



# EFC IN BRIEF





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# EFCA MISSION

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The European Fisheries Control Agency's mission is to promote the highest common standards for control, inspection and surveillance under the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP).

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The EFCA brokers operational cooperation between and gives assistance to Member States and the Commission. It organises coordination and cooperation between national control and inspection activities and assists the Commission and Member States by providing training to Member State inspectors and trainers to ensure that CFP rules are respected and applied effectively and in a uniform manner.

The work of the Agency has clear added value. It contributes to a level playing field for the fishing industry so that obligations are observed and everyone in the sector is treated equally, wherever they might be operating. Secondly, it contributes towards sustainable fisheries by enhancing compliance with existing conservation and management measures to the benefit of present and future generations.

The Agency, in cooperation with the European Border and Coast Guard Agency and the European Maritime Safety Agency, each within its mandate, supports the national authorities carrying out coast guard functions.



## Working Together

As an independent executive body, the Agency works closely with the European Commission, Member States, Regional Advisory Councils and, where appropriate, third parties such as Regional Fisheries Organisations. Each has a particular role to play in **achieving the highest possible level of sustainability in the implementation of EU fisheries policy.**

Member States are required to ensure effective control, inspection and enforcement of the rules and cooperate with each other and third countries in accomplishing these aims. This involves coordinating activities on land and in EU and international waters, as well as where fishing takes place in third-country waters as appropriate.

**The Agency is designed to enhance this cooperation so that legislation is implemented in a systematic, uniform and effective way.**

Pooling separate efforts makes it possible to overcome any shortcomings which may arise due to the different resources and priorities national authorities allocate to their own controls and inspections. Uniform inspection procedures by national inspectors also make it possible to document all cases of non-compliance in a transparent manner.

Enforcing CFP rules remains the full responsibility of Member States. Each Member State is obliged to follow up on all cases of non-compliance discovered by its own inspectors and to impose deterrent sanctions according to national rules and procedures.



## International Role

The Agency's remit is not confined to control and operational cooperation on fishing control by the Member States in EU waters, although these are its first priority since they stretch from the Black Sea in the east to the Atlantic in the west, and the Baltic Sea in the north to the Mediterranean in the south.

In principle, its mission covers any zones where European vessels fish.

The EU is obliged by a number of international agreements and by its participation in Regional Fisheries Organisations to carry out controls and inspections on vessels operating outside EU waters. This is especially true for the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC), the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (NAFO) and the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT).



# CONTROL & INSPECTION IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

**To achieve sustainable fisheries, there must be a culture of compliance throughout the fishing industry.** Ensuring that this culture exists is one of the principle objectives of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). The European Fisheries Control Agency helps to work towards this objective.

To enforce common fisheries policy rules, there is a control system in place which is designed to ensure that only the permitted quantities of fish are caught, to collect the necessary data for managing fishing opportunities, clarify the roles of EU countries and the European Commission, ensure the rules are applied to all fishers and operators in the same way with harmonised sanctions across the EU, and ensure that fisheries products can be traced back and checked throughout the supply chain from net to plate.

The system, laid down in the Control Regulation in force since 1 January 2010, thoroughly modernised the EU's approach to fisheries control and was amended by Regulation 1380/2013. One of the main features of the reform is the landing obligation, which aims to gradually eliminate the wasteful practice of discarding. The control system applies to all fishing activities in EU waters, and to all fishing carried out by EU fishing vessels and EU nationals, wherever they may fish. It also applies to recreational fishing of sensitive fish stocks and aquaculture in so far as they are covered by rules at an EU level.

Fisheries rules and control systems are agreed on at EU level, but implemented by the Member States by means of their national authorities and inspectors. The European Commission has its own inspectors who can visit national authorities at any time to check whether they are implementing EU rules correctly. To encourage closer collaboration and exchange of best practice, the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) organises joint control campaigns, where inspectors from different EU countries join forces.





The background of the page is a photograph of a blue sea. In the foreground, there are several fishing traps or cages, some with blue and green mesh. A rusty metal pulley is visible on a concrete surface. Two red buoys are floating in the water in the distance.

# ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

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The Agency is an independent body established by European Union law. It is governed by its Administrative Board, which consists of six representatives of the Commission and one for each Member State. The EFCA is managed by an executive director.

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The Agency began operating in January 2007. Its seat is at Vigo in north-west Spain.

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## Administrative Board

The Board ensures that the Agency functions correctly and effectively. It sets the Agency's priorities and work programme, adopts its budget once it has been approved by the European Parliament and the Council, reports to Member States and the European institutions and appoints the Executive Director. In addition, the Board adopts a multiannual approach and a staff policy plan, as well as fixing indicators to monitor the implementation of the work plan.

Board members are appointed on an individual basis. They all have relevant experience and expertise in fisheries control and inspection and are required to sign a declaration of interest. They are appointed for a renewable five-year term.

The Board elects a Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson from among its members for a renewable three-year term. Meetings are usually held twice a year.

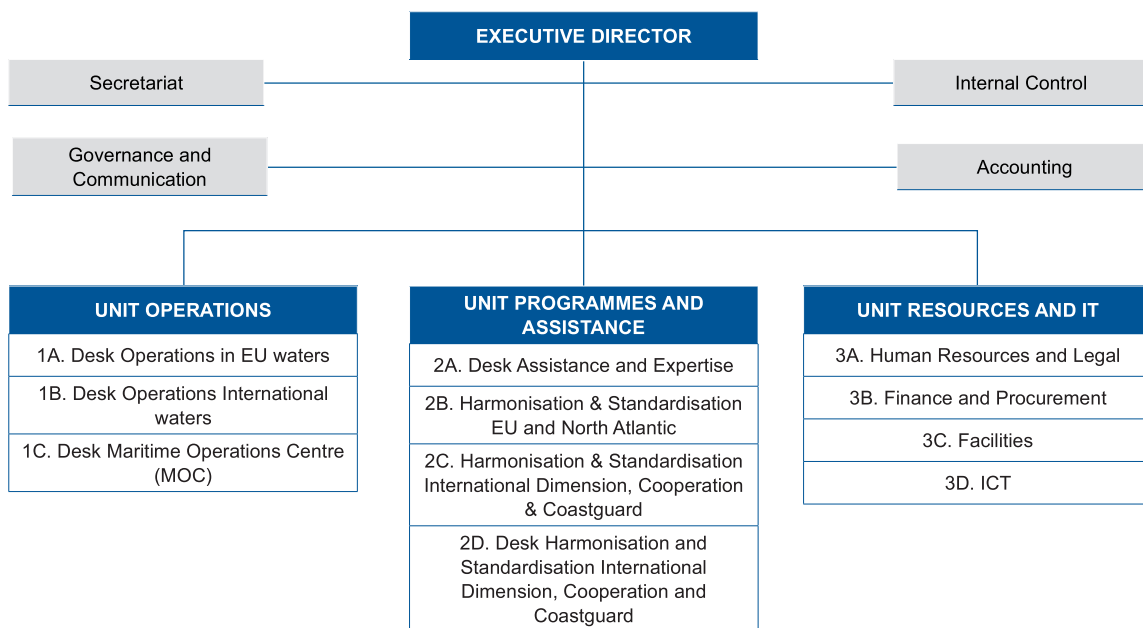
## Executive Director

The Executive Director is responsible for the execution of the Agency's operational activities and general management. He drafts the annual budget proposal and work programme following consultation with the Commission and national authorities. He is answerable to the Administrative Board. The appointment is for a five year period, with possibility of renewal. The current Executive Director is Mr Pascal Savouret. He was appointed in 2011 and his term of office was extended by the Administrative Board as of 1 September 2016.

## Advisory Board

One of the basic elements of the reform of the CFP of the Common Fisheries Policy was to increase participation by the fishing industry and other relevant parties in fisheries management and the policy making process through Regional Advisory Councils (RAC). The Advisory Board provides a forum for conveying the views of RACs.

## Organisational Structure



**Budget 2013: 9.216 million €**

**Staff: 63 staff members**

# EFCA ACTIVITIES

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The achievement of sustainable exploitation is crucial for the future of fish stocks and thus the future of the fishing industry. The Agency assists Member States in the application of the rules of the CFP so as to ensure its uniform and effective implementation.

The measures that EFCA helps implement aim for sustainable exploitation of living marine resources, according to the 2020 Strategy where sustainability is one of the main objectives.

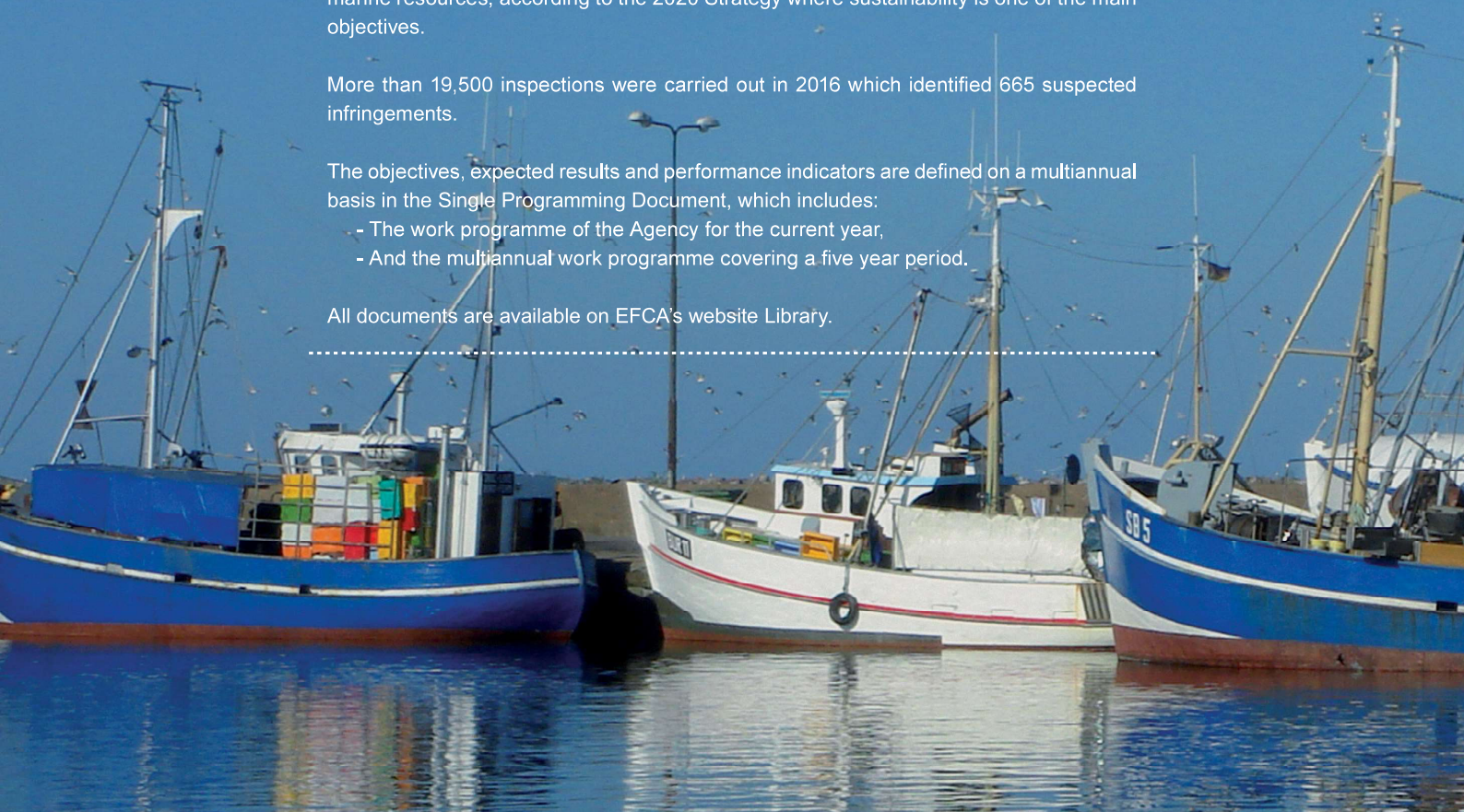
More than 19,500 inspections were carried out in 2016 which identified 665 suspected infringements.

The objectives, expected results and performance indicators are defined on a multiannual basis in the Single Programming Document, which includes:

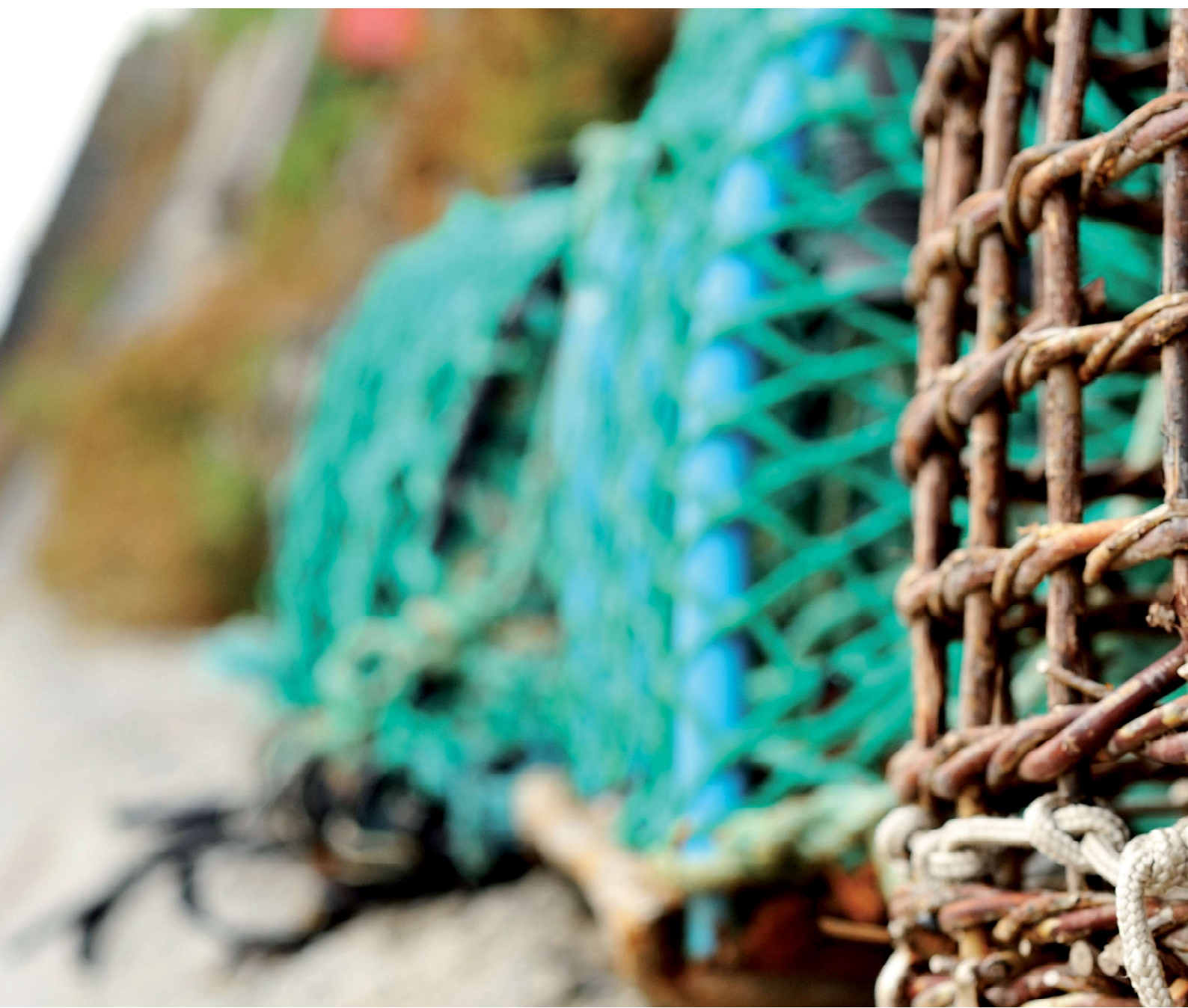
- The work programme of the Agency for the current year,
- And the multiannual work programme covering a five year period.

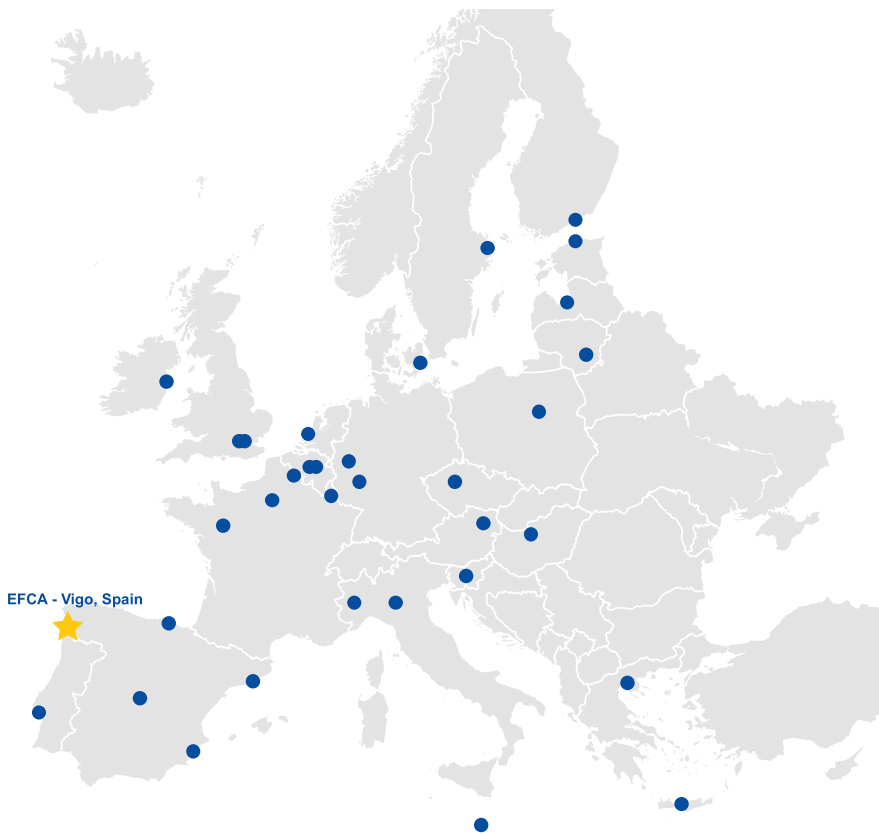
All documents are available on EFCA's website Library.

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**EFCA is one of the European Union agencies, located in Vigo (Spain).**

**At present, there are over 40 decentralised European Union agencies all over Europe.**

**An EU agency is a body of the European Union distinct from the EU institutions, such as the Council, Parliament and Commission, and it has its own legal personality.**



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**European Fisheries Control Agency**

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