
The European Fisheries Control Agency

Market AC Executive Committee
3 July 2023

Our mission is to promote the highest common standards for control, inspection and surveillance under the CFP



Sustainability



Level Playing Field



**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT** GOALS



General objectives

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



Compliance



Harmonisation



Cost-efficiency



Multiannual programming 2023-2027

Multiannual objectives

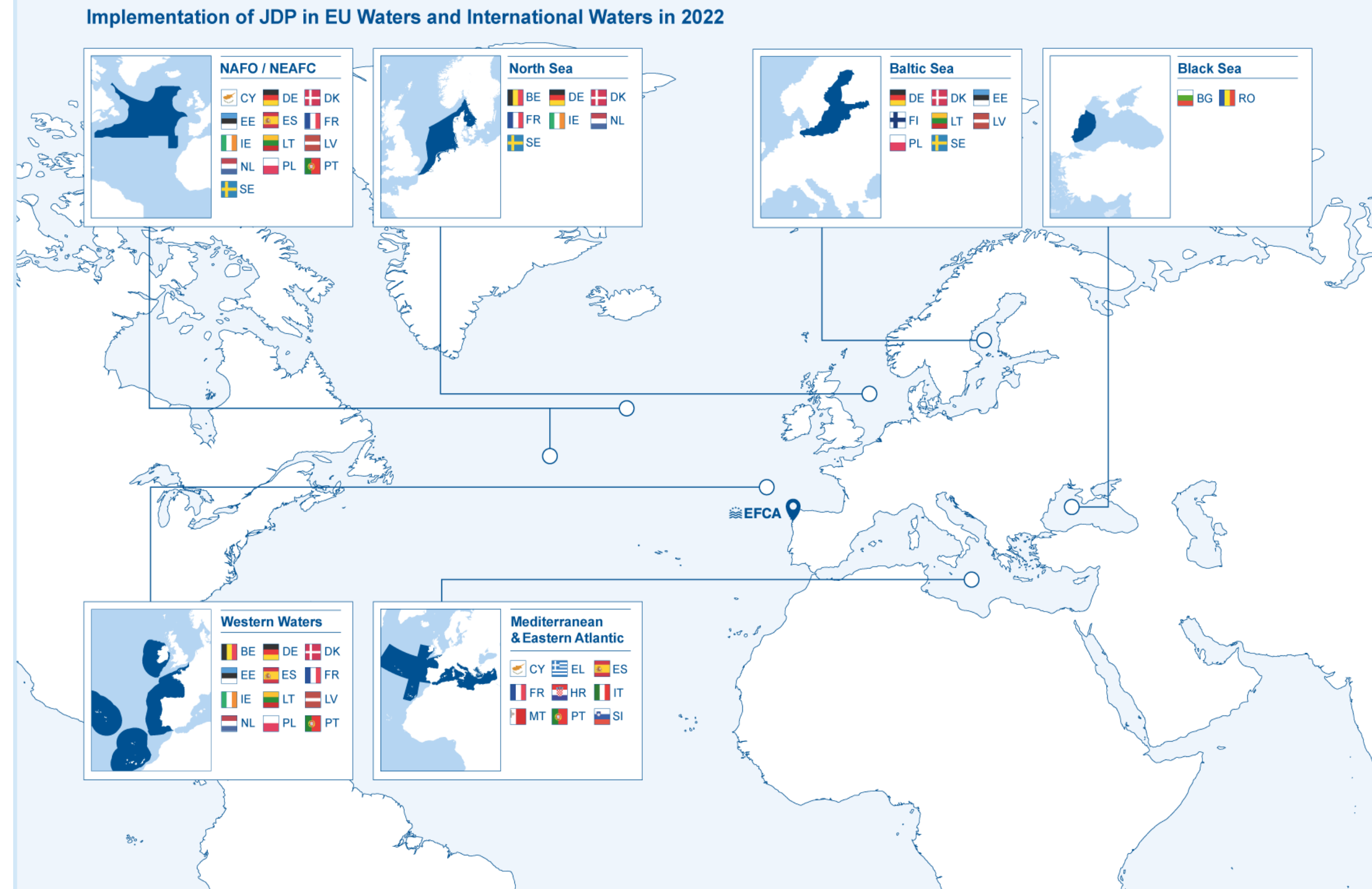
1. Enhanced coordination of fisheries monitoring control and surveillance.
2. Promote compliance through an effective and harmonised application of Union inspection procedures.
3. Assist the EU in its international dimension in accordance with article 30 CFP Regulation
4. Provide operational support to national authorities in Coast Guard functions.

Areas of intervention

- Operational Coordination
- Assistance to Cooperation
- International Dimension
- EU cooperation
on Coast Guard

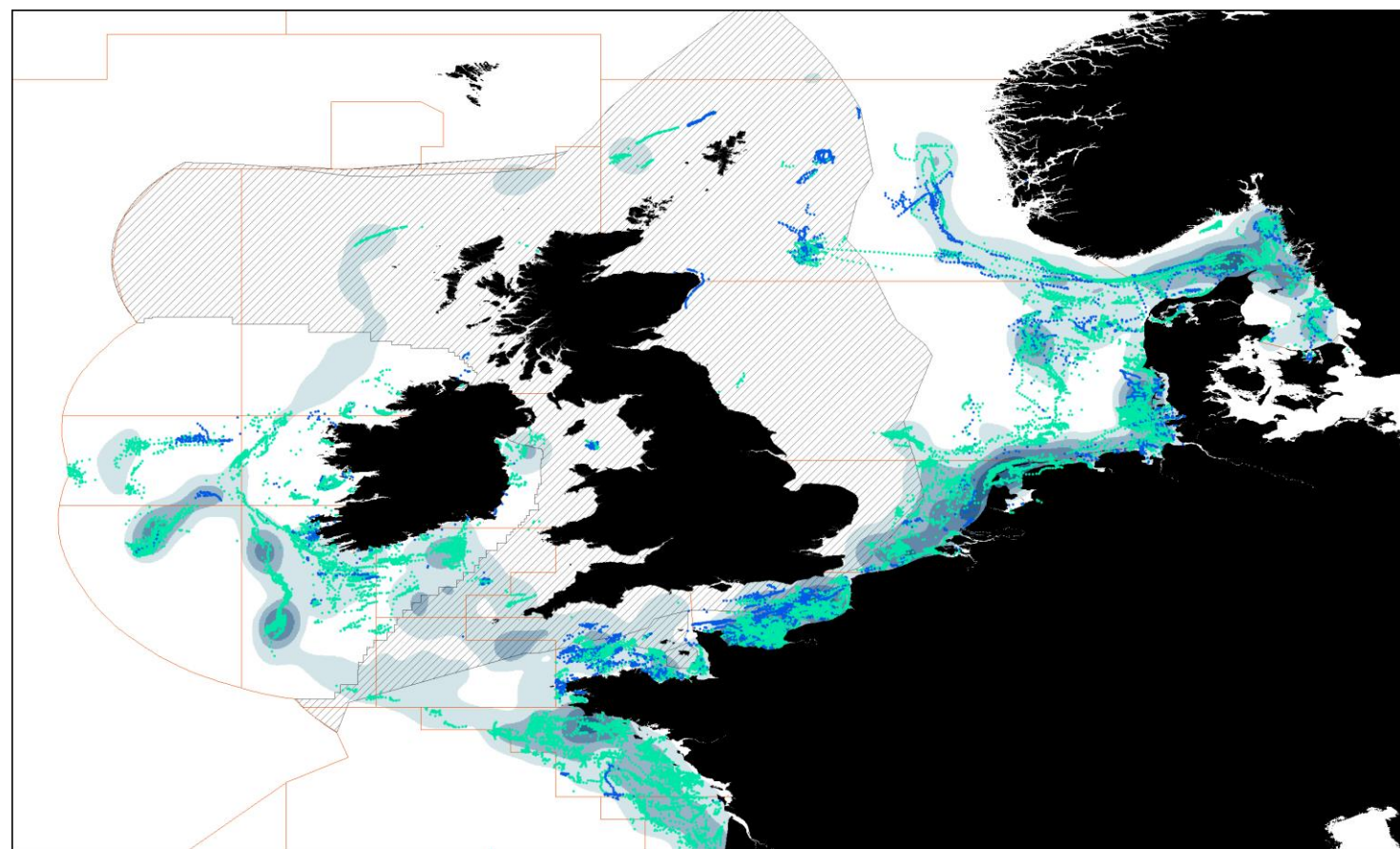
Implementation of six Joint Deployment Plans

- the number of inspections (at sea and ashore) reported within the JDPs framework was 47 592;
- the number of inspections with at least one suspected infringement reported was 5 167*;



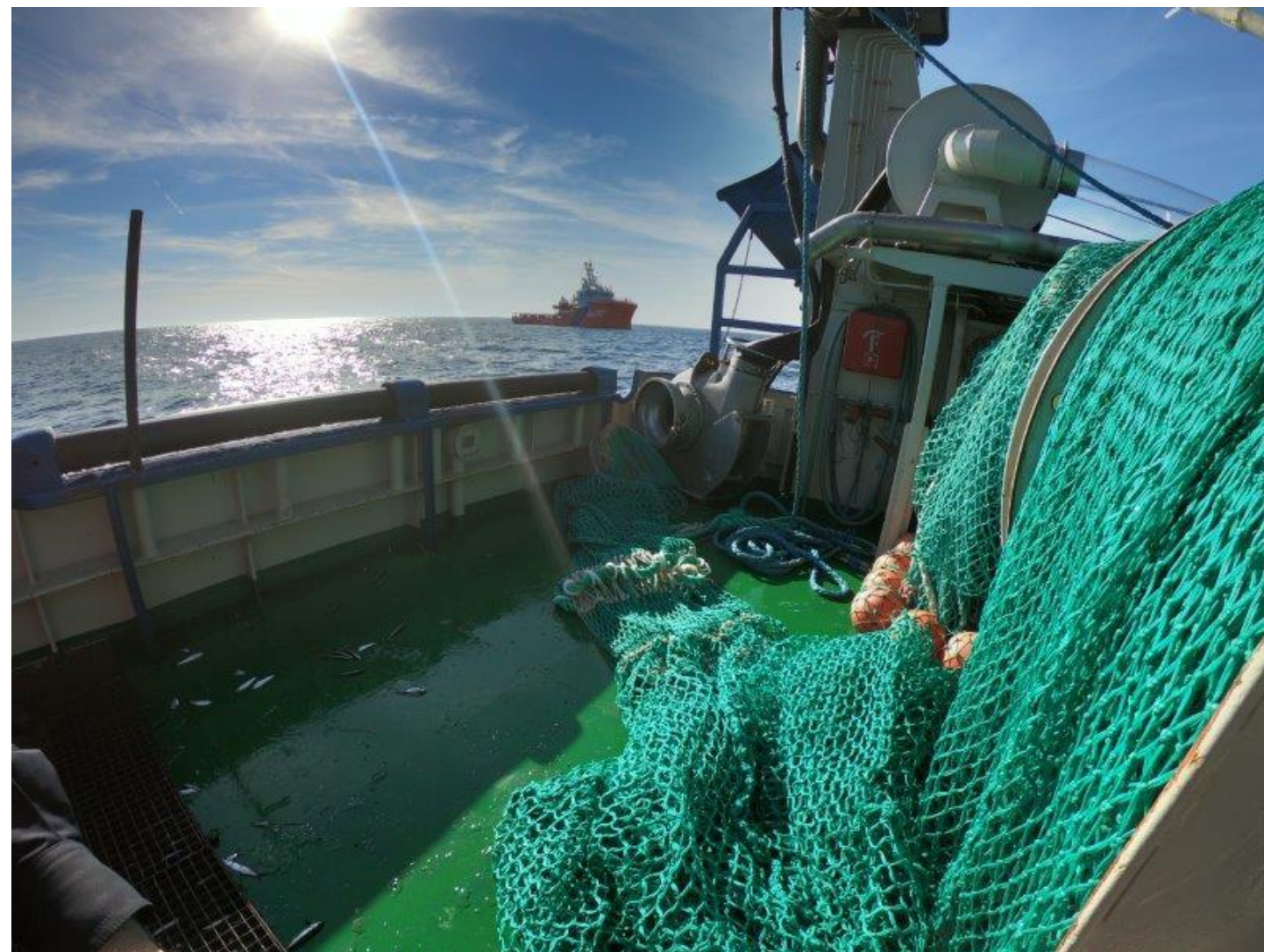
*Data based on the information provided by Member States up to 15 February 2023

Implementation of the TCA with UK



- The North Sea and Western Waters JDPs continues to operate with the Virtual Coordination Network, aiming to enhance a common situational awareness picture, and focus on risks related with the TCA with UK
- Main threats include compliance associated with licencing, access to resources, displacement of fishing effort and gear conflicts were identified
- The VCN was also a key channel of communication between the EC, Members States and EFCA concerning UK fisheries related issues, and a main forum to coordinate control activities.

Support to regional Control Expert Groups



- EFCA provides support to foster a harmonised application of fisheries related regulations related to control and inspection
- In 2022, EFCA assisted with the implementation of the LO, in the areas of evaluation of compliance (pelagics NS and WW and demersal NS) and REM pilot projects

Chartering of means

- *EFCA Offshore fisheries patrol vessels*

Ocean Protector and Ocean Guardian are deployed in the Atlantic JDPs, while Ocean Sentinel was covering the Mediterranean JDP.

They serve as a vehicle for inspections done by Member States Inspectors and EFCA staff

OPVs in the process to be equipped with RPAS and antipollution equipment.

EFCA also charters an airplane to support JDP operations



Five Coast Guard Cooperation Areas



Sharing of information

EFCA Integrated Maritime Services
Sightings / observations



Surveillance and Communication services

Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems
Piloted Fixed Wing Aircraft
Copernicus Maritime Services



Capacity Building and Training

Coast Guard Practical Handbook
Cross-sector training and capacity building



Cooperation on risk analysis

Cross-sector risk analysis
Risk Analysis products



Capacity Sharing

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

"Common article"

inserted in 2016 in EFCA,
EMSA and Frontex
founding regulations :

5 areas of cooperation

Tripartite working
arrangement

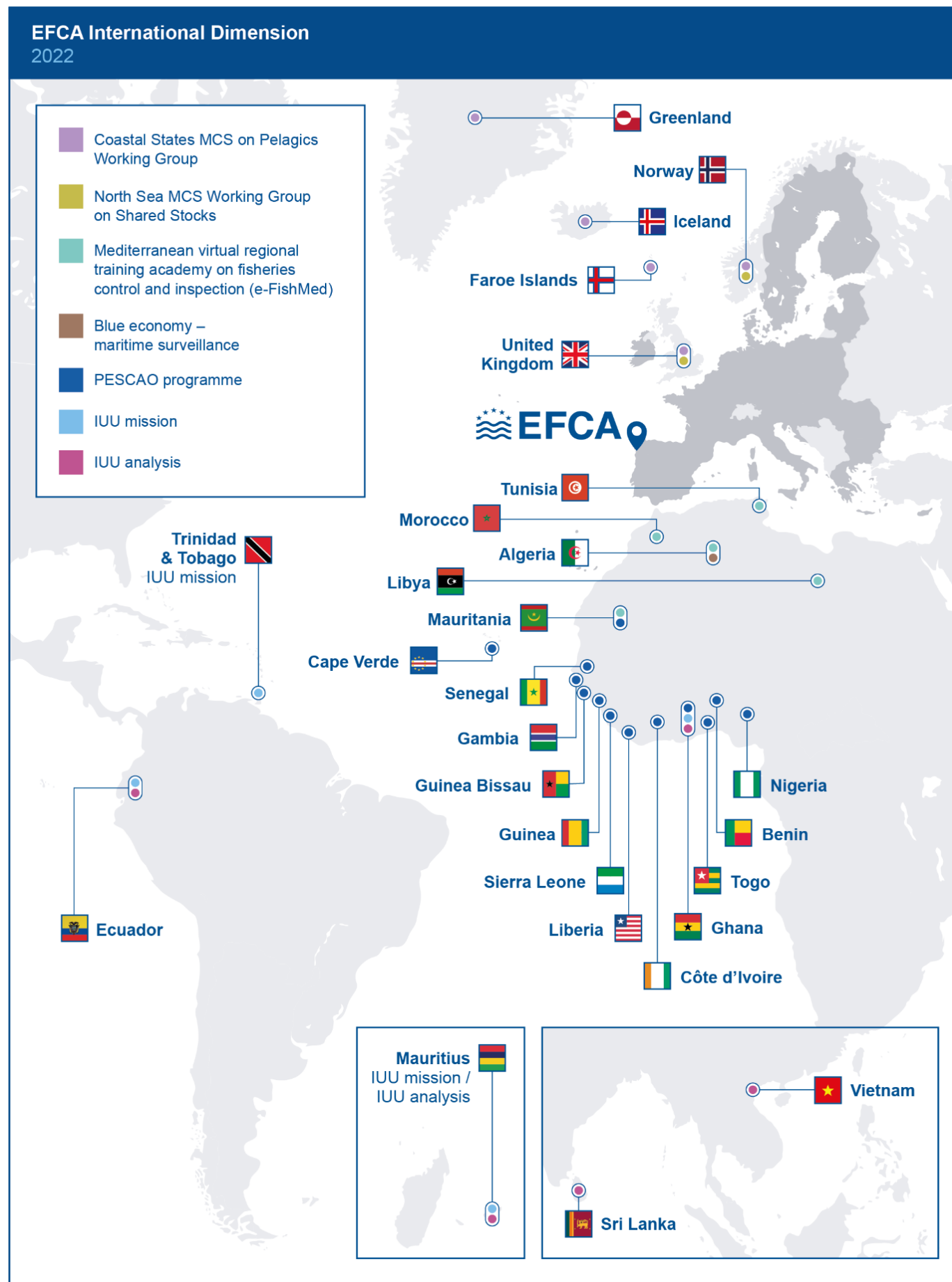
Handbook on European
cooperation on coast
guard functions



International Dimension

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

Areas of intervention:



- In the international dimension of the CFP, EFCA assist the EU in the cooperation with third countries and Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) (namely, NAFO, NEAFC, ICCAT and GFCM).
- In the fight against IUU, EFCA assisted the European Commission with the analysis of catch certificates and processing statements and participate in missions on the spot.
- In the framework of several projects, as PESCAO, EFCA provides technical assistance and support as regards fisheries control to several Third Countries.

Specific objectives of EFCA related to the IUU Regulation



- ❖ To provide **technical assistance and support to the European Commission** on their duties under the IUU Regulation
- ❖ To **facilitate assistance to MS** to combat IUU activities with regard to the obligations under the IUU Regulation

Who does what



Member States are responsible for control of:

- Responsible for activities in their waters/territories
- Vessels flying their flag
- Their nationals

European Commission:

- Formulates policy (CFP) to be adopted by the legislator and verifies its implementation by MS

EFCA:

- Coordinates and assists Member States and the European Commission

Assistance to the Commission (1)

- ❖ Communication with the Commission, MS, non-EU countries and international organisations, if appropriate, regarding:
 - refusals of authorisation of landing or transhipment of non-EU country vessels
 - information relevant for the management of the EU IUU vessels list
 - transmission of sightings information
- ❖ Preparation of, and participation to evaluation missions to non-EU countries upon request of the Commission
- ❖ Analysis of MS Biennial Reports on the application of IUU Regulation (Article 55(1)).



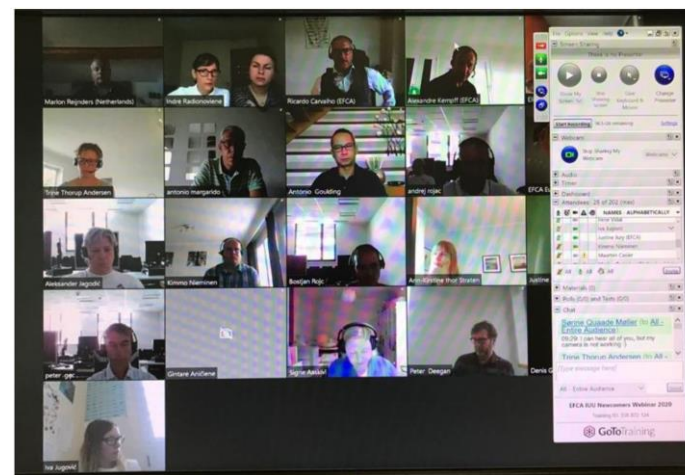
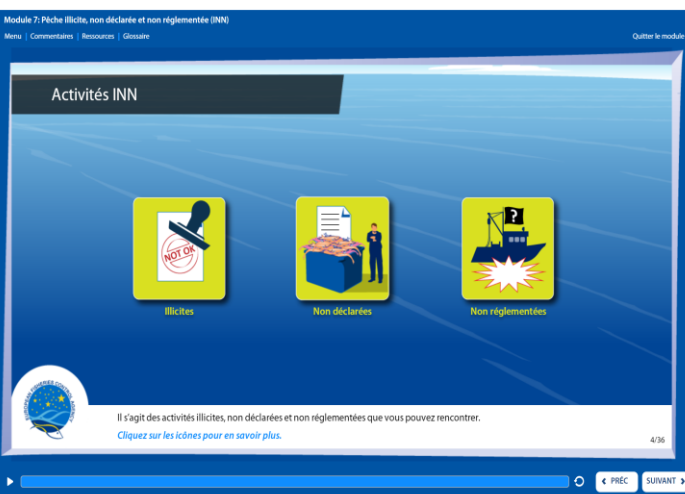
Assistance to the Commission (2)

Evaluation missions to non-EU countries

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Number of missions with EFCA participation	8	4	3	5	4	6	None due to global pandemic	1	3	4
Non-EU countries concerned	Cape Verde Ecuador Fiji Philippines Solomon Isl. S. Korea Thailand Tuvalu	Angola Cape Verde Kenya Taiwan	Thailand (2x) Mauritius	Vietnam Maldives Malaysia Thailand Ecuador	Philippines Vietnam Ecuador China	Panama (2x) Ivory Coast Ecuador Mauritius Vietnam	<i>Analysis provided for :</i> Philippines Ecuador Ghana China	Panama <i>Analysis provided for:</i> Ivory Coast	Ecuador Ghana Mauritius <i>Analysis provided for:</i> Sri Lanka Vietnam	Philippines Comoros Ghana Mauritius <i>Analysis provided for:</i> Vietnam Senegal

Assistance to MS: Training and IUU Regulation

- Organisation of **yearly basic and advanced courses** for Member States authorities (presential and online)
- Participation of EFCA experts in **national trainings** organised by Member States (upon request)
- **Online learning** – IUU module on the EFCA e-learning platform
- **Exchange programme** for staff from Member States, coordinated and financed by EFCA



EFCA IUU Exchange Programme

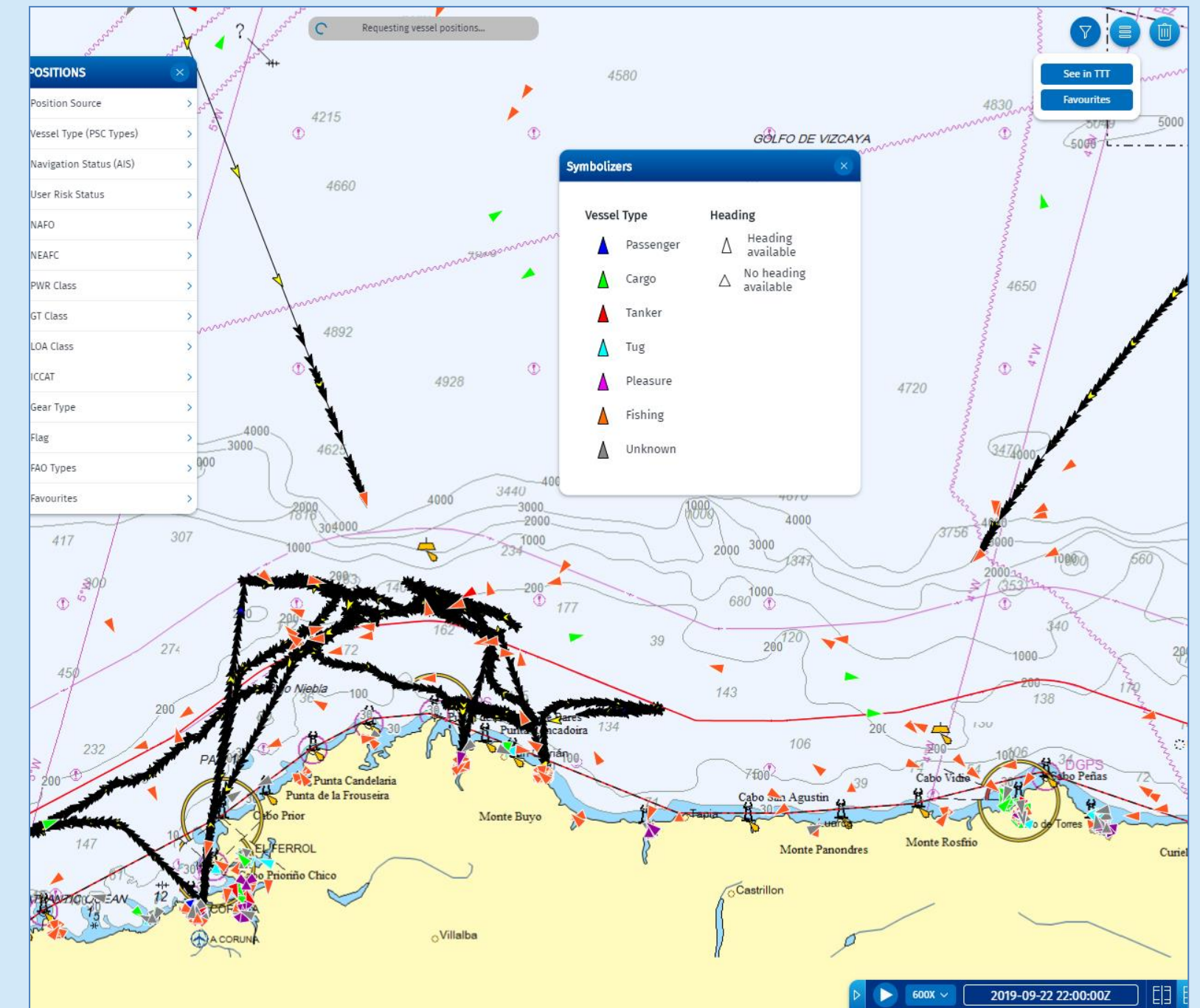


- ❖ Idea presented in the EFCA Plenary meeting 2018; further elaborated and ToR adopted by the IUU SG in Dec 2019
- ❖ Pilot Project launched according to the feedback received, participating MS: ES – DK – NL – DE
- ❖ 2 exchange events held in Dec 2019 and Jan 2020 then suspended due to the pandemic
- ❖ Continued in 2023:

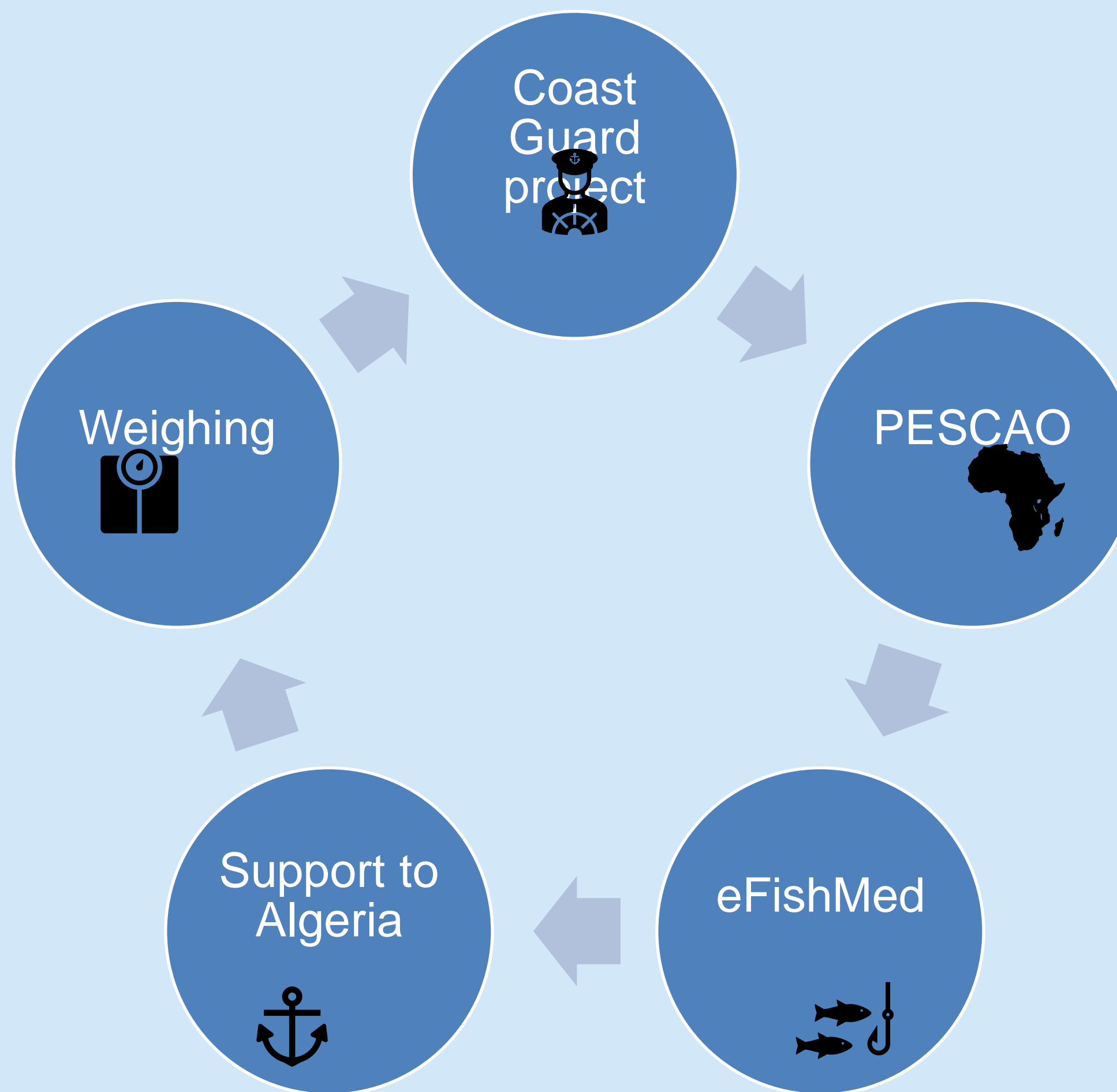
Integrated Maritime Service - IMS

Cooperation with EMSA in the frame of the surveillance system “IMS” including Copernicus satellite images (Sentinel 1 and Sentinel 2).

Control tool useful for IUU checks and verifications (vessel position, transshipments etc.)

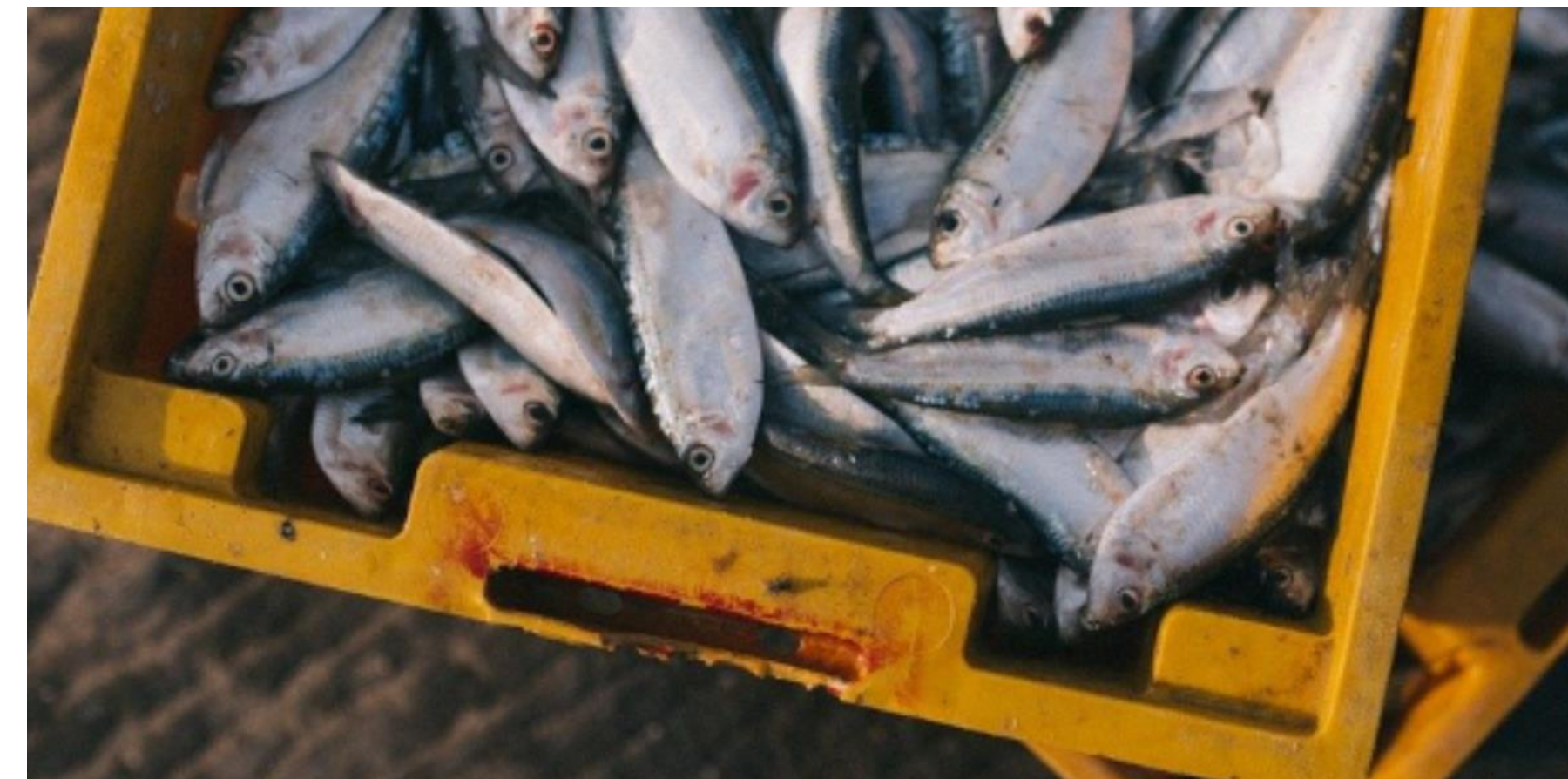


**Dedicated projects
financed through
contribution
agreements**



Background to the Weighing project

- Follows from the Commission CR implementation reports in 2017 and 2021
- They point to significant differences in the quality and approaches taken by Member States for establishing SPs, CPs and CCPs, and associated procedures.
- Lack of standardised methodologies and sampling plans across EU Member States.
- Lack of statistical basis to ensure the representativeness of sample sizes for weighing
- The methodologies required to develop these plans in the Implementing Regulation were also identified as a potential problem due to a lack of clarity in how they should be applied



EFCA were the successful tender applicant for the project in 2021

Summary of expected results

- Overview of Member States weighing procedures and practices.
- Overview of methodologies set in the Implementing Regulation for drafting sampling plans, control plans, and common control programmes.
- Identify best practices for weighing and recording of catches.
- Advance on standardised methodologies for sample weighing and produce harmonized guidelines and methodologies to ensure accurate and efficient weighing and ensure control and inspection of the weighing provisions for each type of fisheries products.



EFCAs cooperative approach to the tasks

- Consultative approach via dedicated points of contact nominated by each MS
- Building on the existing good cooperation EFCA has with MS.
- Dedicated discussion and submission from MS on each aspect of the project
- Discussion with the MS on the challenges to the correct weighing of fishery products.
- Benefiting from the specific expertise in the MS on weighing, weighing systems, and their control.
- Visits to some facilities with MS authorities to observe weighing practices.
- Working with the MS input to propose guidance and best practice on sample weighing.



Fisheries and MS to be covered by the Study



Table 1: Fisheries products and Member States to be covered

Fisheries Products		Member State
Fresh	Demersal	Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, The Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden.
	Sorted small pelagics	Bulgaria, Croatia, France, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Italy, Slovenia.
	Unsorted small pelagics	Denmark, Estonia, Ireland, Sweden, Lithuania, Finland, Italy, Croatia, Greece, Malta, Slovenia.
	Industrial (unsorted)	Denmark, Ireland, Sweden, Poland, Finland, Estonia, Latvia.
	Highly migratory species (Pelagic)*	Cyprus, Spain, France, Portugal, Italy.
Frozen	Certain pelagics **	The Netherlands.
	Highly migratory species (Pelagic)*	Spain, France, Portugal, Italy
	Demersal	The Netherlands, Spain, Portugal.

* Highly migratory species: sharks, swordfish, albacore and tropical tuna species (bigeye, yellowfin tuna, skipjack tuna).

** Mackerel, horse mackerel, blue whiting and herring.

Timeline of the study

2022 to 2024

Phase 1

Development of the workplan and tentative timetable, including an outline of the methodologies for tasks listed and a list of Member States to be visited, the criteria and indicators for the evaluation of the methodologies set in the Implementing Regulation for drafting the SPs, CPs and CCP, are agreed with the Commission.

Phase 2

Task 1 – Description and analysis of weighing practices of fisheries products

Task 2 – Evaluation of existing sampling plans, control plans and common control programmes

Task 3 – Evaluation of the weighing methodologies set out in Chapter II, Title IV of the Implementing Regulation

Task 4 – Issuing recommendations, identifying best practices and producing standardized and harmonized guidelines to ensure efficient and effective weighing, and control, enforcement and inspection of the weighing provisions for each type of fisheries products



