 2 seminars/training sessions for GFCM non-EU Members, as follows:

- GFCM/EFCA Seminar/training for Mediterranean Contracting Parties: 17/18 March 2015 (14 participants – Albania, Algeria, Croatia, Egypt, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Malta, Montenegro, Morocco, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey);
- GFCM/EFCA Seminar/training for Black Sea Contracting Parties: 24/25 November 2015 (10 participants – Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania and Ukraine).

EFCA has also taken part in the 2 following Monitoring Control and Surveillance (MCS) Coastal States (EU, Faroe Islands, Iceland, Norway and Russia) pelagic fisheries

¹⁸ Standing Committee on International Control.

¹⁹ Permanent Committee for Control and Enforcement.

²⁰ Electronic Bluefin Tuna Catch Document.



WG meetings: on 24-25 March in Copenhagen and on 29 September-01 October in Bergen.

In the context of the EC – US High level dialogue on Fisheries, EFCA also organised a working-group seminar on fisheries control together with representatives from the EC, the US Coast Guard and NOAA²¹. This meeting took place on the 9 and 10 of June 2015 at EFCA premises in Vigo.

As regards IUU, EFCA has participated to ATLAFCO²² workshop on “Monitoring, Control and Surveillance, an effective tool to fight against IUU fishing” (Marrakech, 27-28 October 2015) and has also participated to the FAO workshop on “Implementing the 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing” (Cape Verde, 20-24 July 2015).

G - Implementation of the task delegated to EFCA by the European Commission in relation to RFMOs

EFCA has implemented different tasks delegated by the European Commission related to the notification to NAFO and NEAFC of different information resulting from the inspection activities deployed by the Member States:

- Regarding NAFO, this information includes list of observers, inspectors and inspection means;
- Regarding NEAFC, EFCA is providing the NEAFC Secretariat with lists of inspectors and inspection means as well as compiled annual reports on EU inspection activities in the NEAFC Regulatory Area.

EFCA sends all originals of inspection reports carried out by Member States inspectors in both RFMO areas to the competent authorities of the flag states of the fishing vessels, with copies being sent to both RFMO Secretariats.

H - Support to Member States on pilot projects of Terms of Reference (ToR) for evaluation of emerging technologies

In 2015 EFCA continued to provide input for the EMSA-Frontex-EFCA inter-agency CYRIS project in defining user requirements for the use of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) and the development of an inter-agency business model for RPAS deployment.

Currently the continuation of the CYRIS project, with trail flight campaigns, is postponed. In April 2015, another project with regards to RPAS, DeSIRE II, was confirmed to go ahead. DeSIRE II is a project managed jointly by the European Space Agency and the European Defence Agency aiming at providing user-defined RPAS services supported by satellites, to the Maritime Surveillance community. An industry consortium in close cooperation with regional and European flight control authorities and a number of interested end-users such as the Italian Coastguard, Guardia di Finanza & Civil Protection, the French Mediterranean Forest Protection and EFCA will develop and assess specific RPAS services. EFCA mainly focuses on the anticipated needs of the Fisheries Surveillance users' community, contributes to the analysis of the demonstration concept and provides input for designing the service delivery model and system architecture in view of users' needs. In preparation of the operational phase of the project in 2016, EFCA was also involved in the definition of criteria for the end-validation of the service.

²¹ National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

²² Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Cooperation among African States bordering the Atlantic Ocean.

I - Mission preparation, on the spot visits and reports on evaluation missions in Third Countries

Throughout the year EFCA has participated and supported the European Commission in four evaluation missions to the following countries:

Third Countries	Mission dates in 2015
Cape Verde	14-17 January
Kenya	18-22 February
Taiwan	22-26 March
Angola	29 August – 4 September

EFCA’s main role in relation to the evaluation missions is to prepare the visit by analysing the catch certificates from the country in question and provide the European Commission with a report of the findings. During the mission, the EFCA representative assists with presentations and explanations of its findings to the Third Country authorities.

J - Analysis of catch certificates and processing statements

EFCA assisted the European Commission with the analysis of a total of 1.873 catch certificates and “Annex IV - processing statements” and approximately 4.580 supporting documents for 9 Third Countries (Angola, Cape Verde, Ecuador, Ghana, India, Kenya, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Taiwan). In preparation for evaluation missions for the very beginning of 2016, EFCA also started in 2015 the analysis of catch certificates for Thailand, Solomon Islands and China.

K - Development of a common methodology for IUU catch certificate verification and cross checks

EFCA has developed a draft common methodology for IUU catch certificate verification and cross-checking which has great emphasis on the hands-on operational tasks of the Member States. The document was presented to the IUU Steering Group members and discussed during the Steering group meeting on the 5 November 2015 and was very positively received by the members of the group.

L - Organisation and reports on the IUU steering group meetings

The first IUU Steering Group meeting was held in Vigo on 5 November 2015. 52 persons attended representing 25 MS, the European Commission and EFCA. During the meeting, EFCA presented a draft common methodology for IUU catch certificate verification and cross-checking (see above). The use of a possible world-wide Marsurv service was demonstrated. The Steering Group agreed to keep on working on the finalisation of the methodology and requested the world-wide Marsurv service to be made available for operational use.





M - Union Inspectors

The 2015 list of Union Inspectors established pursuant to article 79(1) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 contained 1.583 Union Inspectors from Member States and 46 from EFCA & DG MARE. As required, the updated list of Union Inspectors was published on the EFCA website. Furthermore 139 new Union Inspector cards were produced. So far, all Union Inspectors have been provided with a Union Inspector ID document.

Performance indicators	Target	Achieved
Planning of control operations delivered timely	4 th Quarter 2015	4 th Quarter 2015
Assessment reports 2014 delivered before 30 June 2015	100%	100%
ID cards issued for new Union Inspectors where info and photos have been provided	100%	100%
Roadmap issued for PACT regional projects proposed by MS	100%	100%
Project evaluation or Terms of reference (ToR)	1	1
Number of missions in Third Countries	4	100%
Percentage of planned missions completed	100%	100%
Number of mission reports	4	4
Number of catch certificates and processing statements analysed	1.500	1.873
Percentage of Third Countries to which EFCA assisted in comparison with EC requests	100%	100%
No delay in the implementation of the tasks delegated by the EC	100%	100%

Multiannual index to be used as a tendency for compliance evaluation purposes

In the IUU domain	
Number of evaluation missions, dialogue missions, and follow-up missions to Third Countries	4
Number of catch certificates and processing statements analysed and processed	1.873 ²³
Number of reports produced within 3 weeks of the completion of the evaluation mission	4

²³ In addition approximately 4.580 accompanying documents were also analyzed.

1.2.3. Programmes, plans and assessment

	Planned				Consumed				Implementation rate / staff variation			
Standard Budget	200.000 €				214.396 €				107%			
ABMS 1.3	1.287.179 €				1.312.946 €				102%			
Staff	AD	AST	SNE	CA	AD	AST	SNE	CA	AD	AST	SNE	CA
	3,5	0,5	0	1	3,5	0,5	0	1	0	0	0	0

DELIVERABLES	
Planned	Achieved
Implementation of a project on regional risk analysis	Yes
Implementation of a project to evaluate compliance trends and cost-effectiveness of control operations in a limited number of fisheries to be decided by the AB through the Focus Groups	Yes
Support to the Expert Group on Compliance	Yes
Evaluation of the costs of JDPs and Operational Plans	Yes
Implementation of a project to implement the landing obligation at a regional level	Yes
Workshop for CCIC/ACC representatives	Yes
Report on MS procedures and requirements to be considered by Union Inspectors when acting in waters of another Member State and follow-up	Project approved
Roadmap 2015 to ensure that coordination of control activities is organised efficiently	Yes

Introduction

A dedicated “Programmes, plans and assessment” activity was included in the EFCA AWP 2015 by realising that EFCA regional activities would benefit from a better coordination on horizontal related issues such as planning, implementation and assessment of JDPs.

New projects were developed in response to Member State’s needs, which aim for the generation of novel approaches to EFCA core business and assistance to Member States in responding to the challenges of a new CFP. Particular care was taken to promote a coherent development amongst common priorities of regional EFCA activities, whilst ensuring that regional specifications are considered during implementation of the different JDPs.

Objective

1. To promote cost-effectiveness of control operations.
2. To promote efficient coordination of the control activities.
3. To assist the EC to cooperate with international organisations.



Main activity results

A - Implementation of a project on regional risk analysis²⁴

The Regional Risk Management Project objective is to review, reinforce and standardize the use of risk-based approach in the planning and coordination of Joint Deployment Plans (JDPs).

Activities were grouped in work packages according to 3 levels at which risk based approach is used in the life cycle of JDPs:

- Operational level (exchange of targets)
- Priority risk management
- Strategic planning of JDPs

There was a project meeting held in Vigo on the 10 and 11 of November 2015 to discuss the above mentioned work packages. Protocols for the operational level (exchange of targets) and for priority risk assessment were validated at this occasion. Issues concerning a possible improvement of the procedures related to the strategic planning of JDPs were also addressed and work is ongoing.

Due to the introduction of the landing obligation by the European Union, priority risk management was addressed as a primary issue and a standard process was developed to support this exercise, including guidelines for risk assessment. In parallel, a review of the protocols to exchange targets for control was initiated.

In 2015, the risk management process for priority risk was applied in the context of the landing obligation in support of regional MS groups BALTFISH, Scheveningen, North and South Western Waters groups.

In EU waters JDPs, risks assessment workshops organised in June 2015 for the 2016 planning were used to introduce the analysis of priority risk factors to identify risk treatment activities. A background document on risk treatment was presented and used as support to exercises.

In the last quarter of 2015, new risks assessments were conducted in the Mediterranean and Black Sea for the strategic planning of 2016 activities. In parallel, the tools developed by EFCA for priority risk management were used for new assessments related to landing obligation in the North Sea and Western Waters, and for updating the Baltic Sea exercise.

B - Implementation of a project evaluating compliance trends and cost-effectiveness of control operations

Over the period 2013–2014, EFCA developed a general framework methodology on compliance evaluation. The methodology was well received by the Member States but has yet to be road-tested in practice. No specific request for a dedicated compliance evaluation of a given fishery was received from MS during 2015.

C - Support the Expert Group on Compliance

Article 37 of the reformed CFP regulation provides for the establishment of an Expert Group on Compliance in which EFCA is invited as an observer. An inaugural meeting of this group to set the format and establish rules of procedure was held by the DG Mare in Brussels on 13/03/2015. In addition to setting the general format for the group and agreeing its rules of procedure, the following agenda items were discussed by participants:

- Member State Action Plans
- Evaluation of the Control Regulation
- Member State sanctions systems
- Adaptation of the data exchange rules under the control regulation

The group agreed to meet twice per year.

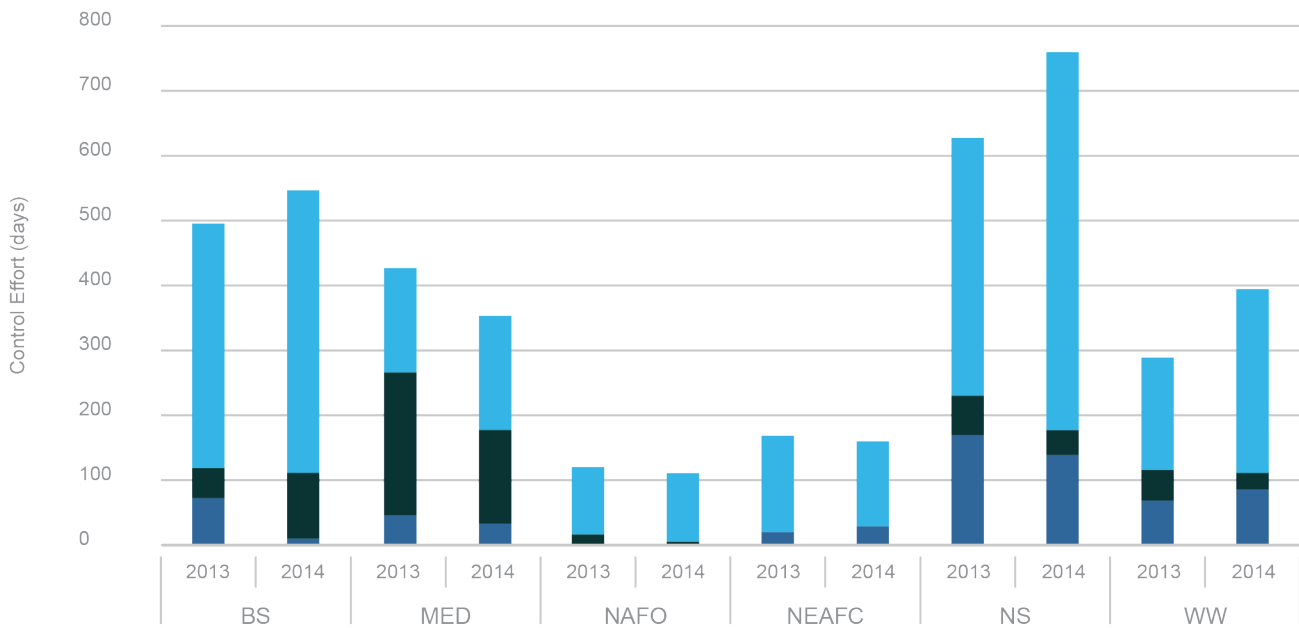
²⁴ Results of the regional risk analysis for 2016 are provided in Section 1.2.2 d) of this report.

D - Evaluation of costs of JDPs and Operational Plans (year 2014)

During 2015, EFCA has produced an estimation of all 2014 JDPs costs in consultation with the regional Steering Groups. The model was slightly updated, in particular regarding the estimation of fuel consumption by patrol vessels.

The total cost of 2014 JDPs was estimated to 46 million €, compared to 38 million € in 2013. Variation of costs between 2013 and 2014 are mainly explained by the variation of control effort. Costs increased in the Baltic Sea, North Sea and Western Waters JDPs and decreased for NAFO and NEAFC JDPs (see graphs below).

The costs of the MED JDP increased in 2014 due to higher costs of the sea-based patrol activities and an augmentation of the coordination costs. The main factor explaining the higher cost of sea-based activity in that JDP is the use of patrol vessels having a more expensive unit cost, due to an increase in the depreciation and maintenance costs. As far as the raise of the coordination, it is explained by the fact that the MED JDP scope increased in 2014, with the inclusion of swordfish, and some small pelagic fisheries in the Adriatic (sardine and anchovy).



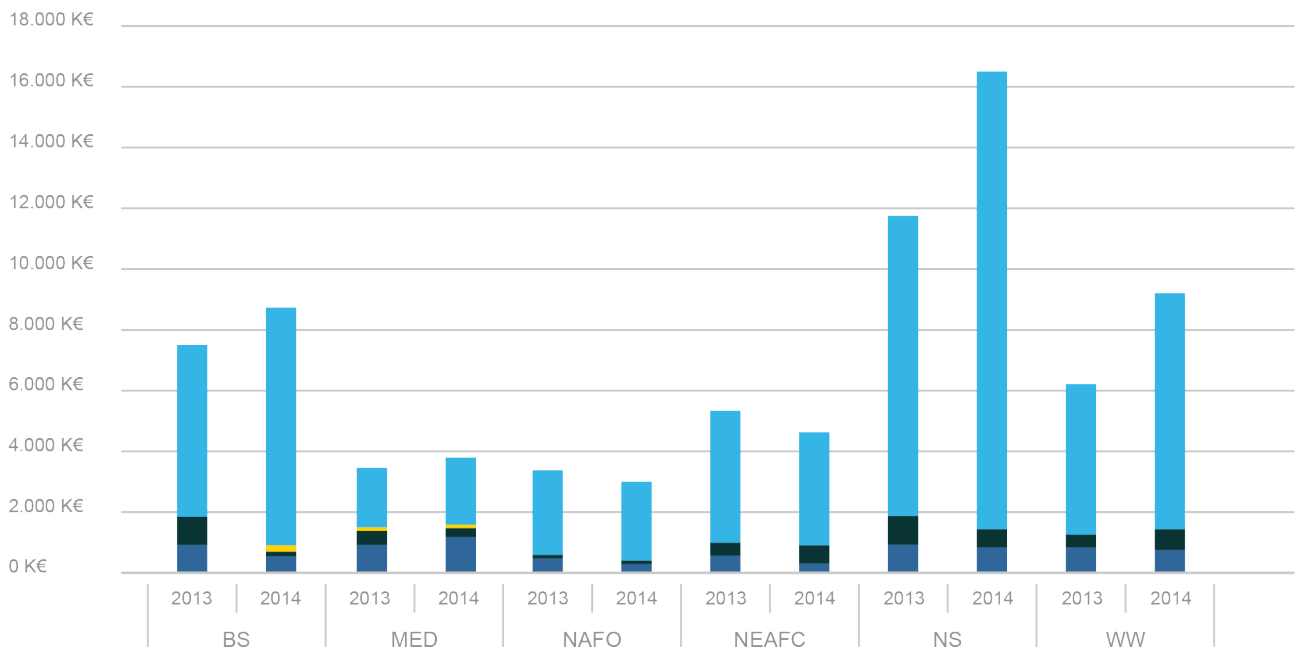
	BS		MED		NAFO		NEAFC		NS		WW	
	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014
SEA	376	435	171	172	111	105	147	128	399	585	175	280
LAND	48	104	205	144	13	3	0	0	63	40	44	26
AIR	71	7	49	35	0	0	20	29	167	133	67	88

Effort in patrol days of all JDPs in 2013 and 2014 per deployment type



Annual Report 2015

European Fisheries Control Agency



	BS		MED		NAFO		NEAFC		NS		WW	
	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014
SEA	5.709	7.998	2.015	2.226	2.761	2.674	4.377	3.831	9.826	15.141	4.938	7.778
LAND	26	54	136	81	12	4	-	-	48	32	23	18
AIR	856	69	353	288	-	-	442	496	917	598	417	685
Coord.	920	649	961	6.174	554	327	554	327	940	787	810	727
TOTAL	7.511	8.770	3.465	3.809	3.327	3.005	5.373	4.654	11.731	16.558	6.188	9.028

Total costs (in K€) of all JDPs in 2013 and 2014 per cost category

E - Implementation of the landing obligation at the regional level

During 2015, the European Fisheries Control Agency worked intensively with the Member States and the European Commission to design and implement the processes and tools for an effective and efficient control and monitoring of the implementation of the landing obligation.

To this end, EFCA has followed a strategy to approach this implementation from different angles:

1. To maximise the use of the main EFCA coordination tool (JDPs) to develop regional projects to implement the landing obligation.
2. To work closely with the new Regional bodies created by the Member States, to promote the adoption of decisions facilitating control of the landing obligation in all the areas.
3. To organise every six months seminars with the members of the EFCA Administrative Board and the stakeholders to analyse the implementation of the landing obligation in all the areas and facilitate the dialogue between all the actors involved.
4. To participate in the different Regional forums where the landing obligation is discussed (Advisory Councils, STECF dedicated meetings, dedicated projects).

The implementation of the landing obligation in some EU fisheries (small pelagic species, highly migratory species, industrial and cod and salmon fisheries in the Baltic Sea) started in January 2015. EFCA activities during 2015 in this subject can be summarised as follows:

- Specific monitoring schemes on the implementation of the landing obligation continued to be in place for the Baltic Sea, Western Waters (Pelagic) and Mediterranean Sea (Adriatic) JDP areas. In 2015 a similar data collection scheme has been extended to the North Sea JDP for demersal species. These monitoring schemes are focused on comparing observed data on catches and discards versus reported data. Data collection (last observed haul inspections) with participation of Member States inspectors and EFCA staff is carried out.

- Specific workshops for inspectors have also been organised with focus on training for the implementation of the landing obligation and the catch composition data collection (last observed haul inspections) (see section 1.2.5 Training).

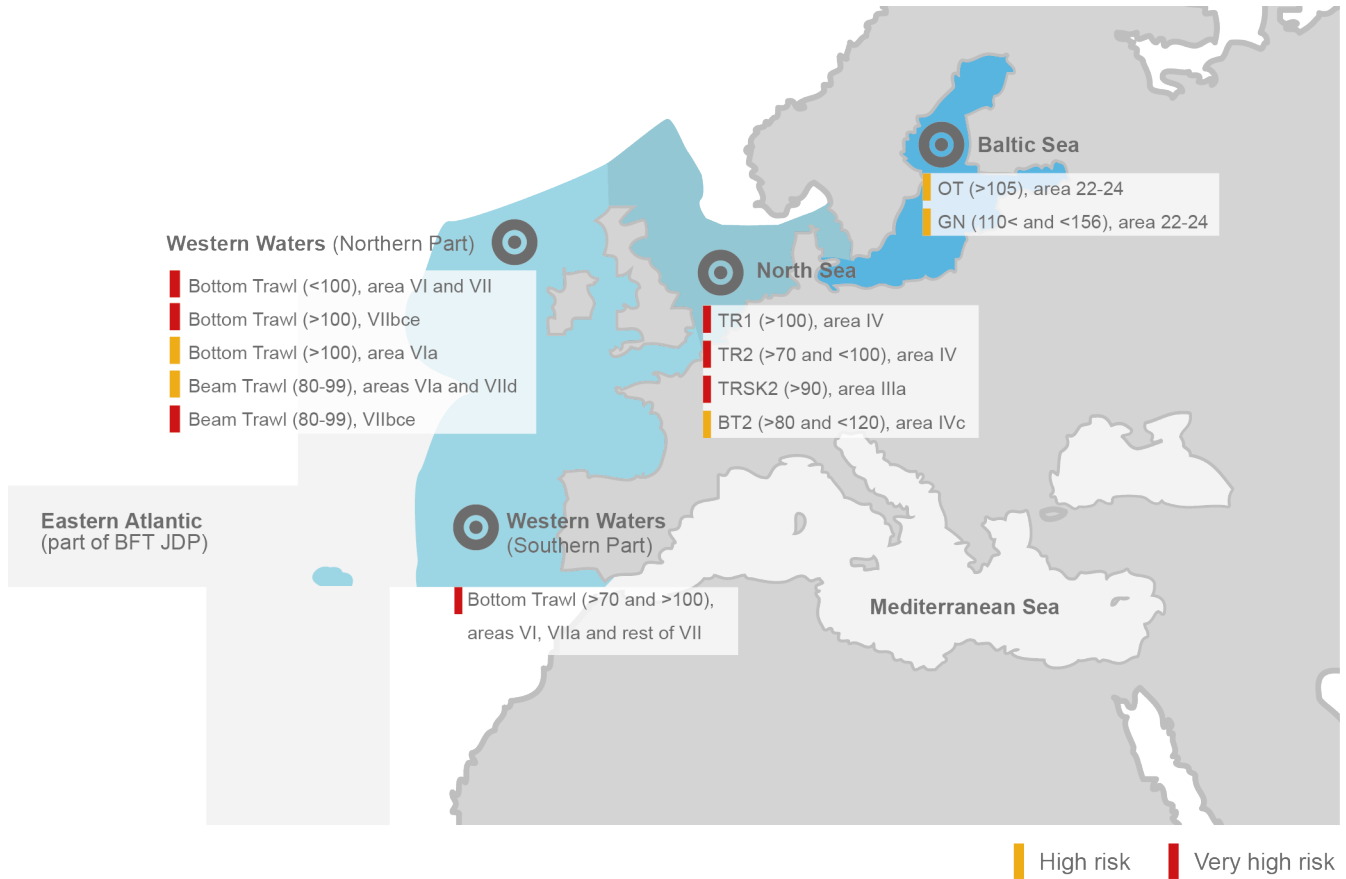
- EFCA is promoting actively the discussion between control authorities and stakeholders, and the need to encourage a culture of compliance within the industry. EFCA supported the adoption of common solutions, as it was the case with BALTIFISH with the assistance to the organisation of a joint workshop with industry in June 2015 to assess the state of play of implementation of the landing obligation in the Baltic Sea.

- Support to Inter-regional cooperation through the biannual Seminars organised by EFCA, as a forum for stakeholders to further discuss on the implementation of the landing obligation, facilitating an open exchange of views and best practices between Member States and the Advisory Councils, with the participation of EFCA and the European Commission. During 2015 EFCA organised a seminar in Vigo, Spain (March) and another in Roskilde, Denmark (June).

- Support to all constituted regional MS groups has been a central area of work for EFCA in this area. EFCA is implementing cooperation projects for assistance to all constituted regional MS groups (Baltfish, Scheveningen, North Western Waters, South Western Waters and Adriatic Sea Groups). During 2015, cooperation with these groups mostly concerned the implementation of the landing obligation. Cooperation with these groups included implementing a work plan and assisting in performing risk assessment on non-compliance with the landing obligation following the EFCA methodology developed under the project on Regional Risk Analysis (see section above). The final detailed outcomes of the results of these risk assessments performed in 2015 are presented in the Annex I. The map below shows the details of the “high” and “very high” risk fleet segments by the different EU regions.



Fisheries segments that resulted with high or very high risk of non compliance with the Landing Obligation



These cooperation activities with regional groups are expected to continue during 2016 in accordance with the EFCA MWP, and also to include cooperation with Mediterranean Groups of Member States.

F - Workshop for CCIC / ACC representatives

The workshop on JDP coordination and best practices was held at the EFCA premises on 4 and 5 November 2015. Whilst the focus of attention on the first day of the workshop lay on operational and administrative issues, the final day was dedicated to EFCA FIS used in support of the JDP campaigns.

In all, 32 delegates from the Member States participated in the workshop by providing constructive ideas and concepts for the further development of the systems used for communication and the transfer of documents between the CCIC / ACC / EFCA.

The delegates also proffered proposals for the content of future events of this nature. These included:

- Further subjects/topics on VMS, AIS etc.;
- Deliver a specification of the role of the CCIC;
- VMS integration to the systems;
- VMS data exchange;
- How to collect evidence when in other Member States EEZ.

In terms of both the level of participation as well as the responses to the evaluation questionnaire, the workshop can only be regarded as a qualified success.

G - MS procedures and requirements for EU inspectors

A project related to procedures and requirements for EU inspectors was initiated in August 2015. This project was accepted by Member States and is planned to run until the end of 2016 or into 2017 if necessary. The general aim of the project is to develop procedural guidelines to help Member State officials build infringement cases according to the needs of the legal system of the Member State which will process the case. This becomes particularly pertinent where the inspecting Member State is different to the Member State which will handle the case.

H - Roadmap for coordination of control activities

The coordination of JDP campaigns involves several specific and discreet elements. In order for all of these elements to be put in place, there needs to be a high degree of coordination with the tasks appropriately divided within the collective. In addition, there has to be a mechanism in place to ensure that the allocated tasks are carried out timeously and accurately.

In order to reinforce this function, the EFCA created a new function known as FIG (Fisheries Implementation Group) which has the responsibility for ensuring the smooth day-to-day running; as well as functioning as a secretariat of the JDP campaigns. An EFCA senior coordinator has been tasked with ensuring the functionality of this group as well as coordinating other control activities such as coordinators' deployment to the Member States. In order to facilitate the planning of the control activities, an Excel application has been created and is updated continuously. This has proven to be an effective planning tool and, in effect, is a roadmap for the coordination of control activities.

I - Assistance in establishing and / or maintaining a reliable control system in Third Countries on EC request

No request was received from the Commission in this respect.

J - Organisation of exchange of inspectors on EC request

Cooperation with Canada is important in the context of the NAFO JDP, allowing for exchange of best practices between the two contracting parties. In 2015 there was again an exchange of inspectors with Canada. One LT NAFO inspector has embarked on a Canadian FPV for two weeks, and one Canadian NAFO inspector embarked an EU German FPV "Meerkatze".



Performance Indicators	Target	Achieved
JDPs/Operational Plans with a full regional risk analysis system established	60%	80%
Implementation of cost estimation model in JDPs	100%	100%
Methodology for compliance evaluation implemented in specific fisheries	100%	No Request
Risk management implemented for landing obligation	At least three regions	5 regions
JDPs/Operational Plans campaigns implemented following the best practices guide of EFCA	75%	100%
Number of international organisations to which EFCA assisted in comparison with EC requests	1	4

1.2.4. Data Monitoring and Networks

	Planned				Consumed				Implementation rate / staff variation			
Standard Budget	630.000 €				654.991 €				104%			
ABMS 1.4	1.684.484 €				1.758.899 €				104%			
Staff	AD	AST	SNE	CA	AD	AST	SNE	CA	AD	AST	SNE	CA
	1,5	2,5	0,5	0	2,3	2	0,7	0,4	0,8	-0,5	0,2	0,4

DELIVERABLES	
Planned	Achieved
User-defined application IT tools for the provision of an integrated maritime awareness picture	Yes
Continue the development, enhancement, maintenance and integration of the EFCA ICT applications in support to operational activities	Yes
Impact study to explore the feasibility of a specific management application for assisting the risk management strategy and reporting of SCIP related activities	Yes
Feasibility studies, user needs analysis, project management reports	Yes
E-learning platform	Yes
IT contracts signed and implemented according to plan	Yes
Test reports	Yes
Project Management Scoreboard	Yes
Reports on the implementation of the IT Security policies and the IT Project Management standards, training materials	Yes ²⁵
Meeting documentation, minutes and reports	Yes
Implementation of the plan to move to "infrastructure as a service" approach and the possible deployment of EFCA servers in another hosting site	Yes ²⁶
Active participation and expert input in the CISE project, attendance to the TAG and associated project meetings	Yes
Effective information sharing and exchange of best practices in the framework of IMP and inter-agency cooperation.	Yes
Provision to the Member States of the EFCA EIR system as SaaS (Software as a Service) and analysis of the feasibility of expanding the concept to other EFCA applications.	Yes ²⁷
A smart CCIC concept providing access to Member States to maritime information systems and applications, in line with the operational and user requirements	Yes
Participate in and follow research projects that explores the use of Earth Observation data	Yes

²⁵ See comments under 1.2.4. H)

²⁶ See comments under 1.2.4. I)

²⁷ See comments under 1.2.4. L)

Introduction

In order to facilitate the work, and increase the interoperability amongst the relevant Member States in the context of the JPDs, EFCA continued to develop and enhance systems as well as identifying needs in the area of data monitoring and networks. EFCA further intensified the collaboration with other Agencies in the domain of data sharing for the purpose of creating an Integrated Maritime Picture, both bilaterally with Frontex and EMSA, but also by collaborating in projects exploring future technologies for possible use in fisheries control.

Objective

EFCA's objective is to contribute to an efficient and cost effective coordination of fisheries control. An essential component thereto is to have sufficient and reliable information.

During 2015, EFCA continued to provide input and to facilitate the exchange of best practices for building capacities in this area mainly through attending the European Commission monthly meetings on Electronic reporting and Data management, whilst also developing information and data exchange solutions for joint control and inspection activities within the EFCA Fishery Information System (EFCA-FIS). The main achievement of the year was the completion of the EFCA Enterprise Architecture (EFCA-EA) in July. This architecture provides the very foundation upon which the components of the EFCA FIS will be integrated.

EFCA also contributed to the implementation of the EU Integrated Maritime Picture and the CFP by continuing the cooperation in maritime affairs with Member States, the European Commission, relevant EU Agencies and external bodies mainly through the collaboration with Frontex and EMSA for facilitating the sharing of VMS data as well as starting to explore, upon request from the European Commission, a further collaboration between the three agencies for the establishment of an European

Coastguard Function. A few exploratory video conference meetings were held between the three agencies and the first meeting with experts from the agencies met on the 16th of December and the Contact Group on the establishment of an EU Coastguard Function was held the day after. In the latter, apart from representatives from the agencies, representatives from DG HOME, MOVE and MARE participated. The objective to further improve and develop the usage of external information sources not readily available at EFCA for fisheries control purposes is also closely related thereto.

Main activity results

A - User defined application IT tools for the provision of an integrated maritime awareness picture

The EFCA MARSURV Service is an operational fisheries control coordination tool using the integrated maritime data environment (IMDatE) developed and hosted by EMSA, in close collaboration with EFCA. It integrates and correlates various types of information from different sources such as VMS, satellite AIS, terrestrial AIS, LRIT and satellite images and is specifically designed for fisheries control. EFCA continues to channel the feedback from its end-users for the enhancement of the system as well as to test any new versions.

B - Continue the development, enhancement, maintenance and integration of the EFCA ICT applications in support to operational activities

Impact study to explore the feasibility of developing a specific management application for assisting the risk management strategy and reporting of SCIP related activities.



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In July 2015, the EFCA Enterprise Architecture was delivered. During the first semester of 2015, an intense work with evaluating the incoming tenders for the open call for tender on IT development services (Lot 1) and the IT support services (Lot 2) culminated in the signing of two framework contracts (FWC's), both of which were awarded to the consortium Bilbomática/Balidea in June. Following this, the first specific contract signed under the Lot 1 FWC was the takeover of the full suite of EFCAs applications which resulted in two major deliveries: a takeover report outlining strengths and weaknesses of the applications and the set-up of an Application Lifecycle Management procedure as well as its implementation for all applications. The latter has resulted in a significant improvement in the handling and control of the source codes.

Two serious problems were discovered in the functioning of the ERS system. The first one concerned the data integrity where information from different fishing trips was mixed. The second one was related to system

performance where EFCA was forced to limit the number of daily queries to the Member States ERS systems. These issues emerged during the transition period to a new maintenance contractor, and their resolution had to await the completion of the formal takeover of the suite of applications.

EFCA has also contributed to the ERS and Data Management meetings and associated Working Groups hosted by the European Commission throughout the year. Special attention has been given to the Union VMS project where the Commission together with Sweden developed an open source VMS system to be available to Member States, the Commission and the Agency. EFCA, along with the Commission and a group of MS's, developed the functional requirements for the system and will be one of the beneficiaries of the final system when implemented. The following table underlines the intense effort granted by EFCA to assist the Commission and the Member States in that area.

Commission Expert Group Meetings and Workshops	Attended by EFCA in 2015
ERS & Data Management Working Group	5
Special Sub-Working Group on FLUX-ERS Fishing Activity	7
Special Sub-Working Group on Union VMS	8
Migration Planning Sub-Working Group	3
Implementation Planning Sub-Working Group	3
MDR Sub-Working	2
Governance Issues Sub-Working Group	2
ACDR Sub-Working Group	3
Total	33

C - Feasibility studies, user needs analysis, project management reports

A user needs analysis - as part of a feasibility study of a specific management application for assisting the risk management strategy and reporting of SCIP related activities - has been completed.

D - E-learning platform

During 2014, EFCA chose Moodle as the preferred software for the creation of an e-learning platform. 2015 has been dedicated to adapt and configure the platform and to create the first content based on the existing CC course on Inspection at Sea. During the last part of 2015, EFCA worked on the following modules:

Module	Content
Module 1	Performing the initial actions to start an inspection
Module 2	Conformity of documentation - Check legal documents
Module 3	Conformity of documentation - Check required declarations by the Master
Module 4	Conformity of catch – Assess the quantities and species on board and landed
Module 5	Conformity of gear – Identify and examine gear in use and any other on board



E - IT contracts signed and implemented according to plan

According to the plan established for the period EFCA concluded a series of Framework contracts and specific contracts. As a result of an open call for tender launched in 2014, two main framework contracts were signed on the 19 of June in the IT domain after an extensive period of evaluation. The contracts cover software development and maintenance services for a value up to 2.800.000 € as well as ICT support services up to a value of 2.500.000 € to the Agency during the next coming four years. Furthermore, a number of specific contracts were signed for new functionality in the EFCA ERS system, maintenance of VMS, take-over of the applications by the new contractor (FWC), configuration of the e-learning platform and ERS corrective maintenance among others.

F - Test reports

An important part of the process of development and maintenance of systems is the test of new features or corrections that may have been performed. During 2015 EFCA executed tests on the new enterprise architecture that was delivered in July 2015, as part of the acceptance procedure. Additionally, tests were done for the migration of Fishnet from its original hosting site to EFCA, as well as after an upgrade to a new version of the technical platform Liferay. The ERS application was tested after adding new functionality for the use in the BFT. Tests after corrective maintenance for the systems were also performed. All tests were documented.



G - Project Management Score Cards

Score cards were introduced for the software development projects in September and are presented monthly in the EFCA management meetings.

H - Reports on the implementation of the IT Security policies and the IT Project Management Standards, training materials

The project management methodology PM² has been established for EFCA. The specific document templates have been made available to all staff by uploading it to the common directory. The first course has been provided to the relevant staff and the supporting manuals have been provided to all attendees.

IT contracted an expert to assist EFCA in proposing a method and a roadmap for the implementation of an Information Security Management System (ISMS) based on the ISO 27000 standard series. An analysis was performed and ISO 27000 fitted as most appropriate as ISMS for EFCA.

I - Implementation of the plan to move to “infrastructure as a service” approach and the possible deployment of EFCA servers in another hosting site

EFCA has joined the ICTAC cloud services call for tender initiative. The project was moved to the future from its original time plan. Besides that, EFCA has explored the possibility of hosting its applications and databases outside its premises in order to ensure the business continuity in case of disaster. Hosting options with or without other agencies have been explored. A proof of concept has been initiated together with Office for Harmonisation in the Internal Market (OHIM).

J - Active participation and expert input in the CISE project, attendance to the TAG and associated project meetings

The CISE roadmap will lead to the creation of a decentralised maritime information exchange system, interlinking all user communities, both civilian and military. EFCA is a full member of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) of the CISE and as such contributes to the development of the shared environment. The two meetings of the TAG scheduled for 2015 (on 27 April and 18 November) were attended by EFCA.

EFCA also participates in the EUCISE2020 project as an independent entity. EUCISE2020 is a Security Research project of the European 7th Framework Program; it aims at achieving the pre-operational Information Sharing between the maritime authorities of the European States. It is an important milestone in the roadmap for implementation of the European CISE. In 2015, EFCA provided input with regards to the project definition and collaborative development of the reference test bed for CISE.



K - Effective information sharing and exchange of best practices in the framework of IMP and inter-agency cooperation

The longstanding cooperation between the three EU Agencies with core activities in the maritime domain, Frontex, EMSA and EFCA, has led to a regular exchange of information regarding operational activities, experiences, best practices and latest technologies.

EFCA participated in all the European Patrol Network (EPN) meetings as well as in the European Day for Border Guards organised by Frontex. In addition, EFCA took part in a number of workshops and meetings organised by EMSA and JRC related to new technologies in Maritime Surveillance. In the light of the current humanitarian crisis in the Mediterranean Sea EFCA is also a Member of the Contact group of EU Agencies on migrant smuggling.

Detail of activities with EFCA participation:

Organised by	Place	Date	Detail
Inter-agency	Lisbon	14-15 January	Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems CYRIS Project meeting
ESA	Noordwijk	19 February	Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems CYRIS Project meeting
EMSA	Lisbon	6-7 May	SSN Group and LRIT meeting- MS: Cooperation in practice
Frontex	Warsaw	21 May	European Day for Border Guards
Frontex	Bergen	23-25 June	EPN General meeting
Inter-agency	Brussels	17 September	2nd meeting of Contact Group of EU Agencies on migrant smuggling
JRC	Brussels	1 October	The Innovative Potential of Drones from the EU perspective
EMSA	Lisbon	15 October	6th IMDatE User Consultation meeting
EMSA	Lisbon	28-29 October	Workshop "Remote Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) for maritime surveillance"
Frontex	Warsaw	1-2 December	EPN General meeting



A very important aspect of the collaboration between the Frontex, EMSA and EFCA is that two Service Level Agreements (SLA) were signed in 2015. The SLA between EMSA and EFCA replaced a previous SLA and establishes the grounds of exchange of information in the domain of the MARSURV service where EMSA provides a fisheries control tool displaying data from various sources and to which EFCA delivers VMS data. Furthermore, the scope was expanded to include the use of the VMS data for Search and Rescue (SAR) purposes to EMSA and the Member States' Maritime Rescue Coordination Centres²⁸. The second SLA was signed between Frontex and EFCA for the use of VMS-data²⁹, through the EMSA IMDatE service, for border control purposes as established in the Eurosur regulation³⁰.

EFCA also participated in the following inter-agency forums in the IT domain:

Meeting	Place	Date
ICTAC	Ireland	21-22 May
ICTAC	Malta	9-10 October
ENISA (Work shop on information security)	Greece	8 September

L - Provision to the Member States of the EFCA EIR system as a “software as a service” and analysis of the feasibility of expanding the concept to other EFCA applications

By the end of 2015, Belgium was the sole user of the EFCA EIR system as “software as a service”. Another three Member States have shown interest. The feasibility study of expanding the concept of offering other applications as “software as a service” was postponed, nevertheless the server capacity was increased.

²⁸ Subject to each individual Member State's consent.

²⁹ Subject to each individual Member State's consent.

³⁰ Regulation (EU) No 1052/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2013 establishing the European Border Surveillance System (Eurosur). OJ L 295, 6.11.2013, p.11.

M - A smart CCIC concept providing access to Member States to maritime information systems and applications, in line with the operational and user requirements

The suite of available operational systems are as follows:

- EFCA Fishnet (EFCA-FISHNET)

The system is intended as the single sign-on secured portal for accessing the other operational applications within the EFCA-FIS. It is a modular web-based system that provides a virtual office-like environment designed to support the transfer of information by various means such as voice, video, email and instant messaging. It also includes tools for collaborative document writing tool, a calendar and a mission planner. During 2015, Fishnet was used for operational coordination during the JDPs as well as for the first time used for the distribution of the documents to the EFCA Administrative Board meeting in October. During 2015 EFCA-Fishnet was relocated to EFCA premises.

MEMBER STATES	DOCUMENTS	USERS	VIDEO CONFERENCES
 28 Number of Member States connected	 7396 Total Documents uploaded in the platform	 284 Active Users connected	 72 VC meetings done in 2015

- EFCA Electronic Recording and Reporting System (EFCA-ERS)

The EFCA-ERS was delivered in early 2013 and is primarily designed to pool and share MS ERS data in the framework of the JDPs. ERS data is now a central component in the control and monitoring of fishing activity and the timely access to this data is essential in coordinated control operations. During the year EFCA was an active participant in the EU led Fishing Activities Sub-Working Group which worked on finalising the next version of ERS. For the year 2015, and despite the issues experienced in the system, the statistics can be summarised as follows:

MESSAGES	VESSELS	MEMBER STATES	JDP
 321.283 Total number of Messages pulled from Member States	 1443 Total Number of Vessels pulled from Member States	 17 Total Number of Member States connected	 5 Number of JDPs configured



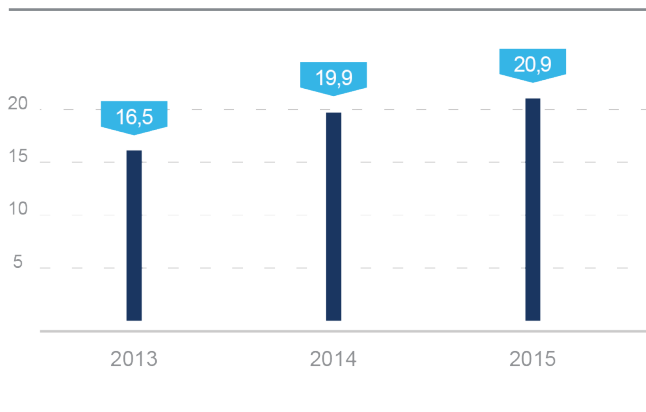
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• EFCA Vessel Monitoring System (EFCA-VMS)

EFCA currently uses the Visma vTrack system as the EFCA-VMS and the system has proven to be an extremely valuable tool for planning and coordination, by providing a picture of the activity in the geographical areas covered by the relevant SCIPs. During 2015, EFCA received and processed approximately 21 million VMS positions.

Number of VMS messages received (in millions)



• EFCA Electronic Inspection Report System (EFCA-EIR)

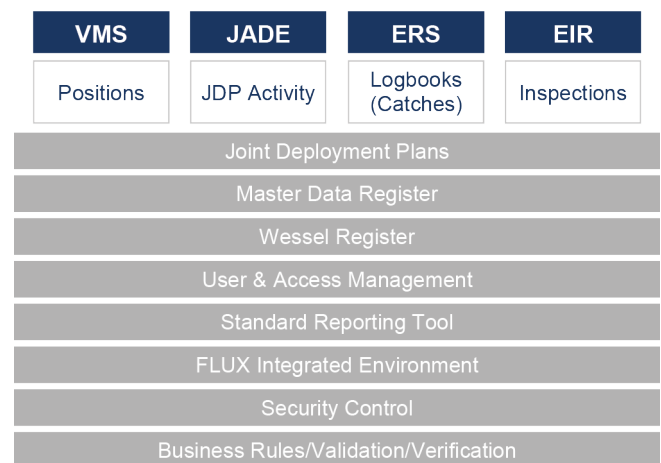
The new EFCA Electronic Inspection Report system was delivered in July 2014. The system is designed to receive and parse EIR messages and allow for their automated exchange between Member States. Tests have been performed for the automated update between three Member States and EFCA. EFCA offered EIR as “software as a service” to Member States and one Member State is using it as its own national system.

• EFCA Enterprise Architecture (EFCA-EA)

In mid-2014, work commenced on the development of a new EFCA Enterprise Architecture (EFCA-EA), using the EFCA-EIR as a base. The project was successfully concluded in July 2015. The EFCA-EA provides the platform for the integration of all the operational applications within the EFCA-FIS.

One of the principal benefits associated with the introduction of the EFCA-EA is the ability for all systems to share common services such as those required for data exchange, reporting, business rules, master data reference, etc...

The graph below shows a schematic view of the integration of four of the operational systems in the EFCA EA.



N - Participate in and follow research projects that explores the use of Earth Observation (EO) data

EFCA continued to monitor developments with regards to EO technologies and their applicability for fisheries monitoring and control purposes. EFCA has initiated close cooperation with EMSA for defining end-user needs in the framework of Copernicus services starting in 2016. These services, will be provided by EMSA to EFCA and its stakeholders, via the IMDatE (EFCA-EMSA MARSURV Service), offering a wide range of EO data, in particular Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) and optical satellite images, in order to complement the integrated maritime picture in certain areas.

Performance Indicators	Target	Achieved
EFCA applications developed, enhanced, upgraded and implemented according to plan	95%	100%
Number of Impact study delivered	1	1
Meetings minutes prepared and circulated along with all associated documents (% of meetings documented)	100%	100%
Project Management Scoreboard (% of ongoing projects in the DMN-section monitored in a scoreboard)	100%	100%
Participation to TAG meetings (CISE)	60%	100%
Attendance to inter-agency maritime workshops and seminars	60%	95%
User evaluation on availability of Maritime applications and tools at EFCA Operations coordination centre (Satisfaction by participating Member State (%))	90%	75% ³¹

1.2.5. Training

	Planned				Consumed				Implementation rate / staff variation			
Standard Budget	377.000 €				390.019 €				103%			
ABMS 1.5	1.412.607 €				1.501.646 €				106%			
Staff	AD	AST	SNE	CA	AD	AST	SNE	CA	AD	AST	SNE	CA
	0,5	4,5	1	1	0,5	4,5	1	1	0	0	0	0

³¹ An estimation for all available maritime applications which were perceived to function well but where the problems with ERS made the result deviate from the target.



DELIVERABLES	
Planned	Achieved
Workshops and seminars for Member States IUU competent authorities	Yes
Participation in Member States national IUU training seminars on request	Yes
Core Curricula training courses (content, modules, teaching and learning aids)	Yes
Core Curricula update of training courses already delivered.	Yes
E-learning platform	Yes
E-training	Yes
Training of Union inspectors (before first deployment)	Yes
Advanced workshops for Union inspectors ("best practices")	Yes
Workshop(s) and best practice for Member States inspectors (regional/national level)	Yes
Assistance to Third Countries in the development of inspection training programmes and/or training manuals for trainers on EC request	Yes
Assistance to Third Countries on request of the Commission	Yes

Introduction

In accordance with its mandate and Annual Work Programme objectives, EFCA has given guidance to Member States, has facilitated the exchange of best practices and has further developed Core Curricula (CC) training courses. Furthermore, EFCA has provided assistance to the European Commission to cooperate with Third Countries.

Objective

1. Provide guidance and facilitate the exchange of best practice for building MS capacities in the area of training.
2. Make available Core Curricula training courses and promote their usage by MS.
3. Uniform and effective implementation of workshops and best practice.
4. Assist the EC to cooperate with Third Countries.



Main activity results

A - CC developments

To give effect to its coordination duties and legal obligations, EFCA supports Member States in designing a training programme for trainers and Union inspectors. A priority in the development of training programmes is to create and make available reference materials for the training of the trainers of the inspectorates and of Union inspectors before their first deployment, the CC.

In 2015, EFCA has completed and distributed to Member States and the Commission the third volume of the Core Curricula “General Principles and Specific Types of Inspections” (handbook and manual for trainers). In the third volume, the following courses were included:

- Introduction to fisheries inspection
- Identify the entity to inspect
- Surveillance
- Market and premises inspection
- Transport Inspection
- Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing
- Union inspectors

This has been made available in electronic version on the Core Curricula Development Platform (CCDP), on the EFCA website and on the Publications Office “EU bookshop” website³².

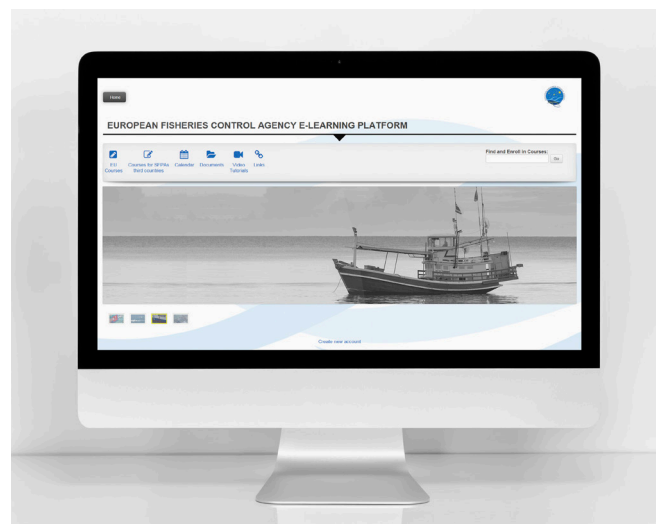
B - CC implementation

As a follow-up to the publication and dissemination of CC courses, EFCA has put emphasis on the support to the implementation of its training material by MS authorities. In this regard, based on information provided during the SGTEE meeting held on 17 September 2015 in Copenhagen (Denmark), EFCA received confirmation that, out of 12 Member States represented, 7 were already using CC training material while 5 other Member States were planning to do so in

the short term. Also, it is to be noted that EFCA participated to the European Coastguard Functions Academy Network (ECGFA Net) project under the European Coastguard Functions Forum (ECGFF). This event presented a good opportunity to raise awareness and to promote the use of CC training material by MS national authorities.

C - E-learning platform

EFCA developed interactive modules based on the structure and content of the CC volume I on Inspection at Sea. Accordingly, a prototype of the module on the inspection of gears was presented at the SGTEE meeting on 17 September 2015. As part of this e-learning platform project, EFCA has also made a tutorial film on the mesh size and twine thickness measurements. The Moodle-based platform project was developed in parallel so as to host the modules under development and the tutorial film. The structure of the platform includes multilingual possibilities and upcoming interactive modules based on the CC.



³² <https://bookshop.europa.eu/>



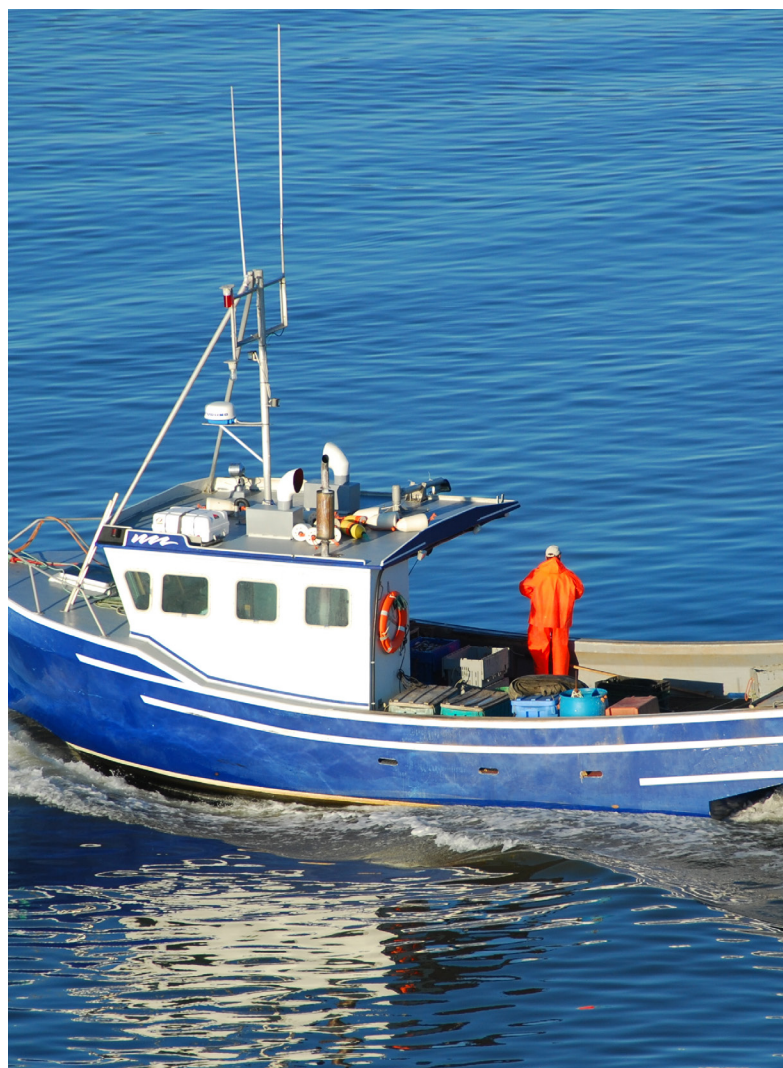
D - E-learning tools (CITRIX "GoToTraining")

The Citrix "GoToTraining" tool has been used for remote training sessions and has the capability of sharing screens, interactive tests, and presentations with remotely located participants. EFCA conducted two sessions over GoToTraining on the use of the EFCA MARSURV service and Fishnet.

E - Training to Member States/Exchange of best practices

In 2015, in accordance with its training calendar, EFCA continued to give trainings to Member States and to promote "exchanges" between Member States Union inspectors in the context of JDP operations, both at sea and on land (for more details see section 1.1.1 Implementation of JDPs). These training events taking place all along the year mainly covered tasks carried out by Union inspectors deployed in the framework of JDPs, as well as specific trainings in relation to the IUU Regulation and the EFCA FIS.

During 2015, specific workshops for inspectors have been prepared with special focus on training for the implementation of the landing obligation. In an effort towards a level playing field, EFCA also organised specific training sessions for the implementation of the so-called Omnibus regulation (EU 2015/812 from 20 May 2015) in the different regions (see table below).



Workshop	Training for Union Inspectors	Place	Date
Omnibus NS	North Sea JDP	Utrecht	30 September -1 October
Omnibus MED	MED JDP	Vigo	20-21 October
Omnibus BS	Baltic Sea JDP	Tallinn	20-21 October
Omnibus WW	WW JDP	Vigo	1-2 December

A summary table of training events organised in 2015 by EFCA is attached in Annex I to this report.

F - Training to Third Countries on Commission request

In 2015, EFCA has assisted the Commission to train officials from Senegal, São Tomé and Príncipe and Guinea-Bissau in matters relating to monitoring and inspection methodologies in the framework of Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements concluded between the European Union and such countries. Training given by EFCA mainly covered port inspections, FMC functions e.g. remote monitoring through tools such as VMS and ERS, evidence gathering and other fisheries control related topics. On-the-spot training was provided with the assistance of Member States experts (Portugal in São Tomé and Príncipe and Guinea-Bissau, and France in Senegal).

Performance Indicators	Target	Achieved
Training for MS on IUU: IUU workshops and seminars satisfaction rate	Good or very good >80%	100%
CC Courses published: Union Inspectors / IUU / Markets / Transports	Q1	100%
Regionalised CC for Union Inspectors (1st Drafts)	Q4	100%
CC courses implemented: - Number of MS using CC training material	>80% of Coastal MS over three years (i.e. 26% per year)	30%
Number of e-learning sessions	No specified target	2
Percentage of EU inspectors concerned trained by EFCA	10,0%	12,3%
By region/JPD: - Number of workshops and best practice delivered - Union inspectors attending workshops attendee satisfaction - Percentage of EU-NAFO/NEAFC inspectors at sea trained - Percentage of EU-ICCAT inspectors at sea trained	≥1 per region	16 for the 5 regions
	(Good or very good) >80%	94%
	50%	76%
	50%	75%
Development of a standard training programme for basic fisheries inspection for Third Countries	100%	100%
Number of missions to Third Countries on request of the Commission.	3	3

Multiannual index to be used as a tendency for compliance evaluation purposes

Number of attendees to regional workshops by EFCA including by e-training	480
IUU training sessions and seminars number of participants, including by e-training	123



1.3. Governance and representation

	Planned	Consumed	Implementation rate / staff variation
Standard Budget	207.000 €	219.945 €	106%
ABMS 2	941.373 €	940.163 €	100%

1.3.1. Administrative Board

DELIVERABLES	
Planned	Achieved
Agency Administrative Board Decisions	Yes
Agency Multiannual Work Programme, Annual Work Programme and Annual Report	Yes
Adoption of the Budget and the Accounts	Yes
Adoption of the Multiannual Staff Policy Plan; Endorsement and/or support of the activities carried out by the Agency in the development of its mission	Yes
Annual Declaration of interest of the Administrative Board members submitted before the year end	Yes

Introduction

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

Objective

As the main governing body of the Agency, the forefront objective of the Administrative Board is to ensure the correct and effective functioning of the Agency.

Main activity results

In 2015, two meetings of the Administrative Board were held in Vigo; the 22nd meeting of the Administrative Board was held on 5 of March and the 23rd meeting on 15 of October.

In March, the Administrative Board adopted, amongst other, the Annual Report 2014, the Draft Budget and establishment plan of EFCA for year 2016 and the amendment to the rules of procedure of the Administrative Board of EFCA; it also endorsed the outcomes of the Seminar on the monitoring on the landing obligation (4 of March 2015, Vigo) and elected the Deputy Chair in the person of Ms Andreina Fenech Farrugia.

In October, the Administrative Board adopted, inter alia, the EFCA Multiannual Work Programme 2016-2020 and the Annual Work Programme for 2016, the Multiannual Staff Policy Plan of the Agency for years 2016-2018, the Budget and establishment plan for 2016, the decision relating to the appointment of reporting officers for the annual appraisal of EFCA Executive Director and the rules on reimbursement of expenses incurred by Member States experts attending EFCA trainings under the EMFF operational programmes. The Board also endorsed a proposal for EFCA to initiate cooperation with the European Commission DG MARE/DEVCO to create a training programme for the Western African region and participate in its implementation. Furthermore the Administrative Board endorsed the proposal of signing Service Level Agreements for the use of VMS data for Maritime Search and Rescue (with EMSA) and Border Control (with FRONTEX under EUROSUR legislation) and to go ahead to consult with each individual Member State for the necessary consent as well as for EFCA to contribute in the project of establishing an European Border and Coastguard.

Performance Indicators	Target	Achieved
Number of Administrative Board meeting	2 Meetings	2 Meetings
Preparation and notification of the Board decisions in due course	100%	100%
Preparation and notification of the Board Agency Multiannual Work Programme, Annual Work programme and Annual Report in due course	100%	100%
Preparation, adoption and notification of Budget and the Accounts in due course	100%	100%
Preparation, adoption and notification of Multiannual Staff Policy Plan in due course	100%	100%
Preparation of briefings and/or notes addressed to the Administrative Board	100%	100%
Monitoring the submission to EFCA of Annual written declarations of interests of Administrative Board members to ensure a proper control of those declarations of interest and compliance with legal obligations	100%	100%

1.3.2. Advisory Board

DELIVERABLES	
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



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Introduction

The Advisory Board is composed of representatives of the Advisory Councils, on the basis of one representative designated by each Advisory Council. The meetings of the Advisory Board are chaired by the Executive Director.

Objective

The Advisory Board advises the Executive Director of the Agency and ensures close cooperation with stakeholders.

Main activity results

The Advisory Board, composed of one representative of each Advisory Council (AC), met twice in 2015, prior to the Administrative Board meetings, in Brussels on 18 of February and in Vigo on 8 of September.

A representative of the Advisory Board takes part in the deliberations of the Administrative Board meetings without the right to vote. The Advisory Board representative in the EFCA Administrative Board is appointed in accordance with the yearly rotation system agreed by its members. From 2 of March 2015 to 1 of March 2016 the representative of the Advisory Board is Mr Niels Wichmann, North Sea Advisory Council, and the alternate is Mr Gianpaolo Buonfiglio, Mediterranean Advisory Council.

The Advisory Councils are stakeholder organisations composed of representatives from the industry and other groups of interest. In addition to the seven existing Advisory Councils below, the reformed CFP foresees the creation of four new Advisory Councils for the Black Sea, Aquaculture, Markets and Outermost regions.

- Baltic Sea Advisory Council (BSAC)
- South Western Waters Advisory Council (SWWAC)
- Long Distance Advisory Council (LDAC)
- Mediterranean Advisory Council (MEDAC)
- Pelagic Advisory Council (Pelagic AC)
- North Western Waters Advisory Council (NWWAC)
- North Sea Advisory Council (NSAC)

The Advisory Councils are embedded in EFCA's Communication strategy as key partners. They provide the European Commission and EU countries with recommendations on fisheries management matters.

The EFCA participates in the relevant meetings of the executive committees and workings groups of the Advisory Councils when there are issues referring to EFCA competences in the agendas.

Performance Indicators	Target	Achieved
Number of Advisory Board meetings	2 Meetings	2 Meetings
Advisory Board conclusions to be prepared, delivered and notified to the Advisory and Administrative Board in due course	100%	100%

1.3.3. Representation and Networks

DELIVERABLES	
Planned	Achieved
Attendance to relevant meetings for the Agency	Yes
Contribution to drafting positions in the field of the inter-agency working groups	Yes
Presentations and briefings delivered in the different meetings	Yes
Briefings and documents issued to inform the institutional bodies and third parties	Yes

Introduction

EFCA is represented in the relevant institutional partners meetings as well as EU networks.

Objective

Ensure Agency representation, cooperation, dialogue and transparency with other institutional bodies, EU agencies and third parties.

Main activity results

EFCA attended the meetings convened by the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council where its presence was desirable, required or in the interest of the Agency. EFCA Executive Director attended twice the meetings of the Committee on Fisheries of the European Parliament in 2015. The first one was on 22 of January 2015 and the second one was on 9 of December 2015 where there was a presentation of the Agency and an exchange of views with him.

EFCA has participated, and supported the EU delegation, in meetings of the RFMOs, in which JDPs are implemented:

NAFO, NEAFC, and ICCAT. During 2015, the Agency also took part in the Coastguard Forum meetings. On horizontal matters, the inter-agency cooperation network coordinates the relations between Agencies, the Commission and the European Parliament. In this context, the Executive Director and the Head of Unit Resources attended the various meetings held at managerial level. Likewise, Agency staff met their counterparts through specific technical networks: Procurement (NAPO), Communication, Data protection, Legal (IALN), IT, the Performance Development Network (PDN) and Accounting (IAAN).

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

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

Performance Indicators	Target	Achieved
Rate of participation on the Heads of Agencies and Heads of Administration	2 Meetings	3 Meetings
Number of debriefings/ informative notes provided to the Administrative Board	Twice a year under the Information from the ED provided to the Board during the Board meetings	2 Debriefings



1.3.4. Communication

DELIVERABLES	
Planned	Achieved
Communication on the seminar/event organised with an AC, stakeholders visits to the Agency	Yes
Raising awareness campaigns for stakeholders	Yes
Ensuring the quality and timeliness of EFCA's website content and other online presence	Yes
Stand, Agency staff presence, promotional material at the Seafood Exposition in Brussels and at the Maritime Day	Yes
Participation in EU activities on the CFP and particularly Control such as information seminars, press conferences or fairs as well as contributing to the dissemination of the EU project	Yes
Layout and distribution of the main publications of the Agency: Annual Report and Work Programme	Yes
Effective Communication tools available for trainings, visits, fairs, presentations, etc.	Yes
Strong media relations on the topics covered by the Agency by issuing press releases, having phone contact and organising press trips or conferences when relevant	Yes
Main Agency supports apply the corporate visual identity	Yes
Communication of JDPs results on the Agency website	Yes
Presentations to EU stakeholders, especially those involved in the JDPs	Yes
Holding staff meetings after the Administrative Board meetings as well as when there are major developments within the EFCA	Yes
Keep updated a collaborative intranet which will boost communication	Yes
Organise social events that can favour cross-unit and informal communication	Yes

Introduction

The Communication policy warrants that these activities are well known for the partners and stakeholders working with the Agency as well as for its target audiences.

Objective

Each target audience responds to a Communication objective:

- Stakeholders: promote a culture of compliance with the rules of the Common Fisheries Policy.
- General public: contribute and support the Communication Strategy defined by the European Commission in the CFP and particularly in Control.
- Local public: foster the EU values locally.
- Institutional actors: raising awareness about EFCA's work and ensure a fluent information flow.
- EFCA staff: keep them informed and involved.

Main activity results

The most important aspect for the Communication dimension of the EFCA this year was the development of its online tools. A new website based on a content management system was launched in September 2015 and now it has the navigation menu in four languages: English, French, German and Spanish. In parallel, EFCA also started its social media channels and is regularly posting information. For another year, by attending the Seafood Exposition at the European Commission stand, the Agency contributed to the Communication Strategy defined by the European Commission in the field of the Common Fisheries Policy and in particular in the area of control and enforcement. The Agency produced publications for the general public such as the MWP 2015-2019 and the Annual Report for 2014 along with

several communication materials. EFCA also attended the Comfish final event.

With a view to promote the values of the European Union locally, EFCA organised the Europe Day on its premises. The event was attended by prominent regional and local authorities as well as other fisheries stakeholders and representatives of the civil society and was widely covered in the regional press. A photo contest with staff was organised and the prizes were given at the event. Several visits were organised to EFCA, inter alia of students from Vigo University. Regarding institutional relations, the EFCA received the visit of Commissioner Vella on the occasion of the FAO congress to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Code of Conduct of Responsible Fisheries (8-9 of October). In this congress, EFCA gave a presentation and organised a side event for its participants. In addition, the EFCA celebrated the 10th anniversary of its founding regulation with a reception on the 14 of October with the Administrative Board members and prominent national and regional authorities. Furthermore, as a matter of inter-agency cooperation, EFCA together with EMSA, EEA and the European Commission managed a common stand in the Blue Business Forum in Lisbon on 4-6 of June 2015. Several visits were organised to EFCA, among others the visit of members of the Spanish Senate as well as of Canadian authorities.



Performance Indicators	Target	Achieved
Number of visits to the EFCA by stakeholders	6	8
Publications produced	2	2
Number of visits to the EFCA website (Average/month)	4.000	5.500
Number of informative sessions where the EU/CFP is addressed with a local audience	3	8
Number of presentations to institutional actors	6	6
Meetings with staff when relevant	2	4



Part II. Horizontal support

2.1. Major events

EFCA maintains the objective to improve the efficiency of the administrative procedures underpinning the horizontal support. It strives to maximise synergy by searching solutions with the highest level of integration with existing systems (ABAC) along with lowest cost of customisation and maintenance (systems developed by the EC).

In 2015 the following important events/issues were addressed:

- A significant effort into the implementation of the e-Prior modules for electronic tendering, ordering and invoicing has been made; following the start of e-Invoicing in 2014, the acquisition and preparation for the use of modules e-Submission, e-Request and e-Order was advanced during 2015 in cooperation with the EC (DG DIGIT); these modules will be progressively used in 2016, leading to an increase in the electronic workflows, and subsequently greater efficiency, reliability of the data and audit trail.
- Completion of projects related to the revised Financial Regulation and Staff Regulations (SR), in particular a new roadmap for programming resources for EFCA in view of the Single Programming Document to be used by Agencies from 2017, and adoption of further general implementing provisions of the SR according to schedule.
- Development of policies related to the Common Approach, in particular for preparing a set of guidelines for whistle-blowers, which was submitted to the European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS) and subsequently to the Commission for agreement.
- Update of the rules for reimbursement of experts and establishment of specific mission instructions for EFCA Staff in Vigo.
- Contribution to the new webpage portal of EFCA (which became operable during the year), with information on Procurement and Recruitment, as well as maintaining the standard administrative documents related to Governance and administration.
- In the domain of Data Protection, EFCA has been very proactive and very positively assessed by the European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS) following the 2015 survey measuring the compliance of EU institutions and bodies with Regulation (EC) No 45/2001.
- Preliminary steps have been taken to take on board the eco-management audit scheme of the Commission, EMAS.
- During 2015, EFCA contracted the assistance for the creation of an IT master plan. The master plan will be the basis for the functioning of the ICT and the DMN sections and sets the basis for priorities for the next coming five years. The IT master plan was adopted in December through a decision of the Executive Director. The ICT team was reinforced with one Contract Agent for the post of the System Administrator.
- Evaluation and signature of two Framework Contracts: one for Software Development and another for ICT Support and Services.



- EFCA has defined and started the implementation of a solid Business Continuity (BC) framework which would ensure at all times the safety and welfare of its staff, visitors and contractors and the performance of Agency's critical and essential functions in the event of crisis and disruptions.
 - A BC policy was adopted to outline the context and a general approach should any disruptive incidents occur. The policy includes a series of aiding tools which would ensure its practical implementation:
 - A Business Impact analysis outlining the critical business processes and applications in case of Business Continuity incidents;
 - A Telephone cascade enabling the initiation of first communication of an incident which might result in a BC decision;
 - A Business Continuity Management Team together with a core team was nominated envisaging the coordination of activities until the Agency could return to "business as usual".
 - Detailed Recovery Action Plans were developed by each unit in order to cover the non-IT activities of the Agency and to document a step-by-step guidance for each of the possible BC scenarios.

Further information on the above and key data on the administrative performance can be found in the following subsections.



2.2. Budgetary and financial management

Budget Implementation

The 2015 contribution to EFCA's budget from the total subsidy of the European Union was in amount of: 9.217.000€. EFCA has implemented 99,6% (2014: 99,1%) of commitment appropriations, and 92,2% (2014: 88,4%) of the payment appropriations. The level of funds carried forward from 2015 to 2016 has decreased to 7% from 11% in the previous year.

TITLE	VOTED BUDGET 2015		BUDGET EXECUTION - ABAC					
	BUDGET 2015	Amounts transferred	COMMITMENTS (CA)			PAYMENTS (PA)		
			ABAC CA (€)	Committed (€)	% exec	ABAC PA (€)	Paid (€)	% exec
Staff Expenditure								
TITLE I	6.334.000	-217.826	6.116.174	6.089.196	99,6%	6.116.174	6.033.318	98,6%
Administrative Expenditure								
TITLE II	1.145.000	208.516	1.353.516	1.348.048	99,6%	1.353.516	1.071.127	79,1%
Operational Expenditure								
TITLE III	1.738.000	9.310	1.747.310	1.742.025	99,7%	1.747.310	1.397.418	80,0%
Capacity Building	963.000	3.710	966.710	961.547	99,5%	966.710	718.883	74,4%
Operational Coordination	775.000	5.600	780.600	780.477	100,0%	780.600	678.535	86,9%
TOTAL	9.217.000	0	9.217.000	9.179.268	99,6%	9.217.000	8.501.863	92,2%

The cancellation of payment appropriations³³ in the budget of EFCA for 2015 was €71.638 representing 0,7 % of the total payment appropriations of 2015. This amount can be broken down as follows:

- Non-used payment appropriations of 2015 is 37.732€;
- Cancellation of payment appropriations carried over from 2014 (C8 fund source) is 33.906€.

All payments were made within the legal targets in compliance with the Financial Regulation time limits and the average number of days for payment in 2015 was 20 days. As a result, there was no interest charged by suppliers for late payments.

Performance Indicators	Target	Achieved
Execution rate commitments appropriations	As close as possible to 100%	99,6%
Execution payments appropriations	≥70%	92,2%
Percentage of payments done within the time limits	>95%	100,0%

³³After taking into account automatic as well as non-automatic carry overs of payment appropriations from 2014 (for EFCA in 2015, fund source C8 – appropriations carried over automatically)



Activity Based Management information

In accordance with the Activity Based Management System (ABMS) approach approved by the Administrative Board on 19 October 2010, the Annual Report 2015 is the sixth report implementing ABMS, adding the total estimated costs for each activity, direct and indirect.

EFCA accomplished its mission through the following operational and administrative activities, integral to its operation as an independent EU body:

ACTIVITY	ABMS Code
Operational activities	1
Implementation of JDPs and Operational Plans	1.1
Level playing field enhancement	1.2
Programmes, plans and assessment	1.3
Data Monitoring and Networks	1.4
Training	1.5
Governance and Representation	2

EFCA uses the following allocation methodology for the planning (AWP procedure) as well as for the implementation figures (AR procedure):

- Direct cost allocation. Part of the operational expenditure (Title III) is allocated directly to one of the activities (e.g. the budget line Data Monitoring and Networks is directly allocated to the activity Data Monitoring and Networks).
- Indirect cost allocation. The staff and overhead expenditure (Titles I and II) are allocated to the different activities based on different drivers. The main driver is the dedication of staff to each activity, which is weighted with the average cost for AD, AST and CA posts.
- EFCA estimates its horizontal support costs separately, which are then distributed within each of the main activities based on the final weight in the total expenditure. The figures presented for ABB (figures planned in the AWP 2015) and ABC (2015 implementation figures) for each activity include the corresponding share of horizontal support expenditure. Considering the methodology explained above, the following table presents the budget (ABB) allocated to the activities and sub-activities as per AWP 2015, versus the final output of the real costs allocated to each activity (ABC) based on the actual budget implementation.

Code	Activity/ Sub activity	AWP 2015 – Planned budget (ABB)		AR 2015 – Budget Implementation (ABC)		Rate of implementation
		€	% of total	€	% of total	
1	OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES	8.275.627	89,8%	8.239.105	89,8%	99,6%
1.1	Implementation of JDPs & Operational Plans	1.364.912	14,8%	1.187.961	12,9%	87,0%
1.2	Level playing field enhancement	2.526.445	27,4%	2.477.653	27,0%	98,1%
1.3	Programmes, Plans and Assessment	1.287.179	14,0%	1.312.946	14,3%	102,0%
1.4	Data Monitoring and Networks	1.684.484	18,3%	1.758.899	19,2%	104,4%
1.5	Training	1.412.607	15,3%	1.501.646	16,4%	106,3%
2	GOVERNANCE AND REPRESENTATION	941.373	10,2%	940.163	10,2%	99,9%
TOTAL		9.217.000	100,0%	9.179.268	100,0%	99,6%

As presented above for both categories of EFCA's activities (Operational and Governance), there are no significant variations between the AWP 2015 Planned budget (ABB) and the budget implementation amounts (ABC).

2.3. Human Resources (HR) management

Personnel Selection and Recruitment

On 31 December 2015, the total number of EFCA staff in activity was 57 including 52 Temporary Agents (TA), and 5 Contract Agents (CA). This means that the establishment plan was 100% filled, like at the end of 2014. It also implies that there was very little recruitment in 2015, with only one post being filled due to a departure. The removal of a second post, in line with the general 5% staff reduction foreseen in the Inter-institutional agreement for decentralised agencies, was done in 2015. The third post will be deleted in 2016.

In 2015, EFCA had a successful call for expression of interest for Seconded National Experts (SNEs), which resulted in a total recruitment of 4 short-term SNEs (until end 2015) and two more long-term SNEs to achieve the foreseen volume of 48 man/months of usage during 2015. External personnel were used for replacement with total of 3,2 Full-Time Equivalents (FTE).

Furthermore, external service providers were used for delivering specified structural services within the EFCA premises, mainly in the areas of ICT and Logistics. The total of this amounted to 8,5 FTE.



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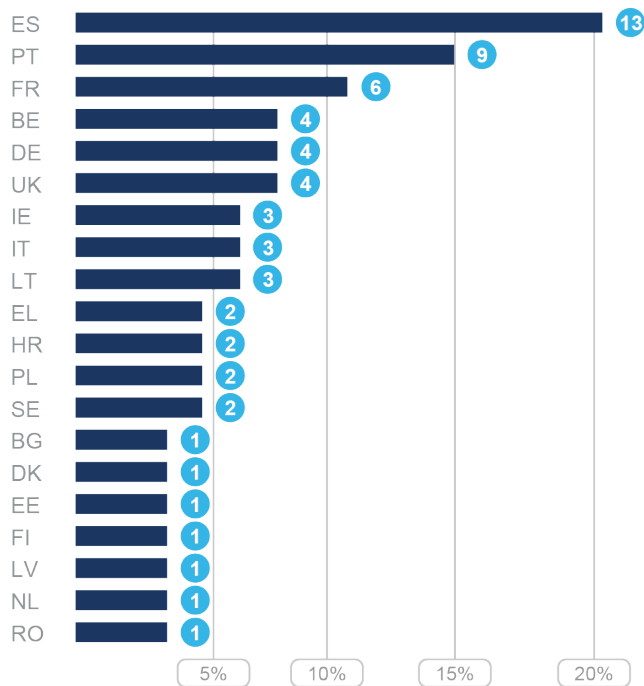
European Fisheries Control Agency

Organizational development and staff structure

EFCA carried out a benchmarking exercise following the Methodology for agencies job screening. The analysis was made for the situation of 2014 and 2015. The results are displayed in Annex VI allowing a comparative view on the allocation of human resources (measured by working time) into predefined types of activities. Operational staff reaches 61% of the staffing.

The average age of staff is 46,9 years. As in the previous years there is a wide composition of staff in regard to nationalities as analysed in the chart below.

Including Seconded National Experts, nationals of 20 EU Member States were working at EFCA as of 31 December 2015.

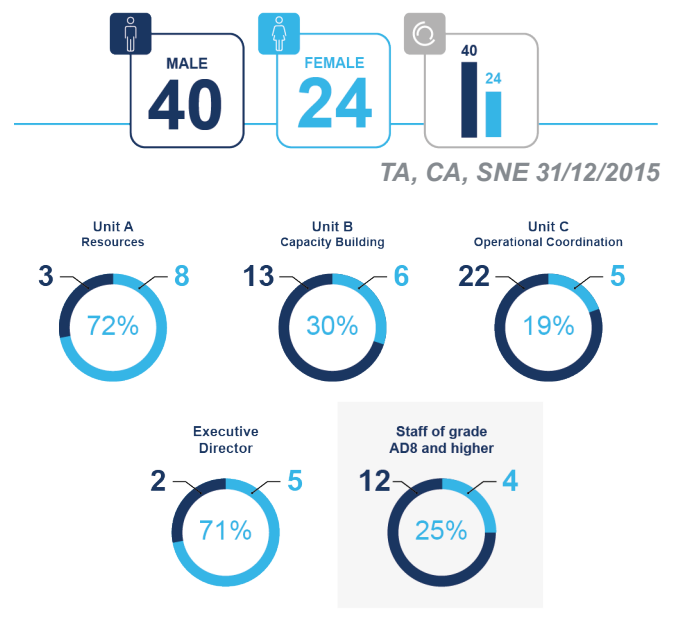


Gender distribution among EFCA staff

EFCA promotes a policy of equal treatment and would aim to have an optimal gender balance among its staff. The Agency has an equal treatment statement included in each vacancy notice published.

There is a majority of male staff employed in Unit C - Operational Coordination, among experts coming from a traditionally male domain.

Also a 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 Unit A – Resources. The overall percentage of female staff members is 36%.



Personnel policies and procedures

The Whistle-blowing guidelines were submitted to the Commission for agreement. The EFCA intranet platform provides HR-related information with webpages including documents, templates and forms.

Appraisal and Reclassification

The annual appraisal exercise was performed for all staff members and under the implementing provisions of the European Commission. Following the reclassification exercise, seven staff members were promoted.

Traineeship

In cooperation with the Traineeship Office of the European Commission, three cycles of 5-months traineeships were implemented. Each cycle included four traineeship opportunities which were allocated in all units. Staff of the units were mentoring the trainees.

Training and Tuition

Collective training courses in topics such as project management (PM² EC methodology) were among courses organised in 2015. In-house language courses and information sessions on health and safety were also provided throughout the year. Figures related to the staff training activities in 2015 are as follows:

- Number of collective courses organised in the EFCA premises: 11
- Number of external training courses followed: 20
- Number of persons following language courses: 35
- Average number of training days per staff member: 3,69

The scheme concerning tuition provided to staff members' children in the Vigo area in mother tongue, and support for English and Spanish, was continued in 2015 with an increase of requests after the summer period. Spouses continue to participate in Spanish language classes organised in the Agency.

Performance Indicators	Target	Achieved
Execution rate establishment plan	>95%	100%

2.4. Budget implementation tasks entrusted to other services and entities

Based on a service level agreement (SLA) with the PMO, EFCA delegated the powers of determination of entitlements related to the remuneration of its staff to PMO. In cooperation with the PMO services, EFCA

prepares and controls the processing and implements the final payments of the monthly payroll. A revised SLA is in place from 1 January 2015.



2.5. Procurement

In 2015, in order to face upcoming changes in telecommunications sector an open call for tender was launched for unified communications with services of IP telephony, mobile communications and internet. A call for tenders was also launched for the second Five Year Independent External Evaluation of EFCA. In addition, there was a need to replace a number of existing contracts in the areas of cleaning, interim services, subscriptions and building insurance.

At the same time, several needs have been addressed with the use of existing contracts, either EFCA's own or those of the European Commission, especially DG DIGIT. In the interest to optimise the available resources, EFCA joined 1 inter-institutional procurement procedure by DG HR and 1 with PMO, as well as 6 inter-institutional procurement procedures by DG DIGIT and 2 by DG BUDG. An inter-agency tender for Cloud services led by EFSA was also joined.

In the same line, a Memorandum of Understanding on re-invoicing of the procurement services provided by the Commission (DIGIT) in the IT field will be signed early 2016. Further information on procurement is available in Annex VIII.

Apart from the launching of procurement procedures, focus was put on e-Administration system purchase and implementation, as well as on rationalization and optimization of processes. EFCA started to use an e-Tendering platform for managing calls for tender, which consists of the publication of tender documents and the management of questions and answers concerning the specifications and the procedure created. The platform is run by the Publications Office and it is an online version of the 'Supplement to the Official Journal' of the EU.

In the last months of 2015, preparatory work was carried out to comply with the changes to the General Financial Regulation and Rules of Application concerning procurement in force on 1 of January 2016 and for the launch of the first tender with the e-Prior e-submission module.

Two procurement procedures were added to the Procurement plan of 2015, and 1 planned procurement procedure was moved to 2016.

Performance Indicators	Target	Achieved
Procurement procedures launched according to procurement plan	80%	88%

2.6. IT

During 2015, EFCA has continued to work towards strengthening and streamlining its services to its internal and external users. On the corporate side ICT has deployed all new printing facilities throughout the Agency. Five multifunctional photocopiers, colour printers and ten black and white laser printers in total were deployed,

managed and monitored centrally in order to reduce printing costs. New smartphones were deployed, each loaded with a Mobile Device Management software in order to prevent security breaches. A new policy for the use of smartphones was developed, approved and put in force. ICT assisted in the deployment and hosting of the

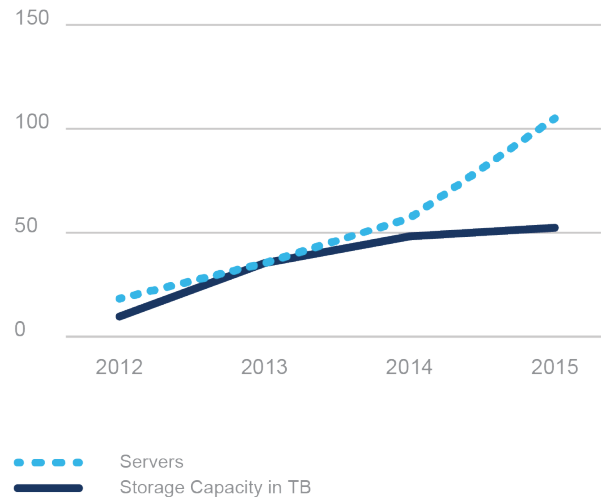
new EFCA website based on a new Content Management System. The Wi-Fi network was further enhanced and upgraded by adding more Access Points to ensure better coverage throughout the building. Skype for Business was deployed in all EFCA users as part of the first step towards the implementation of a VoIP solution. The first step was the introduction of the Instant Messaging capabilities which promotes collaboration among staff. Among other things a new framework contract was signed for the provision of ICT Support services.

During 2015, EFCA contracted the assistance for the creation of an IT master plan. The master plan will be the basis for the functioning of the ICT and the DMN sections and sets the basis for priorities for the next coming five years. The IT master plan was adopted in December through a decision of the Executive Director.

The IT Steering Committee met three times during the year. Discussions and presentations on upcoming and ongoing IT projects and priorities were held. In addition to that, a number of ad hoc meetings were held to prepare for the IT master plan.

In order to strengthen the abilities of the operational applications, ICT planned for an increase of the server capacity. The first step of purchasing the new servers and storage was completed.

The increase in capacity of the storage and virtual servers is expressed in the graph below.



Performance Indicators	Target	Achieved
Corporate Application availability rate	95%	99,97%
Operational Applications availability rate	95%	98,61%

2.7. Facilities

The Agency has suffered frequent problems with its electricity network configuration in the past and the beginning of the year 2015 was also marked by several electricity failures. The root cause was established and a number of measures were taken to rectify the problem. Since the second quarter of the year the situation has improved significantly.

An assessment of the needs of EFCA’s technical installations was performed in the framework of the Maintenance of Technical Installations’ contract. This assessment led to the reinforcement of air conditioning in the servers’ room, and the revision of the power balance on the main UPS Room, thus ensuring greater stability.



With regard to carbon footprint, electricity consumption statistics were updated on a weekly basis throughout the year, showing an average weekly consumption of 6.150 kWh (13% increase compared to 2014). Overall, the 2015 carbon footprint of the Agency was estimated at 141 tonnes of CO² (17% increase compared to 2014). Health and safety measures have been implemented through a specialist contractor. Information sessions on health and safety at work have been organised for staff.

An assessment of air quality, electromagnetic and electric radiations and light quality has been made, and corrective measures are ongoing.

Due to the global terrorist threat, and in line with the European Commission decision to reinforce security measures in most of its buildings, EFCA has put in place some additional security measures at its premises. Contacts with Spanish Security authorities and other EU Bodies in Spain have been reinforced.

2.8. Data protection and access to documents

Data protection

EFCA complies with the applicable legislation on the protection of personal data processed by the Agency (Regulation (EC) No 45/2001³⁴). In 2015, the Agency continued to submit new and updated notifications to its internal register of operations that involve processing of personal data in the areas of HR and Operational Coordination. New and updated operations of a sensitive nature were also notified to the European Data Protection Supervisor for prior checking.

Furthermore, the periodic review of EFCA's video surveillance policy was finalised with the support of the EMCDDA Data Protection Officer (DPO) in the context of a newly signed SLA between the two agencies to develop exchange of information and expertise and to foster mutual cooperation in the field of data protection. As part of this synergy, EFCA's DPO provided the same support to EMCDDA with regard to their video surveillance policy.

In June, the EDPS organised a survey on the compliance of EU institutions and bodies with Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 and EFCA's compliance was very positively assessed.

EFCA's DPO organised internal training sessions for newcomers, in particular on the importance of data protection and the notification procedure. Thus, the existing culture of respect of the data protection rules was further strengthened.

Access to documents

As regards the implementation of the applicable legislation on access to documents (Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001³⁵), in 2015, two specific requests to documents were made:

- On 6 February, which was answered by sending information and documentation to the requester;
- On 13 November, which was answered by addressing the petition to the European Commission.

³⁴OJ L 8, 12.1.2001, p.1.

³⁵OJ L 145, 31.5.2001, p.43.

Part III. Building Blocks of Assurance

3.1. Assessment by management

Management Supervision

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

EFCA has three Units and an Executive Director Office. The Heads of Unit are responsible for the activities of their Unit. 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 Accounting Officer and the Policy Officer are also attending the management meetings.

EFCA Administrative Board adopted in October 2015 the Multi-annual Work Programme for the period 2016–2020. An Annual Work Programme is also adopted each year by the Administrative Board in order to implement the Multi-annual Programme objectives.

The Annual Work Programme is monitored internally on a quarterly basis and updates on its implementation are reported to the Administrative Board at each meeting and in the Annual Report of the Executive Director. During the year, discrepancies are discussed with the Units, and corrective actions are taken as necessary.

In 2015, the Executive Director of EFCA, as Authorising Officer (AO), delegated financial responsibilities to the three Heads of Unit (Authorising Officers by Delegation (AOD)). Should one Head of Unit be unavailable, the authority returns to the Executive Director. Thus, a very limited number of persons act as AO/AODs in EFCA. The AODs can enter into budgetary and legal commitments and authorise payments. However, all commitments above 60.000 € require the signature of the Executive Director. For the expenditures of 2015, the AODs signed a Declaration of Assurance to the AO, similar to the one signed by the AO himself, for the area for which they have been delegated responsibility. No reservations were raised by the AODs.

Consolidating EFCA's vision and Assurance

In the spirit of last year's efforts deployed to implement coherent Management Assurance and Performance Monitoring and Reporting processes, the entire framework has been updated and enhanced as follows:

- The EFCA's Management Scorecard has been enriched in line with AWP objectives and completed with a regular assessment of the degree of achieving the annual objectives;
- EFCA Assurance Landscape was reviewed and a new Building Block of Assurance was introduced, namely the Declaration of Assurance from the Authorising Officers by Delegation to the Executive Director (Authorising Officer)
- Throughout the year, continuous efforts were made in the formalisation of:
 - Revised procedures regarding nonconformities, risk management, Internal Control Standards, follow-up of the audit results;
 - Action plans follow-up and reporting to management.





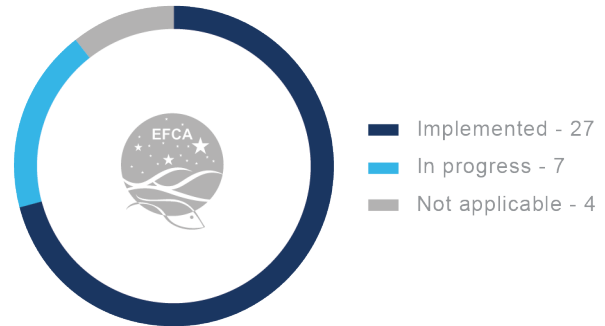
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Roadmap on the follow-up to the Common Approach on EU decentralised agencies

In line with the Common Approach endorsed by the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission in July 2012, the Commission prepared a Roadmap on the follow-up to the Common Approach with concrete timetables for the planned initiatives. 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 the state of play as of 31 of December 2015 is as follows:



3.2. Internal Control System

Since the start of its activities, the Agency has been developing and implementing a broad range of internal measures to ensure that its work is subject to control and to provide reasonable assurance to management on the achievement of the Agency’s objectives.

Thanks to these internal control measures, it is ensured that the Agency’s operational activities are effective and efficient as well as compliant with all legal and regulatory requirements, that financial and management reporting is reliable and that assets and information are safeguarded.

In order to formalise these arrangements, firstly in 2008 and later in 2015, the Administrative Board of the Agency adopted a set of Internal Control Standards (ICS), based on the Commission’s and international good practice, aiming to ensure the achievement of the policy and operational objectives. As a result, the Agency established its own organisational structure and the internal control system to be in line with these standards and with the risk environment in which it operates.



EFCA's efforts in the ICS implementation in 2015	
ICS5	Key Performance Indicators were enhanced and two IAS recommendations were completely addressed and closed
ICS6	The risk management guidelines were reviewed and a single risk register was created
ICS7	Three ED Decisions has been adopted and contributed to the improvement of the standard - Delegation given to AO (ED Decision 2015/014) - EFCA sensitive functions review (ED Decision 2015/020) - Adoption of an IT Master Plan (ED Decision 2015/026) - Decision of the ICT Steering Committee to enforce a common Project Management Methodology
ICS8	The procedure to follow-up the audit results was implemented (ED Decision No 2015/01)
ICS9	The Business Continuity Policy was adopted (ED Decision No 2015/027)
ICS10	EFCA security manual has been produced (ED Decision No 2015/07)
ICS11	The new website was made available
ICS12	A roadmap for Information Security Management System (ISMS) was prepared
ICS13	The validation of the financial and accounting system was re-performed
ICS14	The Open Call for the next Five Year Independent External Evaluation of EFCA was published
ICS15	A "Very Important" recommendation regarding the internal control was partially addressed and after IAS review was downgraded to "Important". Meanwhile the new procedure for the internal control assessment was adopted (ED Decision No 2016/02) and this Decision is supposed to address completely the IAS recommendation

For 2015, the ICC conducted the annual assessment of the Internal Control Standards which was based on a desk review of each standard in relation with the actions performed during the year, the analysis of the nonconformities reported and interviews of key people responsible for the implementation of the 16 ICS. This has led to the assessment of the Agency's status at the end of the reporting year with respect to the level of implementation of internal control system. All of the above had enabled the ICC to report on the state of internal control system in place and to present his recommendations to the Executive Director (including his suggestions for any ICS to be prioritised during the next year and the related action plans).

Concerning the overall state of the internal control system, generally the Agency complies with the three assessment criteria for effectiveness:

- a) Staff having the required knowledge and skills;
- b) Systems and procedures designed and implemented to manage the key risks effectively;
- c) No instances of ineffective controls that have exposed the Agency to its key risks.

Further enhancing the effectiveness of the Agency's control activities in place, by inter alia taking into account any control weaknesses reported and nonconformities recorded, is an on-going effort in line with the principles of continuous improvement of management procedures and of sound financial management.



ICS implementation state of play and expected developments for 2016		
Internal Control standard (ICS)	Degree of implementation	Main developments expected for 2016
IC1 - Mission	HIGH	- ED Decision 2009/052 regarding the organisation of the Agency should be updated.
ICS2 - Ethical and organisational Values	HIGH	-
ICS 3- Staff Allocation and Mobility	HIGH	-
ICS 4- Staff Evaluation and Development	HIGH	-
ICS 5 - Objectives and Performance Indicators	HIGH	-
ICS 6 - Risk Management Process	MEDIUM	- Perfect the Risk Management reporting in order to respond to IAS recommendation
ICS 7 - Operational Structure	MEDIUM	- IT governance policy to be adopted - Project Portfolio (follow-up of usage of PM2)
ICS 8 - Processes and Procedures	HIGH	-
ICS 9 - Management Supervision	HIGH	-
ICS 10 - Business Continuity	MEDIUM	- Recovery site to be decided and implemented - Disaster Recovery Plan and backups to be implemented and tested
ICS 11 - Document Management	LOW	- A Document Recording System has to be put in place
ICS 12 - Information and Communication	MEDIUM	- Information Security Management System has to be implemented
ICS 13- Accounting and Financial Reporting	HIGH	-
ICS 14 - Evaluation of Activities	HIGH	-
ICS 15- Assessment of Internal Control Systems	HIGH	-
ICS 16 - Internal Audit Capability	HIGH	-

Every year EFCA assesses the implementation of its internal control system, relying on a number of monitoring measures and other relevant sources of information. In conclusion for 2015, the internal control system in EFCA can be considered as being robust and stable with most of the ICS having a high level of implementation.

The efforts deployed in 2015 substantially contributed to the improvement of the general level of implementation of the Internal Control System. EFCA management is fully committed to tackle the areas where further developments are needed.

3.3. Legality and Regularity of transactions

3.3.1. Ex-ante and ex-post controls

EFCA carries out ex-ante verification over a subset of financial transactions in its financial circuits based on a risk assessment methodology established in 2013. To compensate this, internal ex-post verification on a sample of transactions is carried out quarterly by EFCA financial staff. EFCA also had an independent ex-post verification of financial transactions of 2014 carried out by a staff member from Eurofound in June 2015. Over two days a sample representing around 10% of the total transactions of 2014 were reviewed. No errors or irregularities were found among the transactions analysed, leading to a positive conclusion on the Agency's financial internal control circuits.

3.3.2. Nonconformity management procedure

In accordance with ICS 8, EFCA has a procedure in place to ensure that where overrides of controls or deviations from established processes and procedures are identified, documented and logged centrally.

During 2015 EFCA has registered 5 nonconformity events out of which the nominal amount for 4 events remained below the disclosure materiality threshold of 2.500 € (Annex IX).

The only event that qualifies for disclosure was one a posteriori commitment amounting to 7.136 €. The reason behind this a posteriori commitment was the urgent need to restore the VMS system that unexpectedly went down in two consecutive weekends. EFCA specific contract for VMS maintenance does neither cover measures for incidents of this kind nor for interventions on weekends. Therefore there was a need to make a separate budgetary commitment that would cover the payment for the works done by the contractor.

3.4. Risk Management

EFCA has identified risks in different areas (financial and non-financial), for each risk action plans being established and closely followed-up. The Agency is aware that risk management is a continuous exercise. Therefore risks are updated and assessed if major changes occur.

For 2015 an annual risks assessment exercise took place and two critical risks were identified:

- Preparation of a strategic Joint Deployment Planning (JDP) in the absence of a Specific Control and Inspection Programme (SCIP) being adopted on time by the Commission. Should the required JDP not be strategically planned and subsequently implemented because of the

absence of a SCIP, this could jeopardize the smooth implementation of EFCA AWP and may lead to budget appropriations not being used.

- In several areas of activity the Agency is heavily dependent on staff with specific expertise. Back up arrangements are not always easy to implement especially internally. Long term absence or departure of these staff members might cause a (serious) delay or interruption of activities.

For each risk the Agency ensures mitigation up to an acceptable level of the residual risk. During 2015 no prominent risks have materialised.



Fraud prevention and detection

In principle, the controls aimed at preventing and detecting fraud are not unlike those intended to ensure the legality and regularity of the transactions (the unintentional errors) e.g.:

- The 'four eyes' principle applied at each level gives reasonable assurance of compliance with the legal framework;
- The automated controls embedded over the workflows of the financial and accounting systems (ABAC suite);
- The salaries calculation and upload of individual payments is done by PMO;
- A declaration of absence of conflict of interests is always signed by panel members.

In October 2014, the Agency adopted a comprehensive policy on the prevention and management of conflict of interests and an anti-fraud strategy. Those two documents that mainly aim for prevention measures are important instruments in discouraging actions and behaviours that could harm the Agency's reputation. From a total of 13 actions foreseen to be implemented by the end of 2017, 9 are already implemented. Since the creation of the Agency no fraud events have occurred.

3.5. Assessment of audit results during the reporting year

3.5.1. Internal Audit Service (IAS)

Regarding the audit assignments performed by IAS, there are no "Critical" or "Very Important" recommendations open. Out of 6 recommendations issued as a result of the audit on Building Blocks of Assurance: 3 were closed during 2015 and the remaining 3 were partially addressed. The 3 open recommendations are rated as "Important".

3.5.2. Internal Audit Capability (IAC)

Regarding the audit assignments performed by the IAC, there are no "Critical" or "Very Important" recommendations open.

The IAC performed one audit on Business Continuity and issued 3 recommendations: 2 were closed and 1 rated as "Very Important" being only partially addressed, remained open for 2016, but was downgraded to "Important".

The IAC function was discontinued in September 2015. The Agency relies on the Internal Audit Service of the

European Commission (IAS) for the formal performance of its internal auditing function. If necessary and subject to availability of additional resources, an Internal Audit Capability may be put in place to provide additional independent and objective assurance and advice to management.

The IAC function was in place based on a SLA with EMSA that also discontinued the function. EFCA and EMSA are now considering different ways of mutual cooperation in particular at the Internal Control Coordinator level.

3.5.3. European Court of Auditors (ECA)

EFCA is audited every year by the European Court of Auditors (ECA). 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.

In 2015, EFCA received a Statement of Assurance certifying an unqualified opinion³⁶ for 2014 Annual

³⁶Unqualified audit opinion - The auditor's report contains a clear 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.

Accounts and indicating that the accounts are reliable and the transactions underlying the accounts are legal and regular.

The final report also confirmed that the EFCA has fully completed the corrective actions in response to the previous years' comments.

In relation with 2015 Annual Accounts, ECA conducted one visit on-site and at the date of preparation of the present report a desk review is on-going. EFCA expects that ECA's opinion on whether the accounts give a true and fair view, as well as on the legality and regularity of the transactions underlying the accounts, will provide a Statement of Assurance as it has for the last eight years. Any observation will be addressed and implemented as part of the continuous efforts towards further improvements.

In parallel, like last year EFCA will be audited for 2015 Annual Accounts by an external audit firm. The financial audit engagement will start after the issuance of this report.

3.5.4. External Evaluations

In line with article 39 of the Founding Regulation of the Agency, a Five Year Independent External Evaluation of EFCA was commissioned by the Administrative Board for the period 2007-2011. The evaluation started in April 2011 and assessed the impact of the Founding Regulation, the utility, relevance and effectiveness of the Agency and its working practices. It assessed the extent to which EFCA has contributed to the achievement of a high level of compliance with rules made under the Common Fisheries Policy. The evaluation results were presented in March 2012 during a Seminar to which the stakeholders were invited.

The Report indicates that the overall assessment of the governance and performance of EFCA has been positive.

On the whole, governance arrangements have worked well. Considering the Agency's limited resources, its operation in the politically sensitive environment of fisheries policy, and current Member States budget constraints, performance against the evaluation criteria of relevance, and effectiveness, impact and sustainability, can be considered promising. The evaluation also commended the Agency for its administrative efficiency.

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

The recommendations issued by the Administrative Board are being taken into consideration in the multiannual and Annual Work Programmes of the Agency.

From the 22 recommendations of the External Evaluation for the period 2012-2016, the state of play at the end of 2015 was as follows:

- 10 recommendations were closed;
- 10 due to their nature have been addressed on a continuous basis;
- 2 would entail a legislative amendment falling under the European Commission's decision and the EU Agencies Roadmap.

The preparation for the Five Year Independent External Evaluation of EFCA for the period 2012-2016 started in October 2015.



3.6. Follow up of audit plans, audits and recommendation

The Agency has developed and implemented a centralised monitoring of all audit recommendations in order to improve the follow-up of corresponding action plans.

Therefore, all the recommendations issued by the Internal Audit Capability (IAC), the internal Audit Service (IAS) and the European Court of auditors (ECA) were consolidated and are regularly monitored.

At the moment of this reporting only 4 recommendations are open and being currently addressed. None of the open recommendations is considered critical or very important.

3.7. Follow up of observations from the Discharge authority

For the financial year 2013 the European Parliament (EP) granted the Executive Director of the European Fisheries Control Agency the discharge in respect of the implementation of the Agency's budget. At the same time the EP acknowledged from the Agency that observations from past years were fully implemented.

On its resolution the EP acknowledges the Agency's policy on the prevention and management of conflict of interests, nevertheless calls on the Agency to revise the policy and publish the CVs of the Administrative Board members on a mandatory basis. Moreover, the EP calls on the Agency to publish the CVs and declarations of interests of members of the Advisory Board in order to contribute to bigger transparency. The Agency is taking the necessary measures to comply with the EP requests.

The EP resolution contained 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.

Part IV. Management assurance

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

For the expenditures of 2015, the Authorising Officers by Delegation signed a Declaration of Assurance to the Authorising Officer, similar to the one signed by the AO

himself, for the area for which they have been delegated responsibility. No reservations were raised by the Authorising Officers by Delegation.

Taking into account all the elements reviewed below, it can be positively concluded that the Executive Director has reasonable assurance and has no reasons to introduce any reservation for the year 2015.

4.1. Review of the elements supporting assurance

The Executive Director has relied on the following elements of assurance:

- The declarations of assurance from the Authorising Officers by Delegation;
- The positive assessment of the EFCA's Internal Control system and the satisfactory implementation of the Internal Control Standards;
- The statement of the Internal Control Coordinator;
- The management of risks which are being appropriately monitored and mitigated;
- The absence of overdue or long standing audit recommendations;
- The absence of vital observations from the European Parliament;
- The positive Statement of Assurance issued by ECA in 2015 for the financial year 2014 on the true and fair view

of the EFCA 2014 Annual Accounts and on the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions;

- The low impact of quantitative and qualitative nature of the identified nonconformities;
- The materiality framework (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 EFCAAB.

4.2. Reservations and overall conclusion on assurance

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 Annual Work Programme and approved by the Administrative Board.

In conclusion, for 2015 nothing opposes to the signing the Declaration of Assurance.



4.2.1. Statement of the Internal Control Coordinator

Statement of the Internal Control Coordinator

I hereby declare that in accordance with my responsibilities as Internal Control Coordinator I have reported my assessment, advice and recommendations to the Executive Director on the overall state of internal control in EFCA.

I certify that the information provided in the relevant sections of the Annual Report and its annexes is, to the best of my knowledge, accurate and exhaustive.

Done at Vigo on 12 February 2016

(Signed)
Paulo Castro
Internal Control Coordinator

4.2.2. Declaration of Assurance

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 view³⁷.*

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 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 recommendations of the Internal Audit Service and the Internal Audit Capability, the accompanying action plans and their follow up;
- The lessons learnt from the reports of the Court of Auditors and the accompanying action plans and their follow up;
- 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 16 February 2016

(Signed)
Pascal Savouret,
Executive Director

³⁷ True and fair in this context means a reliable, complete and correct view on the state of affairs in the service.

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