



# Management Plan 2019

DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries

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## INTRODUCTION

### **Taking care of the oceans**

Oceans are a source of life to our planet. They provide food, regulate the climate and produce oxygen. Oceans also offer a great potential for boosting growth, jobs and innovation, and a large share of our economy already depends on the sea. Yet the ocean's health and its capacity to provide these services are put in danger by pollution, ocean warming and the over-exploitation of marine and maritime resources. For oceans to remain healthy and thriving, to provide food and jobs for millions of people and to stimulate a blue economy able to support vibrant coastal and island communities, we need to manage them in a more sustainable way, in Europe and worldwide.

Building on President Juncker's Agenda for Jobs, Growth, Fairness and Democratic Change and Commissioner Vella's Mission Letter, and in line with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) - notably SDG 14 "*Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resource for sustainable development*" - and the reformed Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), the Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE) will in 2019 continue to focus on actions that enable the European Union to further develop its leading role in tackling the growing ocean challenges, both within its own geographical area and at international scale.

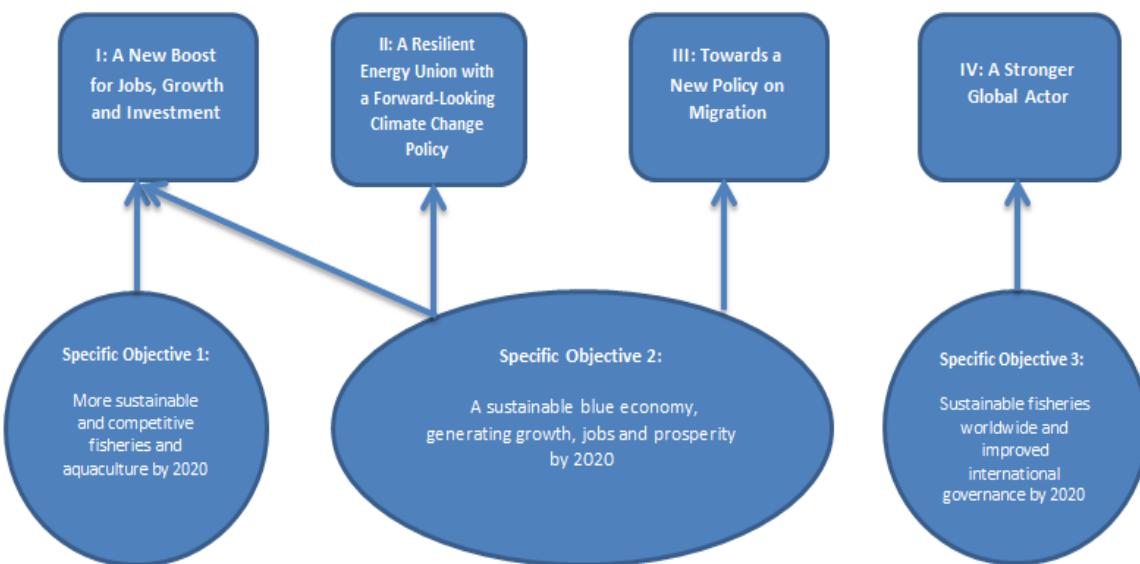
The Commission's strong commitment to the sustainability, security and prosperity of our oceans is reflected in DG MARE's **three main priorities** for the next year:

- ***Ensuring that the ocean resources are used sustainably and that coastal communities and the fishing sector have a prosperous future:*** 2019 is the deadline for putting an end to the wasteful practice of throwing unwanted fish back to the sea, and by 2020 all commercial fisheries need to be brought to sustainable levels. In 2019, DG MARE will therefore further invest in its work with Member States to achieve the CFP objectives of reaching Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) and of fully implementing the landing obligation. This will contribute to the sustainable exploitation of the stocks, the protection of the marine ecosystems concerned and the sustainability of the European fishing sector. The positive economic trends for the EU fishing fleet clearly show that our joint commitment towards more sustainable fishing pays off.
- ***By investing in innovation and giving bright new business ideas a helping hand, DG MARE will continue to help coastal communities and businesses across the Single Market unlock the potential that the oceans represent for Europe's coastal regions and for the European economy as a whole.*** Beyond fisheries, new business opportunities await in many areas, including marine biotech and ocean energy, in eco-tourism and aquaculture, totalling more than 5 million jobs with a high potential for more employment creation. The work promoting maritime regional cooperation at sea basin level will continue with accent for deliverables in the Black Sea and the Atlantic. The Blue Investment Platform, which will be launched in 2019 together with the European Investment Bank, will advise companies in this regard, and the second Annual Economic Report of the Blue Economy will provide an update of the potential for further growth and employment.
- ***Promoting Ocean Governance at international level:*** the EU leads the way on global actions for better governance of the oceans in line with the United Nations' SDG 14. DG MARE will therefore continue to implement its International Ocean Governance Agenda. We will implement the first Ocean Partnership with China and develop further partnerships of this kind with key ocean players such as Canada. We will organise the first EU Stakeholder Forum for International Ocean Governance

dedicated to oceans and seas worldwide and continue to engage in the negotiations at the UN with regard to the elaboration of a new internationally legally-binding instrument under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea for areas beyond national jurisdiction, in line with the identified priorities for International Ocean Governance. At regional level, we will continue to ensure in Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) that conservation and management measures are based on the best scientific evidence and that RFMO's governance is reinforced. Finally, we will keep working with partner countries to eliminate illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing and to make progress towards a new generation of sustainable fisheries partnership agreements (SFPAs) allowing the partner countries to gain more value from the ocean economy in a sustainable manner.

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DG MARE's priorities for 2019 reflect the three specific objectives set out in our Strategic Plan 2016-2020, which contribute to four general objectives of the Commission, each corresponding to one of the ten priorities set out in President Juncker's political guidelines. The graph below illustrates the inter-linkages between specific and general objectives.



The three priorities, or specific objectives, provide the framework for the concrete actions and initiatives DG MARE is planning to work on and to propose in 2019.

This Management Plan highlights DG MARE's most important deliverables for 2019, through which we will contribute to healthier, cleaner, safer and more secure oceans, both within the EU and worldwide, as well as to the prosperity of the livelihoods that depend on the sea and its resources.

2019 being the last year of this Commission's mandate, no major new initiatives will be presented. In line with President Juncker's State of the Union speech, the focus will be on "delivering what we have promised": ensuring a successful implementation of previous commitments and policy initiatives, including as regards DG MARE's various legislative proposals pending with the co-legislators, e.g. on a revision of the Fisheries Control

System, the future European Maritime and Fisheries Fund, the Multiannual Management Plans for the Western Waters, the Western Mediterranean and the Adriatic, and on technical measures.

DG MARE will also launch the necessary internal preparations for the arrival of the new Commission and for its work with a newly elected European Parliament.

Preparations for Brexit and the future relationship with the UK will be among the core tasks of DG MARE in 2019 and beyond. The EU's fisheries management will clearly be impacted by the departure of the UK from the EU. The Commission is confident that agreement on the orderly withdrawal of the UK from the EU will be reached, with a transition period from 30 March 2019 until 31 December 2020. During this transition period the CFP will continue to apply to the UK, and EU vessels will continue to have access to UK's exclusive economic zone. DG MARE is also preparing for the possibility that no withdrawal agreement is reached and the UK becomes a third country from 30 March 2019 on. We are preparing to work closely with the Member States and stakeholders for such situation, where access for EU vessels to UK waters is no longer a given, and the rules of the CFP would no longer apply to the UK and its vessels. In either case, 2019 will be the year where the EU and the UK start consultations and negotiations on the future cooperation, including the development of a bilateral fisheries agreement, in which the future long-term relationship between the two parties needs to be established.

## PART 1. MAIN OUTPUTS FOR THE YEAR

### **ENSURING THAT THE OCEAN RESOURCES ARE USED SUSTAINABLY AND THAT COASTAL COMMUNITIES AND THE FISHING SECTOR HAVE A PROSPEROUS FUTURE**

#### **(DG MARE'S SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1: MORE SUSTAINABLE AND COMPETITIVE FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE BY 2020)**

- ECONOMIC GROWTH POTENTIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY: FISHING AT MSY LEVELS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LANDING OBLIGATION**

DG MARE will continue to work towards the achievement of the key objectives of the CFP. 2019 will be a crucial year in this regard. We will put all our efforts to bringing commercial fish stocks to healthy levels by 2020, in line with the **Maximum Sustainable Yield** (MSY) objective defined in the CFP and in DG MARE's Strategic Plan 2016-2020. And we will work closely with Member States to mitigate any challenge resulting from the full implementation, in 2019, of the landing obligation, the wasteful practice of discards, for all species subject to TAC<sup>1</sup> limits or Minimum Conservation Reference Sizes (in the Mediterranean). To this effect, discard plans established through regionalisation are expected to enter into force in 2019 and new ones will be prepared for 2020.

A third report on the state of play of the CFP will be published by mid-2019, and as every year, we will consult citizens, stakeholders and scientific bodies prior to our proposals setting the 2020 fishing opportunities. The Commission's "**Policy statement**" will be the

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<sup>1</sup> Total allowable catches (TACs).

basis for our annual proposals setting the TACs and quotas for the different EU sea basins (Atlantic, North Sea, Baltic Sea, Black Sea), and beyond EU waters.

**Multi-annual plans** including conservation measures to restore fish stocks at a level capable of producing MSY remain a key tool to make fisheries more sustainable, both from an environmental and from an socio-economic point of view. Such plans are already in force for the Baltic Sea and the North Sea. Legislative proposals for three further plans for the small pelagics in the Adriatic, for the demersals in the Western Mediterranean and for the demersals in the Western Waters have been adopted by the Commission and are currently on the table of the co-legislators. We will focus our efforts and resources and work closely with the co-legislators to progress as much as possible on these three plans, so that at least two of them could possibly be agreed and formally adopted before the end of the European Parliament's legislature.

The same applies to the pending proposal on **technical measures**. A successful conclusion of the ongoing negotiations would be another important step to reduce unwanted catches and eliminate discards, notably through better selectivity, and better protection for juveniles and spawning grounds.

The Commission will undertake two **evaluations**: one of the entry-exit scheme in the light of the evolving relationship between fleet capacity and prospected fishing opportunities and one on the Eel Regulation<sup>2</sup>, which will assess the effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, coherence, EU added-value and sustainability of the measures taken under this regulation.

In order to achieve more sustainable fisheries in the **Mediterranean and in the Black Sea**, DG MARE will further invest in cooperation with the riparian third countries and in improving international governance in the region.

Thus, we will continue supporting the work of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) in order to implement the GFCM 2017-2020 strategy towards the sustainability of Mediterranean and Black sea fisheries and we will contribute to the preparation of the next strategy 2021-2024. Furthermore, the Commission has adopted a proposal for a regulation transposing into EU law the recommendations adopted by the GFCM in 2015, 2016 and 2017. It is expected that the co-legislators can agree on this proposal in 2019. We will propose, in cooperation with the Member States, further recommendations to be adopted in the annual session of the GFCM in 2019. Financial support to GFCM and to FAO regional projects will continue through annual grants.

Building on the objectives of the Bucharest Declaration<sup>3</sup> and of the MedFish4Ever Declaration<sup>4</sup>, further political agreements to achieve environmental, economic and social sustainability were reached in 2018, in particular through the Sofia Declaration for the Black Sea<sup>5</sup> and the adoption of a regional action plan on small-scale fisheries in the

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<sup>2</sup> Council Regulation (EC) No 1100/2007 of 18 September 2007 establishing measures for the recovery of the stock of European eel.

<sup>3</sup> The Bucharest Declaration was adopted in October 2016 in the framework of a high-level meeting on fisheries governance in the Black Sea organised by the GFCM. It underlines the need for common and collaborative approaches among riparian States to address Black sea fisheries issues.

<sup>4</sup> The Malta MedFish4Ever Declaration signed in March 2017 sets out a detailed work programme for the next 10 years in the Mediterranean.

<sup>5</sup> The Sofia Declaration was adopted in June 2018 as a follow-up of the Bucharest Declaration. It sets out a number of actions to be undertaken to ensure the sustainability of fisheries in the Black Sea.

Mediterranean and the Black Sea<sup>6</sup>. In 2019, the Commission will work towards the implementation of those Declarations, together with Member States, third countries and the GFCM. A High Level Conference will be organised concerning the mid-term review of the MedFish4Ever Declaration and the social aspects related to small-scale fisheries.

In line with the Commission's "stronger and renewed strategic partnership with the EU's **Outermost Regions**"<sup>7</sup> in 2017, we will ensure effective application of the revised State aid guidelines for Fisheries, which were adopted in 2018<sup>8</sup> and continue to foster the development of the Blue Economy in the EU's peripheral regions.

- **THE EUROPEAN MARITIME AND FISHERIES FUND (EMFF) AND THE MULTIANNUAL FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK BEYOND 2020**

Five years into the funding period of the current **EMFF** (2014-2020), DG MARE will continue to assist Member States to make sure that they are able to make the most of the money available.

In 2019, DG MARE will also carry out a **performance review** of all programmes under shared management. We will examine whether Member States managed to achieve milestones that had been set during the programming phase, and will allocate the 6% performance reserve to the relevant Union Priorities of the programmes. This focus on results is an important change of the 2014-2020 programming period.

We will also continue to follow the Commission proposals for the new **Multiannual Financial Framework after 2020**, including the new EMFF, adopted in spring 2018. With the proposal now under consideration by the co-legislators, the Commission will continue to work closely with both the European Parliament and the Council to move the negotiations as far as possible and with a view to conclude at least the first reading before the end of the European Parliament's term.

- **PROFITABILITY OF THE EU FISHING FLEET, AQUACULTURE AND FISH PROCESSING**

The CFP aims to achieve environmental, social and economic sustainability. DG MARE's regular **economic analysis** of the fisheries, aquaculture and processing sectors gives an indication of how well these sectors are performing. Recent data paint a positive picture of the three sectors in question. In 2016, the EU fishing fleet generated €7.7 billion in revenue and €1.3 billion in net profits. This represents significant progress, given that the EU fleet was barely breaking even in 2009. The aquaculture sector has also seen a return to profitability. Sales volume and value increased to 1.3 million tonnes and €4.5 billion respectively in 2014. Turnover in the EU fish processing sector has also been on the rise, exceeding €30 billion in 2015, while employment has remained stable and wages have gone up by 22%.

In 2019, DG MARE will publish two out of its three regular economic reports:

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<sup>6</sup> The regional plan was established through a Ministerial Declaration adopted in Malta in September 2018. It sets out a number of actions addressed to the small-scale sector.

<sup>7</sup> COM (2017)623 final of 24/10/2017.

<sup>8</sup> C(2018)7667 of 21/11/2018.

- The **Annual Economic Report of EU Fishing Fleet** will provide a biological, economic and social overview of the state of EU fleet segments and the fishing stocks. The report will help the Commission to identify the most appropriate fisheries conservation measures in order to achieve a balance between fishing capacity and fishing opportunities.
- The **biannual Economic Report of the EU Fish Processing Sector** will allow us to better understand the economic performance and importance of the sector. It will be used as input for further policy development and potential impact assessments.

- **FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE MARKET INTELLIGENCE**

**Market intelligence** is an essential tool to provide all actors in the supply chain with an analysis of the fisheries and aquaculture markets. In particular, it allows the fisheries and aquaculture industries to define adequate market strategies.

With the renewal of the **EUMOFA** (European Market Observatory for Fisheries and Aquaculture Products) service contract DG MARE intends to extend and to deepen the coverage of Member States and of the different steps in the supply chain, and ensure provision of high quality and increasingly comprehensive data.

The results from the evaluation of the **Marketing Standards** framework for fishery and aquaculture products will be available in 2019 and summarised in a Commission Staff Working Document.

We will continue our work with EU Member States (notably in the context of two yearly seminars) and the Aquaculture Advisory Council on addressing the outstanding challenges to the sustainable development of **EU aquaculture** and exchanging best practices in the implementation of National Strategic Plans. Work with EU Member States and stakeholders will have a particular focus during 2019 on the social perception and knowledge about EU aquaculture, the priorities on research and innovation for the aquaculture sector, fish welfare requirements, and the work on the promotion of more sustainable aquaculture at global scale. On the latter aspect, the Commission will work notably, together with EU Member States, in the preparation of discussion during the upcoming meetings of the FAO Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture (COFI) and of the Scientific Advisory Committee on Aquaculture of the GFCM (CAQ).

We will also finalise the assessment of how the **open method of coordination** between the Commission and the Member States has delivered on implementing the Strategic Guidelines for the sustainable development of **EU aquaculture**<sup>9</sup>. The Commission services will issue a Staff Working Document summarising the outcome of the evaluation.

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<sup>9</sup> COM(2013)229 final.

- **AN EFFECTIVE FISHERIES CONTROL SYSTEM**

The achievement of the CFP objectives largely depends on an effective control and enforcement system. In order to make the EU fisheries control system more effective and efficient, the Commission adopted in May 2018 a **proposal for a new Fisheries Control System**<sup>10</sup>, which is currently being discussed by the co-legislators. DG MARE will continue to work closely with both the European Parliament and the Council, to ensure as much progress as possible on this pending file, so that the first reading could hopefully be concluded before the end of Parliament's legislative term.

If agreed by the co-legislators, the revised rules would strengthen compliance, modernise data management, make control more efficient and increase the level playing field in fisheries controls. They would also help intensifying the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and further support the effective implementation of the landing obligation.

In 2019, a new Commission Decision for new **Specific Control and Inspection Programmes** (SCIP) will replace the four existing SCIPs. It will simplify the existing SCIPs, providing a legal basis for the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) to coordinate the deployment of control means of Member States through the Joint Deployment Plans (JDP) for control and inspections. Moreover, the new SCIPs will be fully aligned to the CFP, in particular as regards the Landing Obligation and the new Multiannual Plans. The revised and streamlined reporting obligations are expected to reduce the administrative burden for Member States.

The Commission will continue addressing any disparities identified across the Member States in terms of control and enforcement. This requires an active monitoring of open **Action Plans on control**, to ensure that appropriate progress is made by the Member States. If necessary, new Action Plans can be adopted to tackle any shortcomings the Commission might identify in the control systems of the Member States.

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<sup>10</sup> COM(2018)368 and 2018/0193(COD) of 30/05/2018. This proposal includes amendments to the Control Regulation 1224/2009, the IUU Regulation 1005/2008 and the founding Regulation of the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA).

## STIMULATING A SUSTAINABLE BLUE ECONOMY

### (DG MARE'S SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 2: A SUSTAINABLE BLUE ECONOMY GENERATING JOBS, GROWTH AND PROSPERITY BY 2020)

#### ▪ EU INVESTMENT RELATING TO THE BLUE ECONOMY

A market study from DG MARE found out that, contrary to large infrastructure projects, smaller investment projects in the blue economy (1-15 million euros) find it difficult to attract the necessary funding. These are often very innovative projects that could contribute to EU goals on climate, biodiversity or resource efficiency. DG MARE is taking measures to address this gap, for example by continuing and following-up to our very successful *BlueInvest* events or by producing a pipeline of potentially interesting projects to increase market transparency.

A new and large call for EU grants in the area of the Blue Economy under the EMFF has been launched under Work Programme 2018 in October, with three types of objectives:

- promoting laboratories working in innovative solutions to maritime issues (blue labs),
- promoting innovative approaches to strengthen the cooperation between industry and education in order to bridge the gap between skills' offer and demand (blue careers), and
- support demonstration projects based on innovative technologies testing/deploying/scaling-up of new industrial or service applications and solutions for the blue economy (grants for the blue economy).

This large call of proposals will be implemented during 2019.

With the European Investment Bank we will launch a **blue investment platform** in 2019. It will advise or coach companies to bring their products and services to market, organise matchmaking events and assist in the evaluation of proposals for grants.

In 2019 we will also continue our work on building an international collation of financial institutions that endorse the **Sustainable Blue Economy Financial Principles** launched at the Our Ocean Conference 2018 in Bali and on the development of relevant indicators for investors in applying those principles.

We will unveil a baseline strategy for **skills in maritime technology** as part of the EU's effort to identify and remedy gaps.

To underpin actions that stimulate the Blue economy, we will continue to foster **regional cooperation in Europe's sea basins**, including with third countries with whom we share the same seas. In 2019, this work will continue through:

- the review of the Atlantic Action Plan;
- the adoption of a new maritime agenda for the Black Sea, including marine research and innovation;
- the implementation of the West Med Initiative offering already promising results on concrete projects, and
- *BlueInvest* matchmaking events between investors and start-ups/SMEs in the Mediterranean and possibly in other sea basins.

**Maritime Spatial Planning** (MSP) is an essential tool to organise the exploitation of the ocean in a sustainable way taking an ecosystem-based approach. We will continue supporting EU Member States in the elaboration of national MSP plans (due by 2021) through the MSP Assistance Mechanism, calls for new grants for cross-border MSP

cooperation and dedicated studies on issues such as the ecosystem-based approach to MSP or the economic impact of MSP.

Following the launch of the International MSP Forum in cooperation with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO in May 2018, two further international workshops for maritime spatial planners will be organised in 2019 to advance towards internationally recognised guidelines for transboundary maritime spatial planning worldwide.

Regarding **Coastal and Maritime Tourism**, in 2019 the Commission will adopt a report reviewing progress made in the implementation of the Commission Communication from 2014 "A European Strategy for more Growth and Jobs in Coastal and Maritime Tourism" (CMT Communication) and we will also continue work on the development of a Manual for a Sustainable Cruise industry, including through the organisation of a Pan-European Cruise dialogue.

The **Blue Bioeconomy** is a sector with great potential and attracting increasing interest. In the context of the Blue Bioeconomy Forum launched in October 2018, researchers, entrepreneurs and civil society representatives will work during 2019 on a pipeline of projects ripe for early stage investment and a roadmap detailing how to bring those projects to fruition and facilitate the industry's sustainable growth.

We will increase citizen and stakeholder outreach through the **European Maritime Day 2019** Conference in Lisbon, with 100 events organized all around Europe.

In addition, we will continue our efforts to extend our economic analysis to other maritime sectors by publishing the second **Annual Economic Report of the EU Blue Economy**, developed for the first time in 2018. We will provide a yearly update of our blue economy sectors and their potential for further growth and employment.

- **IMPROVEMENT IN MARINE KNOWLEDGE**

The **European Marine Observation and Data Network** (EMODnet) assembles and distributes metadata, data and data products on the marine environment in European seas. Themes are bathymetry, geology, habitats, physics, chemistry, biology, and human activities. Over the last years, EMODnet has implemented important changes, improving its data coverage and simplifying data acquisition processes. Cooperation has intensified, including with the Copernicus programme and the regional sea conventions, and dialogues with relevant business associations have identified new priorities. Further improvements will make it easier for start-up enterprises to develop new applications.

In 2019, EMODnet will complete work to harmonise the interfaces to their data and improve the documentation, to be fully compatible with the **EU open data portal**.

At the same time, EMODnet will publish a strategic plan on how **Horizon Europe**, the Commission's post-2020 research programme, can help blue economy to reach its full potential.

- **OCEAN ENERGY AND OFFSHORE WIND ENERGY**

The deployment of **offshore energy** devices is gaining speed. **Offshore wind energy** capacity in the EU registered a 60% between 2015 and 2017 to reach 16 GW. It is becoming increasingly competitive with strong costs reduction. This is not yet the case for **ocean energy**, which is moving from research to demonstration. Still, ocean energy capacity doubled from 2016 to 2017 from 12 MW to 25 MW. Europe is the clear global leader with over 50% of the world's tidal and wave energy developers and 70% of the

ocean energy research and testing infrastructure. Ocean energy provides 2000 jobs in Europe.

More than € 3 billion have been invested in the development of ocean energy in the EU over the past decade, including over a billion euros of public support. According to deployment scenario analysed in a market study<sup>11</sup> commissioned by DG MARE, production capacity could reach between 1.3 GW and 3.9 GW by 2030 for an investment between 2.8 and 9.4 billion euros. Attracting, de-risking and lowering the costs investment will be an important contribution to this.

Following the attribution of two grants in 2018 for a total amount of 1.5 million euros, a second call to improve knowledge on environmental monitoring and possible impacts of ocean energy devices will be published in 2019 to help facilitate licensing procedures in the Member States and thus accelerate deployment. This will contribute to the Commission's priority of providing Clean Energy for all Europeans (Energy Union).

#### ▪ **MARITIME SECURITY AND SURVEILLANCE**

**Maritime Security** is a key element of the Security Union. The EU Maritime Security Strategy (EUMSS) and its related Action Plan, adopted by the Council in 2014, have put forward the EU agenda for safe and secure seas and oceans. The EUMSS Action Plan was revised in June 2018 to ensure that the policy remains fit for current and future challenges, in line with political priorities. DG MARE - as coordinator of the EUMSS Action Plan for the Commission - will continue to promote it and to report, together with the EEAS, on the follow-up by all implementing stakeholders, including other Commission services, EU agencies and Member States.

In 2019, DG MARE will also issue a Staff Working Document on the state of implementation of the **Common Information Sharing Environment** (CISE), which aims at information exchange between maritime authorities across sectors and borders. The document will also highlight the CISE's contribution to the EUMSS Action Plan.

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<sup>11</sup><https://publications.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/e38ea9ce-74ff-11e8-9483-01aa75ed71a1/language-en/format-PDF/source-72120518>

**PROMOTING OCEAN GOVERNANCE AT INTERNATIONAL LEVEL**

**(DG MARE'S SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 3: SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES WORLDWIDE AND IMPROVED INTERNATIONAL GOVERNANCE BY 2020)**

▪ **INTERNATIONAL OCEAN GOVERNANCE**

In 2019, the Commission will continue to deliver on its international Ocean Governance agenda, thus underlining the EU's role as one of the key ocean players worldwide. The EU Stakeholder Forum for **International Ocean Governance** dedicated to oceans and seas worldwide will meet in 2019 for the first time. The Forum will bring together actors and stakeholders to establish a regular dialogue on the EU's efforts to improve international ocean governance. DG MARE will also continue to engage for the 2019 edition of the "Our Ocean" Conference, hosted by Norway. This involves monitoring of previous EU commitments and coordination of new pledges to be announced in Norway. As a strong supporter of regional ocean governance, we will also organise the first International Marine Region Forum together with Germany in 2019.

DG MARE will continue to proactively engage in the Second and Third Substantive Sessions of the Intergovernmental Conference on an International **legally binding instrument under UNCLOS on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ)** taking place in March/April and August 2019. The negotiations will include area based management tools, including marine protected areas, marine genetic resources, environmental impact assessments and capacity building as well as the transfer of marine technology. Progress on this important international instrument will be key milestone for an improved international ocean governance.

We will also carry out a more in-depth assessment of the EU actions in the field of **Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14** and ocean relevant targets under other SDGs. This assessment will contain a thorough mapping of existing measures and identify possible gaps.

The EU-China **Ocean Partnership** was signed at the EU-China Summit on 16 July 2018. It is the first of its kind and sets out a comprehensive and holistic framework for cooperation in the domain of the oceans. It addresses the key pillars of the EU international ocean governance agenda: improving the ocean governance framework, including fisheries, developing the conditions for a sustainable blue economy and marine science, research and data. In 2019, the Commission will work jointly with China in the effective implementation of the Partnership and will also upgrade further bilateral dialogues on maritime affairs and fisheries with key ocean players, such as Canada, into real "Ocean Partnerships".

As co-coordinator for the **EU Arctic Policy**, DG MARE will continue to actively engage with Arctic Stakeholders, including the dialogue with Indigenous Peoples by co-organising a High-level EU Arctic Stakeholder Conference, the Arctic Forum, in October 2019.

As a global leader in international fisheries management, one of our strategic priorities is to ensure that ocean resources globally are managed in a sustainable way. The EU, represented by the Commission, plays an active role in **regional fisheries management organisations** (RFMOs), where it continues to push for better decision-making based on best available science, improved management of fisheries, robust compliance assessments, enhanced governance in the organisations and a level playing field for EU operators.

The EU will continue to lead the efforts to revive the so-called Kobe process aimed at better coordinating different tuna RFMOs to increase cooperation and consistency between RFMOs, an important element of our ocean governance agenda. It will also work closely with the co-legislator to make as much progress as possible before the European Parliament elections on the pending legislative proposals transposing RFMO rules into EU law, and will adopt the outstanding transposition proposals for all tuna RFMOs. This will help improve transparency and predictability and strengthen our credibility on the international scene.

The renewal of the RFMO negotiation mandates due in 2019 will reinforce our commitment to good governance and promote a coherent EU approach in all RFMOs.

#### ▪ **SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS**

The EU's **sustainable fisheries partnership agreements** (SFPAAs) set a fully regulated and transparent framework to allow the EU fishing fleet to operate in non-EU waters. Such agreements give access to some 200 EU-flagged vessels to fish for surplus stocks in third country waters. Most of the 330 000 tonnes of catches by Union vessels supply the EU market directly or after being processed in ACP (African, Caribbean and Pacific) countries.

In return, the partner countries receive compensation in the form of fees from ship owners, and funding from the EU. The EU funds have to be used to strengthen the sustainable management of fisheries resources in the partner country, through:

- improving scientific and technical knowledge of fisheries;
- implementing Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) activities, and
- contributing to the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

SFPAs thus contribute to the political dialogue on fisheries-related policies between these third countries and the EU and are a concrete tool to promote fisheries governance at global level.

Each year, a certain number of the SFPA implementing protocols expire and should be renegotiated to ensure continuity of fishing and to maintain a coherent network of SFPAAs. In 2019, the protocols to the SFPAAs with Guinea Bissau, Madagascar, Mauritania, Senegal and Seychelles will be negotiated.

Following preparatory work in 2018, a study will be finalised in 2019 on the potential use of the External Investment Plan (EIP) for developing the maritime economy in Africa, more specifically in those countries that have signed an SFPA with the EU.

## ▪ **FIGHTING ILLEGAL, UNREGULATED OR UNREPORTED FISHING WORLDWIDE**

**Fighting illegal, unregulated or unreported (IUU) fishing** worldwide remains a priority for the Commission. The EU is among the world's biggest importers of fishery products, importing two-thirds of what it consumes. We need to ensure that products entering the EU market do not stem from IUU fisheries. In 2019, our aim remains to strengthen national policies to fight and deter IUU fishing practices, to reinforce cooperation at all levels, and to improve compliance with international law of the sea.

In the EU, we will help Member States improve current systems and develop electronic tools that ensure efficient controls. Beyond the EU, we will continue encouraging third countries to reform their fisheries control and management systems in a way that allows them to abide by their international obligations and commitments as flag, coastal, port and market states.

In addition, we will continue our bilateral dialogues with third countries under the IUU Regulation<sup>12</sup>. Under this Regulation, the Commission can decide to pre-identify or identify countries as a non-cooperating third country in fighting IUU fishing, ultimately leading to a ban on imports into the EU. Depending on the progress made in the bilateral dialogues, the Commission can also decide to revoke existing pre-identifications or identifications.

Finally, DG MARE will continue supporting initiatives to strengthen regional and multilateral action to curb IUU fishing. In particular, we will support instruments that allow authorities to track and identify vessels and nationals engaging in illegal fishing practices.

## ▪ **CONTROL OF IMPORTS OF FISHERIES PRODUCTS IN THE EU**

One of the main operational elements in the context of the IUU Regulation<sup>13</sup> is the EU **IUU catch certification scheme**. The scheme aims to ensure that fishery products imported to the EU do stem from legal fishing operations in accordance with international law of the sea and in compliance with national and regional conservation and management measures. Member States are responsible for the implementation of the scheme and, in particular, for performing all necessary IUU-related controls and verifications on imports of fishery products. Such tasks require certain structures, resources and supporting tools to be in place.

Currently, the scheme is paper based. An **IUU IT project (CATCH)**<sup>14</sup> is ongoing to digitalise catch certificates and processing statements and structure their submissions and other relevant processes. The formal release of the new CATCH project, functional and available to all Member States, is planned for mid-2019, and CATCH functionalities will be further developed in 2019 in close cooperation with Member States

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<sup>12</sup> Council Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008 of 29 September 2008 establishing a Community system to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, amending Regulations (EEC) No 2847/93, (EC) No 1936/2001 and (EC) No 601/2004 and repealing Regulations (EC) No 1093/94 and (EC) No 1447/1999.

<sup>13</sup> See previous footnote.

<sup>14</sup> The CATCH system is being developed by DG SANTE on the basis of its TRACES digital platform (part of the Information Management System for Official Controls - IMSOC), which already integrates EU health certificates and has been used for other certificates required for imports of certain products into the EU (e.g. COI (certificate of organic inspection) for biological products or FLEGT (for imports of tropical wood)).

## PART 2. MAIN ORGANISATIONAL MANAGEMENT OUTPUTS FOR THE YEAR

### *A. Human resource management*

DG MARE is fully committed to achieving the mandatory objectives set at corporate level in the area of organisational management. In 2019, we will continue to aim at the effective and efficient delivery of the political priorities. In its HR policy, DG MARE will pay particular attention to the efficient use of resources and to the wellbeing and the engagement of staff.

At 45% (9/20) in October 2018 DG MARE is well above the Commission average on the **representation of women in middle management** functions. DG MARE is committed to ensuring that gender balance objectives are fully attained and sustained thereafter. In July 2017, the Commission adopted new DG-specific targets for first female appointments to managerial functions by 1/11/2019<sup>15</sup>. Since then, DG MARE has made three first female appointments thereby exceeding its target (2 out of 3 first appointments) already in 2018. In addition, DG MARE participated in the new corporate programme to develop female managerial talent with three participants.

Furthermore, DG MARE will continue to **support its senior and middle managers** to implement and exchange best practices for and between managers. We are closely following the implementation of the MARE Management Pledge adopted and signed by all managers in 2017. It was developed based on discussions with managers and non-managers, providing opportunities for topics related to wellbeing and the role of managers to be discussed openly and extensively in the DG. The follow-up to the Pledge is an integral part of the annual career development review for managers and of our recruitment process for management positions.

In order to meet our needs of **specialised and talented staff**, in 2018 we will be launching a selection for Temporary Agents in the fields of fisheries science, management, inspection and control.

In the 2016 Commission Staff Survey, DG MARE's **Staff Engagement Index** declined to 67%, compared to the previous survey. It remained nevertheless above the Commission average of 64%. MARE's HR Business Correspondent Team provided input to DG HR for the development of the 2018 Staff Survey, and will actively promote the survey within the DG at the time of the launch. We will review MARE Staff Engagement Action Plan in 2019 taking into account the outcome of the 2018 Commission staff survey with the aim to improve DG MARE's score for the Staff Engagement Index in the next Staff Survey.

In line with the corporate Fit@Work strategy, DG MARE will also continue to promote **flexible working methods** (including flexitime and part-time arrangements) as a way to boost productivity and ability to adapt to changing workloads and demands. In 2019, we will continue to promote participatory approaches and two-way communication (used in Directorate and All Staff Away Days, as well as during other events such as Debates) in DG MARE. We will continue encouraging collaborative work across units and directorates. Regarding internal communication, regular use of satisfaction surveys, via EU Learn or simple intranet polls, will continue in 2019. The various communities of staff that have been set up in the past two years also enable to effectively share HR-related news within the DG (e.g. MARE Staff Engagement Diversity and Inclusion group, MARE cyclists, Greening DG MARE team, Participatory leadership community of DG MARE).

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<sup>15</sup> SEC(2017) 359 final.

## ***B. Financial management: Internal control and Risk management***

DG MARE has set up internal control processes aimed to ensure the adequate management of the risks relating to the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions, taking into account the multiannual character of programmes and the nature of the payments concerned.

The overall control system established within DG MARE provides reasonable assurance as to the sound financial management in respect of transactions carried out. This assurance is underpinned by the financial circuits established within the DG as well as ex-post controls.

### **Shared management (+/- 80% of the budget):**

For the **2014-2020 programming period**, DG MARE has developed a Single Audit Strategy (SAS) in conjunction with DG REGIO and DG EMPL. It has carried out a desk review of a selected number of "designation packages". DG MARE is also carrying out early preventive system audits (EPSAs) which focus on the functioning of the most important key requirements at this early stage of implementation. This provides a source of direct assurance prior to receipt of the first "full" assurance packages, consisting of the accounts, an annual summary and management declaration as well as an annual control report and audit opinion, from Member States. EPSA work featured heavily in 2017 and 2018 and is expected to be finalised in February 2019 with the last two audits in IT and PL.

In addition, the SAS also provides for compliance audit assignments which focus on assessing the legality and regularity of expenditure declared to the Commission for which the full assurance packages have already been submitted by the Member States concerned. DG MARE has started carrying out these audit assignments in 2018 and they will form the main audit work to be carried out in 2019, together with other targeted audit assignments focussing on specific horizontal themes or risks.

The process for notification of designations had been significantly delayed but has now been finalised. The last two Member States (IT and PL) notified the Commission of their designated authorities in 2018 and the review of the related documents has been completed. 12 Member States transmitted substantial (i.e. non-zero) accounts in February 2018; for 2019 the submission of substantial accounts for 25 Member States, i.e. all except HU and SK, is expected.

DG MARE has reasonable assurance on EU payments made for the 2014-2020 programming period in 2016 since they bear practically no risk (pre-financing) or, for the interim payments made, adequate mechanisms are in place to ensure that only legal and regular expenditure is included and certified in the annual accounts. In addition, the retention of 10% from each of the interim payments made by the Commission will protect the EU budget year on year. The assurance packages received from 12 Member States, with substantial accounts, in February 2018 confirmed that overall the risk for the payments made is below the materiality threshold.

### **Direct management (+/- 20% of the budget)**

A substantial part of direct managed expenditure has been delegated to EASME<sup>16</sup>. For the remaining part, the Directorate-General ensures 100% **ex ante verification** of documents and procedures.

Assurance is an objective examination of evidence for providing an assessment of the **effectiveness of risk management, control and governance processes**.

This examination is carried out by management, who monitors the functioning of the internal control systems on a continuous basis, by the external auditors and the IAS. Its results are explicitly documented and reported to the Director-General.

DG MARE has developed and implemented a **joint anti-fraud strategy** (JAFS) together with DG REGIO and DG EMPL. It was elaborated on the basis of the methodology provided by OLAF and adopted in 2015 for the 2015-2020 period. Its implementation is monitored twice a year with a reporting to management.

The JAFS covers the whole anti-fraud cycle: prevention, detection, investigation and corrective measures. It seeks to reinforce existing measures in place for the purpose of protection of the financial interests of the EU, by providing support to Member States in their anti-fraud efforts and strengthening the capacity of DGs to deal with fraud, as well as intensifying cooperation with OLAF. The controls aimed at preventing and detecting fraud are essentially the same as those intended to ensure the legality and regularity of the transactions.

The JAFS covered one priority action for DG MARE – assessment of the implementation by Member States of the provisions of Article 125.4.c of the Common Provisions Regulation on anti-fraud measures. The assessment was initially carried out during the review of the designation packages and, where applicable, also during the work carried out under the Early Preventive System Audits (EPSA). It further continues through the assessment of national system audits received and through own audit work, where applicable.

OLAF informs DG MARE regularly on their investigations. Twice a year the monitoring tables of OLAF and DG MARE are reconciled to ensure that no cases are omitted.

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<sup>16</sup> See section: ‘Cooperation with EASME’.

### **C. Better Regulation**

The main planned outputs linked to the Better Regulation objective in the Strategic Plan are listed in Annex 1 under the relevant specific objective in the tables.

### **D. Information management aspects**

The recommendation of opening files to the entire Commission following the "Data, Information and Knowledge Management strategy" has been successfully implemented in 2018, with 39% of DG MARE files being opened to the entire Commission. **Opening and sharing files** is an ongoing process, closely linked to the annual review of filing plan. Following the planned adoption of the new Security Notice by the end of 2018, an awareness campaign on Markings will be organised.

The full implementation of **e-signatory** is applied within DG MARE, already expanded to financial circuits. Paper signatory is applied on very few exceptions where a handwritten signature and paper circulation is compulsory.

A modern approach of **document management applications** is being developed with the exploitation of new features proposed such as the use of Internal Message. DG MARE will continue to move towards paperless process, both for environmental reasons and to speed up processes by moving to digital workflows. This will include work with secretariats and clarification to all staff of the rules regarding paper vs paperless documents.

### **E. External communication activities**

In January 2018, DG MARE adopted a **new two-years communication strategy**. The objective is to increase support for EU ocean policy as a means to fostering sustainable use of ocean resources, blue growth and thriving coastal communities. Overall, the communication activities of DG MARE aim at building a coherent "taking care of our ocean" narrative, transcending the various activities falling under the DG's competence: from sustainable fisheries, to marine plastic litter and blue biotechnology. Two types of audiences are served: the general public and more specialised stakeholder communities, depending on topics and messages.

DG MARE will continue its high level **contribution to corporate communication**, principally by:

- supplying content, including case studies, to underpin corporate campaigns relevant to MARE's portfolio (principally InvestEU and Rural campaign);
- employing corporate visual-ID and #s to sustain the DG's own activities, such as the Blue Invest events, which have been branded under "#InvestEU", thus generating important synergies;
- availing MARE digital outlets to amplify corporately produced content.

In recent years, DG MARE has massively stepped up its **social media presence**. Ample use of tailored, innovative audiovisual products has helped achieving significant engagement rates. Social media will continue to be a driver for the years ahead. For its **web presence**, DG MARE is advancing with the **digital transformation** in compliance with corporate guidance.

A new major undertaking starting from the end of 2018, will be a **dedicated monthly "Ocean" magazine, produced jointly with Euronews** and broadcasted in 12

languages across all platforms. DG MARE is working closely with associated DGs (e.g. GROW, ENV, CLIMA and ENER) to ensure that the series delivers as a genuine, corporate "blue window" for the Commission. Episodes will document and highlight the scope and impact of EU policies and EU-funded projects in relation to seas and oceans, across geographies and sectors.

Other communication actions to sustain and further develop in 2019, include a **global beach cleanup campaign** conducted for the first time in 2018 in close cooperation with DG COMM and the EEAS. The target for 2019 will be to increase by 20% the number of Delegations and Representations participating in the action on and around the International Coastal Cleanup Day in September. The campaign has created visibility, attracted considerable media attention and successfully enabled the engagement of both global and local audiences around the topical issue of marine litter.

Moreover, DG MARE will ensure continued presence at trade fairs, such as the global Seafood Expo in Brussels, to provide and engage in dialogue with the industry.

Throughout the year, the following financial resources will be allocated to DG MARE's communication activities in 2019:

<b>Annual communication spending:</b>	
Baseline (2018)	Estimated commitments (2019)
1.700.000 € <sup>17</sup>	2.000.000 €

## ***F. Examples of initiatives to improve economy and efficiency of financial and non-financial activities of the DG***

### **A. Human resources (HR) management**

Following developments at corporate level in terms of the HR delivery model, MARE's HR team will continue improving processes and procedures across the DG, learning from best practices across the Commission. For example:

- Simplifying and speeding up internal recruitment procedures, to improve efficiency in particular for recruiting units: these simplifications will be implemented in 2019 and further improved based on feedback from the actors involved.
- Supporting more efficiency in secretarial support tasks, by using available corporate tools, e.g. AGM (Advanced Gateway to EU Meetings) tool for the reimbursement of experts, and moving to a full paperless workflow. Ongoing consultations with relevant colleagues may lead up to additional measures in 2019.
- Improving knowledge management and retention, including better integration and support to newcomers, which should contribute to improve their effectiveness and overall efficiency of the DG.

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<sup>17</sup> Estimated commitments at the end of 2018.

## **B. Synergies and Efficiencies : Financial management efficiency measures**

With the aim of enhancing delivery on the political priorities, as set out by President Juncker at the beginning of this Commission's mandate, DG MARE is continuously striving to improve working methods and achieve efficiency gains in particular regarding financial management.

DG MARE has already obtained efficiency gains for the current programming period through the inclusion under shared management of control and data collection expenditure that was previously directly managed by DG MARE. Also, the implementation of the majority of directly managed expenditure was externalised to EASME.

Internally, the optimisation of the financial circuits, the introduction of an electronic workflow, further centralisation of tasks as well as the strengthening of collaborative working methods such as the budget correspondents' network, has started to bear fruits.

DG MARE also builds upon the implementation of corporate or standard IT applications when possible, with a view to increasing efficiency and reducing financial risks for the processes concerned. For example, DG MARE was included in the first wave of DGs implementing Advanced Gateway to EU Meetings (AGM), which is an integrated paperless corporate IT solution for the organisation of meetings (in particular for the management of expert groups and committees). Moreover, DG MARE will pursue the further deployment of the various e-procurement modules.

## ***G. Cooperation with EASME***

Under the work programme 2019<sup>18</sup> DG MARE will delegate a number of actions to the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME) in the following areas:

- Integrated Maritime Policy, in areas such as marine knowledge, maritime spatial planning, maritime surveillance, monitoring trends in the blue economy, ocean governance, and support for investment for jobs and sustainable growth in innovative and emerging maritime sectors (in total 13 actions);
- Scientific advice and projects necessary for the development and the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy (in total around 15 actions some of which in the form of framework contracts that will be implemented via specific contracts).

Given their policy support nature, EASME implements the delegated actions in close cooperation with DG MARE and in accordance with the EMFF specific Memorandum of Understanding with the executive Agency. In addition, EASME will continue to look for synergies and provide policy-relevant input to DG MARE from the actions it manages.

Delegation to the executive Agency of tasks relating to the management of these actions (calls, evaluations, contractualisation, monitoring of implementation and payments) enables DG MARE to focus on its core activities and its policy-related tasks. Allocating its staff to institutional tasks and centralising activities in one EASME Unit compared to

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<sup>18</sup> C(2017) 8146 final – Commission Implementing Decision concerning the adoption of the work programme for 2018 and the financing decision for the implementation of the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund.

distribution over various MARE Units is generating cost savings, streamlined procedures and other efficiency gains.

Up to end 2018, in EASME the EMFF programme was entirely managed on paper, which was becoming more cumbersome as the number of applications increase every year. In 2018, EASME has assessed that there was room for improvement of the cost-effectiveness of its organisational structures and of the internal control systems and decided to switch – when possible – also for EMFF to eGrants, an IT system for grant management already used for both the SME Instrument under H2020 and the COSME programme. eGrants will represent a significant simplification, both for EASME and the grant applicants and beneficiaries, resulting in a better assurance while using fewer resources. The efficiency gain will not be limited to the services of EASME only as the eGrants suite also entirely digitalises the application, evaluation, contracting and financial settlement side of EMFF grants. The full analysis of the gap and preparation of the missing elements to move from the paper-based management to the use of eGrants for EMFF took almost a year. We have achieved a major milestone with the publication of the EMFF action for the 18.7 M€ 2018 Blue Economy call for proposals on 16 October 2018.

## ANNEX. TABLES

### PART 1. MAIN OUTPUTS FOR THE YEAR

- Economic growth potential and environmental sustainability: Fishing at MSY levels and implementation of the landing obligation**

<b>Relevant general objective: I. A New Boost for Jobs, Growth and Investment</b>		
<b>Specific measurement of Growth for Fisheries: Economic growth potential and environmental sustainability measured by the proportion (Atlantic) or number of stocks (Mediterranean and Black Sea) that are fished at MSY levels</b>		
<b>Main outputs in 2019:</b>		
<b>Delivery on legislative proposals pending with the legislator</b>		
Output	Indicator	Target
<b>Pending proposals for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council:</b>  <i>Conservation of fishery resources and the protection of marine ecosystems through technical measures (COM(2016) 134 final of 11/03/2016, 2016/0074 (COD))</i>		
<i>Conservation of fishery resources through technical measures on the protection of juveniles of marine organisms (Commission delegated and implementing powers, alignment) (COM(2012)0432 of 02/08/2012, 2012/0208 (COD))</i>	<i>Adoption by the co-legislator</i>	<i>May 2019</i>
<i>Multi-annual plan for small pelagic stocks</i>	<i>Monitor possible further developments as regards the position of the co-legislators with regard to this file</i>	<i>2019</i>
	<i>Monitor possible further</i>	<i>2019</i>

<b>in the Adriatic Sea</b> (COM(2017)97 of 24/02/2017, 2017/0043 (COD))	developments as regards the position of the co-legislators with regard to this file	
<b>Multi-annual plan for the fisheries exploiting demersal stocks in the western Mediterranean Sea</b> (COM(2018) 115 final of 08/03/2018, 2018/0050 (COD))	Adoption by the co-legislator	May 2019
Amendment to Council Regulation (EC) No 1342/2008 of 18 December 2008 establishing a <b>long-term plan for the recovery of cod stocks</b> (Commission delegated and implementing powers, alignment) (COM(2012)21 of 31/01/2012, 2016/0013 (COD))	Withdrawal announced in the Commission Work Programme 2019 of 23/10/2018 (COM (2018) 800 final)	May 2019
<b>Multiannual plan for the Baltic salmon</b> stock and the fisheries exploiting that stock (COM(2011) 470 of 12/08/2011, 2011/0206 (COD))	Monitor possible further developments as regards the position of the co-legislators with regard to this file	2019
Amendment to Council Regulation (EC) No 1967/2006 concerning management measures for the sustainable exploitation of fishery resources in the <b>Mediterranean Sea</b> (alignment) (COM(2011) 479 of 09/08/2011, 2011/0218 (COD))	Monitor possible further developments as regards the position of the co-legislators with regard to this file	2019
Amendment to Council Regulation (EC) No 1100/2007 establishing measures for the <b>recovery of the stock of European eel</b> (Commission delegated and implementing powers, alignment) (COM(2012)413 of 26/07/2012, 2012/0201 (COD))	Monitor possible further developments as regards the position of the co-legislators with regard to this file	2019
<b>Prohibition on driftnet fisheries</b> (COM(2014)265 of 14/05/2014, 2014/0138 (COD)) (linked to the technical measures proposal – see before)	Monitor possible further developments as regards the position of the co-legislators with regard to this file	2019

### Important items from work programmes/financing decisions/operational programmes

For a complete listing of expenditure-related outputs please refer to the Programme Statements published together with the **Draft Budget for 2019**.

Output	Indicator	Target
<i>Implementation of a harmonized message standard (FLUX) based on the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) standard allowing automating the collection and dissemination of the fishery catch and sales data needed for sustainable</i>	<i>Effective installation and use of the updated electronic reporting system by the Member States as stipulated by Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2016/1138.</i>	<i>Q1 2019</i>

<i>fishery management and for detecting and combatting IUU fishing.</i>		
<b>Other important outputs</b>		
Output	Indicator	Target
<b>Fishing opportunities for 2020:</b> <i>Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and Council on the State of Play of the CFP (Art. 50 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013) and Consultation on the Fishing Opportunities for 2020 and incorporating the Annual report on Member States' efforts in 2017 to balance fishing capacity and fishing opportunities (so-called 'Policy Statement') (PLAN/2018/3910)</i>	<i>Adoption by the Commission</i>	<i>July 2019</i>
<i>Proposal for a Council Regulation on fishing opportunities in the Baltic Sea for 2020 (PLAN/2017/2296)</i>		<i>August 2019</i>
<i>Proposal for a Council Regulation fixing the fishing opportunities in Union waters and, for Union fishing vessels, in certain non-Union waters, for 2020 (PLAN/2018/3094)</i>		<i>Q4 2019</i>
<i>Proposal for a Council Regulation fixing for 2020 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks in the Black Sea (PLAN/2018/4020)</i>		<i>Q4 2019</i>
<b>Deep-sea fisheries:</b> <i>Specific conditions for fishing for deep-sea stocks in the north-east Atlantic and provisions for fishing in international waters of the north-east Atlantic (Commission Delegated Regulation PLAN/2018/4411; Commission Implementing Regulation PLAN/2018/4409)</i>	<i>Adoption by the Commission</i>	<i>Q4 2019</i>
<i>Commission Implementing Regulation establishing the deep-sea fishing footprint in EU waters including the areas where Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems are known or are likely to occur (PLAN/2018/2448)</i>		<i>Q1 2019</i>
<b>On the <i>implementation of the landing obligation</i> in the Baltic Sea (PLAN/2018/4377)</b>	<i>Adoption by the Commission</i>	<i>Q4 2019</i>
<b>Commission Delegated Regulations <i>establishing discard plans</i> for:</b> <i>for certain demersal fisheries in the North Sea for 2019-2021 (PLAN/2018/4376)</i>	<i>Adoption by the Commission</i>	<i>Q4 2019</i>
<i>certain pelagic fisheries in South-Western waters (PLAN/2018/4370)</i>		<i>Q4 2019</i>
<i>certain pelagic fisheries in North-Western waters (PLAN/2018/4371)</i>		<i>Q4 2019</i>
<i>certain small pelagic fisheries for industrial purposes in the North Sea (PLAN/2018/4373)</i>		<i>Q4 2019</i>
<i>certain demersal fisheries in South-Western waters (PLAN/2018/4374)</i>		<i>Q4 2019</i>

<i>certain demersal fisheries in North-Western waters (PLAN/2018/4375)</i>		<i>Q4 2019</i>
<i>clams in Italian territorial waters (PLAN/2018/4108)</i>		<i>Q4 2019</i>
<i>Commission Delegated Regulations amending <b>discard plans</b> for:</i>	<i>Adoption by the Commission</i>	
<i>demersal fisheries (turbot) in the Black Sea (PLAN/2017/2182)</i>		<i>Q4 2019</i>
<i>certain demersal fisheries in the Mediterranean Sea for 2020 (PLAN/2018/4105)</i>		<i>Q4 2019</i>
<b>Data collection:</b>	<i>Adoption by the Commission</i>	
<i>Commission Delegated Decision on the Multiannual Union Programme for data collection 2020-2021 with regard to biological, environmental and socio-economic data in aquaculture and fisheries (PLAN/2018/3278)</i>		<i>Q1 2019</i>
<i>Commission Implementing Decision on the Multiannual Union Programme for data collection 2020-2021 with regard to the list of surveys and the thresholds for data collection in aquaculture and fisheries (PLAN/2018/3281)</i>		<i>Q1 2019</i>
<b>Evaluations:</b>		
<i>Evaluation of the entry-exit fleet scheme (PLAN/2017/1556)</i>	<i>Publication of the Staff Working Document</i>	<i>Q1 2019</i>
<i>Evaluation of the Eel Regulation (PLAN/2018/2447)</i>		<i>Q2 2019</i>
<i>Retrospective evaluation of the Mediterranean Regulation (2016/MARE/072, is a carry-over from 2018)</i>		<i>Q4 2019<sup>19</sup></i>

<sup>19</sup> Linked to the ongoing negotiations in EP and Council on the Technical Measures proposal.

- **The European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)**

**Relevant general objective: I. A New Boost for Jobs, Growth and Investment**

**Specific measurement of Jobs for Fisheries: Employment created and maintained with support from the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)**

**Main outputs in 2019:**

**Delivery on legislative proposals pending with the legislator**

Output	Indicator	Target
<i>Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the EMFF-post 2020 and repealing Regulation (EU) No 508/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council. (COM(2018)390 of 12/06/2018; 2018/0210 (COD)).</i>	<i>First reading by the co-legislators</i>	<i>2019</i>

**Important items from work programmes/financing decisions/operational programmes**

*For a complete listing of expenditure-related outputs please refer to the Programme Statements published together with the [Draft Budget for 2019](#).*

Output	Indicator	Target
<i>EMFF support to sustainable and competitive fisheries and aquaculture.</i>	<i>EMFF payment requests by EMFF Managing Authorities</i>	<i>2019</i>
<b>Other important outputs</b>		
<i>EFF Closure. Examination and acceptance of Member States' (MS) closure documents.</i>	<i>Financial closure by the Commission.</i>	<i>2019</i>
<i>Annual accounts for MS with payment claims for 2018.</i>	<i>– Completion by MS; – Examination and acceptance by the Commission.</i>	<i>2019</i>
<i>2018 EMFF Annual Implementation Reports (AIR) as per Art. 50(2) of CPR<sup>20</sup> (including Financial Instruments, Ex-ante conditionalities, etc.).</i>	<i>– Submission by MS – Analysis by Commission Services and approval of AIR. – Follow-up of action plans</i>	<i>2019</i>

<sup>20</sup> Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006.

	<i>for EMFF Ex-ante conditionalities by Commission Services.</i>	
<i>Commission Implementing Decision(s) on a revised EMFF operational programme submitted by (some) MS.</i>	<i>Adoption by the Commission</i>	<i>Q1-Q3 2019</i>
<i>Commission Implementing Regulations on the allocation of the performance reserve to relevant Union Priorities (Art. 22(3) of the Common Provisions Regulation)</i>	<i>Adoption by the Commission</i>	<i>Q2-Q3 2019</i>
<i>Allocation of performance reserve to MS which have reached their milestones.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <i>Submission of Annual Implementation Reports (AIR) by MS.</i></li> <li>– <i>Analysis by Commission Services and approval of AIR.</i></li> <li>– <i>Issue of Commission decision(s).</i></li> </ul>	<i>2019</i>
<i>Calculation of amounts to be decommitted under the "n+3 rule".</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <i>Letters to MS setting out position at end 2018</i></li> <li>– <i>Issue of Commission decision(s).</i></li> </ul>	<i>2019</i>
<i>Contribution to the Strategic Report summarising the ESIF<sup>21</sup> progress reports of the Member States (Art. 53(2) of CPR).</i>	<i>Submission to EP, Council, CoR, EESC, and debate</i>	<i>2019</i>
<i>Contribution to the Annual Summary Report of Member States' Annual Implementation Reports (including financial instruments) (Art. 53(1) of CPR).</i>	<i>Transmission to EP and Council</i>	<i>2019</i>
<i>Interim evaluation of the implementation of EMFF measures under direct management (Articles 15 and 125(b) of EMFF Regulation (EU) No 508/2014) (2017/MARE/018).</i>	<i>Publication of the Staff Working Document</i>	<i>Q1 2019</i>

<sup>21</sup> The European structural and investment funds (ESIF) are:

- European regional development fund;
- European social fund, Cohesion fund;
- European agricultural fund for rural development;
- European maritime and fisheries fund.

- **Profitability of the EU fishing fleet, aquaculture and fish processing**

**Relevant general objective: I. A New Boost for Jobs, Growth and Investment**

**Specific measurement of Growth for Fisheries: Profitability of the EU fishing fleet, aquaculture and fish processing**

**Main outputs in 2019:**

**Important items from work programmes/financing decisions/operational programmes**

*For a complete listing of expenditure-related outputs please refer to the Programme Statements published together with the [Draft Budget for 2019](#).*

Output	Indicator	Target
<i>2019 STECF report on the balance between fleet capacity and fishing opportunities.</i>	<i>Publication of the report</i>	<i>Q3-Q4 2019</i>
<i>2019 STECF Annual Economic Report of the EU fishing fleet.</i>	<i>Publication of the report</i>	<i>September 2019</i>
<i>2019 STECF Economic Report of the EU Fish Processing Sector.</i>	<i>Publication of the report</i>	<i>November 2019</i>

- **Fisheries and Aquaculture market intelligence**

**Relevant general objective: I. A New Boost for Jobs, Growth and Investment**

**Specific objective 1: More sustainable and competitive fisheries and aquaculture by 2020**  
Related to spending programme(s)

- Programme-based: EMFF
- Non programme-based

**Result indicator 1: Volume and value of aquaculture production in the EU**

**Main outputs in 2019:**

**Important items from work programmes/financing decisions/operational programmes**

*For a complete listing of expenditure-related outputs please refer to the Programme Statements published together with the [Draft Budget for 2019](#).*

Output	Indicator	Target
<i>2019 EU Fish Market report.</i>	<i>Publication of the report</i>	<i>October 2019</i>
<b>Other important outputs</b>		
Output	Indicator	Target
<i>Interim evaluation of the open method of coordination for the sustainable development of EU Aquaculture (PLAN/2017/1068)</i>	<i>Publication of the Staff Working Document</i>	<i>June 2019</i>
<i>Evaluation of the marketing standards framework for fishery and aquaculture products (PLAN/2017/2168)</i>	<i>Publication of the Staff Working Document</i>	<i>Q2 2019</i>

- **An effective fisheries control system**

**Relevant general objective: I. A New Boost for Jobs, Growth and Investment**

**Specific objective 1: More sustainable and competitive fisheries and aquaculture by 2020**

Related to spending  
programme(s)

Programme-based: EMFF  
 Non programme-based

**Result indicator 2: Number of Member States with an effective control system**

**Main outputs in 2019:**

**Delivery on legislative proposals pending with the legislator**

Output	Indicator	Target
<i>Proposal on the revision of the Fisheries Control System (REFIT initiative)<sup>22</sup> (COM(2018)368; 2018/0193 (COD) of 30/05/2018)</i>	<i>First Reading by the co-legislators</i>	<i>2019</i>

**Important items from work programmes/financing decisions/operational programmes**

*For a complete listing of expenditure-related outputs please refer to the Programme Statements published together with the [Draft Budget for 2019](#).*

Output	Indicator	Target
<i>Control expenditure under EMFF Regulation (EU) No 508/2014 (shared management) and Regulation (EC) No 861/2006 (direct management).</i>	<i>Payments</i>	<i>2019</i>

**Other important outputs**

Output	Indicator	Target
<i>Commission Implementing Decisions establishing an action plan to improve the fisheries control and enforcement system of certain Member States.</i>	<i>Adoption by the Commission</i>	<i>Q4 2019</i>

<sup>22</sup> Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009, and amending Council Regulations (EC) No 768/2005, (EC) No 1967/2006, (EC) No 1005/2008, and Regulation (EU) No 2016/1139 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards fisheries control.

- EU investment relating to the blue economy

**Relevant general objective: I. A New Boost for Jobs, Growth and Investment**  
**Specific objective 2: A sustainable blue economy generating growth, jobs and prosperity by 2020**

Related to spending  
 programme(s)

Programme-based: EMFF  
 Non programme-based

**Result indicator 1: EU investment relating to the blue economy expressed as percentage of total European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF)**

**Other important outputs in 2019:**

Output	Indicator	Target
<i>Commission Report on growth and jobs in coastal and maritime tourism (PLAN/2018/3952)</i>	<i>Adoption by the Commission</i>	<i>Q2 2019</i>
<i>Skills development for the blue economy.</i>	<i>Strategic plan for maritime technology adopted</i>	<i>Q2 2019</i>
<i>Ocean literacy</i>	<i>Launch of the platform</i>	<i>Q2 2019</i>
<i>Investment in the Blue Economy:</i>		
<i>Assistance mechanism</i>	<i>Completed evaluation of calls for proposals for blending grants</i>	<i>Q3 2019</i>
<i>Investment platform</i>	<i>Agreement by European investment Fund to launch call for fund manager</i>	<i>Q2 2019</i>
<i>Blue Invest Strategy</i>	<i>Successful creation of blue investment and innovation community</i>	<i>Q3 2019</i>
	<i>Call for Blue Labs and grants for blue economy awarded (call launched in Q4 2018)</i>	<i>Q3 2019</i>
	<i>Blending window launched</i>	<i>Q2 2019</i>
	<i>Matchmaking event between investors and start-ups, and closed meeting with investors<sup>23</sup></i>	<i>Q1-Q2 2019</i>
<i>Joint EEAS-Commission Staff Working Document – Black Sea Synergy: the review of a regional cooperation initiative for the period 2015-2018.</i>	<i>Notification of the JSWD to the College (EEAS and MARE are co-chef de file)</i>	<i>Q1 2019</i>
<i>Revised action plan for a Maritime Strategy in the EU Atlantic ocean area (PLAN/2018/4630)</i>	<i>Adoption by the Commission</i>	<i>Q4 2019</i>
<i>Common maritime agenda for the Black Sea.</i>	<i>Ministerial Declaration annexing a Common Maritime</i>	<i>Q2 2019</i>

<sup>23</sup> Blue Invest event in the MED on 24/01/2019 in Malta. Blue Invest in Black Sea on 22/05/2019. Blue Invest Baltic event in the second half of 2019 (date and venue tbc).

	<p><i>Agenda for the Black Sea, introducing common priorities and objectives for sustainable Blue Economy in this sea basin. This follows up to the Burgas Declaration endorsed by the Black Sea coastal countries, including Moldova, in May 2018.</i></p> <p><i>Council conclusions on the Black Sea under by the Romanian Presidency referring to the Black Sea Synergy and the new maritime agenda.</i></p>	
<i>Blue Economy Financing Principles - commitment by financial industry.</i>	<i>Number and representativity of financial institutions backing the principles</i>	<i>2019</i>
<i>European Maritime Day</i>	<i>Conference in Lisbon and 100 events organized all around Europe, including an Outermost Regions blue growth thematic event</i>	<i>16-17 May 2019</i>
<i>Annual Economic Report on the EU Blue Economy.</i>	<i>Publication of the report</i>	<i>Q2 2019</i>
<i>Study to assess the feasibility of creating an Observatory on Blue Economy.</i>	<i>Publication of the report</i>	<i>Q1 2019</i>

- **Improvement in marine knowledge**

**Relevant general objective: I. A New Boost for Jobs, Growth and Investment**

**Specific objective 2: A sustainable blue economy generating growth, jobs and prosperity by 2020**

Related to spending programme(s)

Programme-based: EMFF

Non programme-based

**Result indicator 2: Marine Knowledge 2020**

**Improvement in marine knowledge measured by the degree of use of the European Marine Observation and Data network (EMODnet) in terms of the number of downloads of data per month**

**Important items from work programmes/financing decisions/operational programmes**

*For a complete listing of expenditure-related outputs please refer to the Programme Statements published together with the [Draft Budget for 2019](#).*

Output	Indicator	Target
<i>Start of collaboration with China on marine data under Foreign Policy Instrument.</i>	<i>Contract signed</i>	<i>Q3 2019</i>
<b>Other important outputs</b>		
<i>Staff Working Document on EU contribution to ocean monitoring (PLAN/2018/4861)</i>	<i>Publication of Staff Working Document</i>	<i>Q3 2019</i>
<i>DG MARE contribution to the Strategic Plan of Horizon Europe laying down multiannual work programme content including on marine and maritime research (lead DG: RTD).</i>	<i>Adoption of the Strategic Plan by the Commission</i>	<i>Q3 2019</i>
<i>Evaluation of EMODnet (PLAN/2017/1441)</i>	<i>Publication of the Staff Working Document</i>	<i>Q1 2019</i>

- **Ocean energy and offshore wind energy**

**Relevant general objective: II. A Resilient Energy Union with a Forward-Looking Climate Change Policy**

**Specific measurement for Energy Union: Share of ocean energy and offshore wind energy in the overall EU renewable energy mix**

**Specific objective 2: A sustainable blue economy generating growth, jobs and prosperity by 2020**

Related to spending programme(s)  
 Programme-based: EMFF  
 Non programme-based

**Result indicator 1a - Ocean Energy: installed capacity in offshore ocean energy**

**Result indicator 1b - Offshore Wind: installed capacity in offshore wind energy**

**Main outputs in 2019:**

**Important items from work programmes/financing decisions/operational programmes**

*For a complete listing of expenditure-related outputs please refer to the Programme Statements published together with the [Draft Budget for 2019](#).*

Output	Indicator	Target
<i>Call for proposals - Increase knowledge on environmental monitoring and possible impacts of ocean energy deployment.</i>	<i>Companies and Member States' authorities participating in the call for proposals.</i>	<i>Q2 2019</i>

- **Maritime Security: Closing the information gap across borders and sectors to improve maritime surveillance**

**Specific measurement for Maritime security: Closing the information gap across borders and sectors to improve maritime surveillance**

**Specific objective 2: A sustainable blue economy generating growth, jobs and prosperity by 2020**

Related to spending programme(s)  
 Programme-based: EMFF  
 Non programme-based

**Result indicator - Maritime security: Degree of implementation of the EU Maritime Security Strategy (EUMSS)**

**Main outputs in 2019:**

**Important items from work programmes/financing decisions/operational programmes**

*For a complete listing of expenditure-related outputs please refer to the Programme Statements published together with the [Draft Budget for 2019](#).*

Output	Indicator	Target
<i>Staff Working Document on the review and operational implementation of the Common Information Sharing Environment</i>	<i>Publication of the Staff Working Document</i>	<i>Q1 2019</i>

<i>(CISE) for the EU maritime domain (PLAN/2018/4636)</i>		
<i>3-years Grant to support EMSA in facilitating (through a dedicated project) interoperability between EU maritime systems and between EU and Member States systems.</i>	<i>Number of Member States and authorities participating in the project.</i>	<i>Grant agreement signed in August 2018 (3-years project)</i>
<i>Grant to EMSA facilitating the coordination of and technical support to Member States authorities in the CISE transitional phase.</i>	<i>Number of Member States and authorities participating in the project.</i>	<i>Grant allocation in development, (2-years project) Q1 2019</i>
<i>European Coast Guard Functions Forum (ECGFF).</i>	<i>Number of participating countries</i>	<i>Q2 2019</i>
<i>Mediterranean Coast Guard Functions Forum (MCGFF).</i>	<i>Number of participating countries</i>	<i>Q3 2019</i>
<b>Other important outputs</b>		
Output	Indicator	Target
<i>Monitor the national IT interoperability projects in line with CISE objectives and solutions.</i>	<i>Number of Member States and authorities adopting CISE interoperability solutions</i>	<i>End 2019 (for projects initiated in 2018)</i>

- International Ocean Governance**

**Relevant general objective: IV. A Stronger Global Actor**

**Specific objective 3: Sustainable fisheries worldwide and improved international governance by 2020**

Related to spending programme(s)  
 Programme-based: EMFF  
 Non programme-based

**Result indicator 1: Conservation measures based on scientific advice adopted, for all species under the purview of RFMOs to which the EU is a member**

**Main outputs in 2019:**

**Delivery on legislative proposals pending with the legislator**

Output (Proposals)	Indicator	Target
<b>Transposition of RFMO rules into EU law:</b>	<i>Adoption by the co-legislator</i>	
<i>GFCM<sup>24</sup> transposition regulation ("Certain provisions for fishing in the Mediterranean Agreement area") (COM(2018) 143 final of 22/03/2018, 2018/0069 (COD))</i>		<i>May 2019</i>
<i>NAFO<sup>25</sup> transposition regulation (2018/0304 (COD))</i>		<i>May 2019</i>
<i>Multiannual recovery plan for Mediterranean swordfish (COM(2018) 229 final of 24/04/2018,</i>		<i>May 2019</i>

<sup>24</sup> General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean

<sup>25</sup> The Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation

2018/0109 (COD))

## Important items from work programmes/financing decisions/operational programmes

For a complete listing of expenditure-related outputs please refer to the Programme Statements published together with the [Draft Budget for 2019](#).

Output	Indicator	Target
<i>Stakeholder Forum for International Ocean Governance</i>	<i>First meeting organised</i>	<i>Q3 2019</i>
<i>PROG International Marine Region Forum</i>	<i>Conference takes place</i>	<i>Q3 2019</i>
<i>High level EU Arctic Stakeholder Conference – Arctic Forum<sup>26</sup></i>	<i>Conference takes place</i>	<i>October 2019 (tbc)</i>
<i>High level conference on MedFish4Ever and social protection of the Small Scale Fleet</i>	<i>Conference takes place</i>	<i>June 2019 (tbc)</i>
<i>EU-China Ocean Partnership Forum</i>	<i>Conference takes place</i>	<i>2019</i>
<i>Implementation of the support for the FAO global capacity development umbrella programme on the Port States Measures Agreement<sup>27</sup></i>	<i>Number of third countries that received support</i>	<i>2019</i>
<i>Our Ocean Conference 2019 – commitments.</i>	<i>Adoption by the Commission and endorsement by Council</i>	<i>October 2019</i>
<b>Other important outputs</b>		
Output	Indicator	Target
<i>Renewal of RFMO negotiation mandates</i>	<i>Adoption by the Council</i>	<i>Q1 2019</i>
<i>Commission Decisions establishing Ocean Partnerships between the EU and key ocean players: Canada (PLAN/2018/4015)</i>	<i>Joint Declarations signed</i>	<i>Canada: Q1 2019</i>
<i>Proposal for a Regulation of EP and Council establishing an electronic catch documentation programme for Bluefin tuna (<i>Thunnus thynnus</i>) (2016/MARE/127).</i>	<i>Adoption by the Commission</i>	<i>Q2 2019</i>
<i>Proposals on the transposition of RFMO rules into EU law:</i> <i>IOTC<sup>28</sup> transposition Regulation (PLAN/2018/4713)</i>	<i>Adoption by the Commission</i>	<i>Q1 2019</i>
<i>IATTC<sup>29</sup> transposition Regulation (PLAN/2018/4714)</i>		<i>Q3 2019</i>

<sup>26</sup> The [Joint Communication on an integrated EU policy for the Arctic](#) provides for a (temporary) Arctic Stakeholder Forum to identify key investment and research priorities for the region. The consolidated results of the Forum's work were presented at the 1<sup>st</sup> Arctic Stakeholder Conference in Brussels on 17 September 2018.

<sup>27</sup> The first meeting of the Parties to the PSMA and the first meeting of the Part 6 Working Group took place in Oslo (29 May to 2 June 2017). An Assistance Fund is being established to support the needs of developing States Parties in the implementation of the Agreement. In 2018, the EU will contribute EUR 500 000, which will be implemented by the FAO.

<sup>28</sup> The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission

<sup>29</sup> The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission

<i>CCSBT<sup>30</sup> transposition Regulation (PLAN/2018/4715)</i>		<i>Q3 2019</i>
<i>WCPFC<sup>31</sup> transposition Regulation (PLAN/2018/4716)</i>		<i>Q4 2019</i>
<i>ICCAT transposition: Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a multiannual management plan in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean for Bluefin tuna (PLAN/2018/4811)</i>	<i>Adoption by the Commission</i>	<i>Q2 2019</i>

- Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements**

**Relevant general objective: IV. A Stronger Global Actor**

**Specific objective 3: Sustainable fisheries worldwide and improved international governance by 2020**

Related to spending programme(s)  
 Programme-based: EMFF  
 Non programme-based

**Result indicator 2: Number of SFPAAs in force**

**Main outputs in 2019:**

**Important items from work programmes/financing decisions/operational programmes**

For a complete listing of expenditure-related outputs please refer to the Programme Statements published together with the **Draft Budget for 2019**.

Output	Indicator	Target
<i>Commission Decision regarding credits for the implementation of SFPAAs (financing decision)</i>	<i>Adoption by the Commission</i>	<i>Q1 2019</i>
<b>Other important outputs</b>		
<i>Proposals for negotiation mandates and/or for the signature and conclusion of a new SFPA/Protocol or the renewal of an existing SFPA/protocol with the following third countries<sup>32</sup>:</i>	<i>Adoption by the Commission</i>	
<i>Cabo Verde (proposals: PLAN/2017/1464 and 1465, PLAN/2018/3999)</i>		<i>Q1 2019</i>
<i>Equatorial Guinea (mandate: 2016/MARE/068)</i>		<i>Q4 2019</i>
<i>Gabon (proposals: 2016/MARE/065, 066 and 067)</i>		<i>Q1 2019</i>
<i>The Gambia (proposals: 2017/MARE/025, 026 and 027)</i>		<i>Q1 2019</i>

<sup>30</sup> The Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna

<sup>31</sup> The Western Central Pacific Fisheries Commission

<sup>32</sup> SFPAAs and their associated protocols enter into force after concluding negotiations with the third country concerned.

<i>Greenland (mandate: PLAN/2018/4895 proposals: PLAN/2018/4778, 4779 and 4780)</i>		<i>Q2 2019 Q4 2019</i>
<i>Guinea-Bissau (proposals: PLAN/2017/1310, 1312 and 1313)</i>		<i>Q2 2019</i>
<i>Kenya (proposals: 2016/MARE/053, 054 and 055)</i>		<i>Q4 2019</i>
<i>Kiribati (proposals: 2015/MARE/006, 007 and 008)</i>		<i>Q2 2019</i>
<i>Madagascar (proposals: PLAN/2017/1307, 1308 and 1309)</i>		<i>Q1 2019</i>
<i>Mauritania (mandate: PLAN/2018/2894, and proposals: PLAN/2018/4743, 4744 and 4745)</i>		<i>Q2 2019 Q4 2019</i>
<i>Mozambique (proposals: 2015/MARE/009, 010 and 011)</i>		<i>Q4 2019</i>
<i>São Tome e Príncipe (proposals: PLAN/2017/2202, 2203 and 2204)</i>		<i>Q3 2019</i>
<i>Senegal (mandate 2014-2019: PLAN/2018/4619, and proposals: PLAN/2018/4900, /4901 and /4902)</i>		<i>Q2 2019 Q4 2019</i>
<i>Seychelles (mandate: PLAN/2018/4101, and proposals: PLAN/2018/4775, 4776 and 4777)</i>		<i>Q2 2019 Q4 2019</i>
<i>Seychelles on access to the waters of Mayotte – mandate (mandate: PLAN/2018/4133, and proposals: PLAN/2018/4897 and /4899)</i>		<i>Q2 2019 Q4 2019</i>
<i>Sierra Leone (mandate: 2015/MARE/052, and proposals: 2016/MARE/050, 051 and 052)</i>		<i>Q4 2019</i>
<i>Ex-post <b>evaluation</b> of the current SFPA/Protocol and ex-ante evaluation and analysis of the impact of a new SFPA/Protocol between the EU and:</i>		
<i>Mauritania (PLAN/2018/2892)</i>	<i>Publication of Staff Working Document</i>	<i>Q2 2019</i>
<i>Senegal (PLAN/2018/4618)</i>		<i>Q2 2019</i>
<i>Seychelles (PLAN/2018/3997)</i>		<i>Q2 2019</i>

- **Fighting illegal, unregulated or unreported (IUU) fishing worldwide**

**Relevant general objective: IV. A Stronger Global Actor**

**Specific measurement for Stronger Global Actor, Fisheries: Fighting IUU fishing globally measured by the number of third countries that the Commission has engaged in a dialogue with and the number of countries having addressed their deficiencies**

**Main outputs in 2019:**

**Delivery on legislative proposals pending with the legislator**

Output	Indicator	Target
<i>Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008 establishing a Community system to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing (Commission delegated and implementing powers, alignment) (COM(2012)332 of 21/06/2012, 2012/0162 (COD))</i>	<i>Monitor possible further developments as regards the position of the co-legislators with regard to this file.</i>	<i>2019</i>

**Other important outputs**

Output	Indicator	Target
<i>Implementation of the electronic exchange of fishery data with NEAFC based on the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) standard.</i>	<i>All vessel position and logbook data reported electronically to NEAFC in the FLUX format</i>	<i>Q3 2019</i>
<i>Commission Decisions on pre-identification of a third country as a non-cooperating third country in fighting IUU fishing (PLAN/2018/3992)</i>	<i>Adoption by the Commission</i>	<i>2019</i>
<i>Revocations of pre-identifications (PLAN/2018/3447 and 3448)</i>		<i>2019</i>
<i>Commission Decisions on identification of a third country as a non-cooperating third country in fighting IUU fishing, further to the notification sent previously based on Art. 32 of IUU regulation (PLAN/2018/3435)</i>		<i>2019</i>
<i>Revocations of identifications (PLAN/2018/3437 – 3445 – 3446)</i>		<i>2019</i>
<i>Documentation terminating the démarches vis-à-vis third countries in fighting IUU fishing pursuant to Council Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008 (PLAN/2018/3451)</i>		<i>2019</i>
<i>Commission Implementing Regulation amending Regulation (EU) No 468/2010 establishing the EU list of vessels engaged in IUU fishing (PLAN/2018/3466)</i>		<i>2019</i>

- **Control of imports of fisheries products in the EU**

**Relevant general objective: IV. A Stronger Global Actor**

**Specific objective 3: Sustainable fisheries worldwide and improved international governance by 2020**

Related to spending programme(s)  
 Programme-based: EMFF  
 Non programme-based

**Result indicator 3 : Control of imports of fisheries products in the EU**

**Main outputs in 2019:**

**Important items from work programmes/financing decisions/operational programmes**

*For a complete listing of expenditure-related outputs please refer to the Programme Statements published together with the [Draft Budget for 2019](#).*

Output	Indicator	Target
<i>Creation of an EU-wide IUU IT database to improve and facilitate implementation of the IUU Regulation by Member States (CATCH).</i>	<i>End of testing phase CATCH 1.0</i>	<i>Q1 2019</i>
<i>Modernisation of the catch certification system by integrating, in its first version, the catch certificate and processing statement into the DG SANTE TRACES system (CATCH 1.0).</i>	<i>Official release of CATCH version 1.0</i>	<i>Q2 2019</i>
	<i>Continuation of CATCH environment development</i>	<i>2019</i>

## PART 2. MAIN ORGANISATIONAL MANAGEMENT OUTPUTS FOR THE YEAR

### A. Human resource management

**Objective: The DG deploys effectively its resources in support of the delivery of the Commission priorities and core business, has a competent and engaged workforce, which is driven by an effective and gender-balanced management and which can deploy its full potential within supportive and healthy working conditions.**

#### Main outputs in 2019:

Output	Indicator	Target
<i>Increase the gender balance in middle management functions.</i>	<i>% of women in middle management functions.</i>	<i>50% (Equal Opportunities Strategy 2015-2019 for senior management, middle management and non-management administrators).</i>
<i>Increase staff wellbeing.</i>	<i>Staff survey 2018 on wellbeing results available in early 2019</i>	<i>2019: in the 2018 staff survey, for which results will be available in early 2019, improve the score of 32% of the 2016 Staff Survey to 40%<sup>33</sup>.</i> <i>Raise awareness on flexible working arrangements (40% in 2018 covering both, structural and occasional telework).</i> <i>Launch activities to improve staff's health including a Health Week and a pilot project on waste sorting station to combat sedentary behaviour at work.</i>
<i>Action plan as follow-up of staff opinion survey 2018.</i>	<i>Approval of the action plan by the Director-General</i>	<i>By end of Q2 2019</i>

<sup>34</sup> In accordance with new guidance on the estimation, assessment and reporting on the cost effectiveness of control Ref. Ares(2018)4917637

## B. Financial management: Internal control and Risk management

**Objective 1: Effective and reliable internal control system giving the necessary guarantees concerning the legality and the regularity of the underlying transactions.**

### Main outputs in 2018:

Output	Indicator	Target (2019)
<i>Legality and regularity of the underlying transactions in the DG.</i>	<i>Error rate detected on the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions for budget implementation.</i>	<i>Error rate below 2% for budget implementation</i>
<i>EMFF Assurance Packages</i>	<i>Timely analysis of packages received within the regulatory deadline.</i>	<i>100%</i>

**Objective 2: Effective and reliable internal control system in line with sound financial management.**

### Main outputs in 2018:

Output	Indicator	Target (2019)
<i>Timely execution of payments.</i>	<i>Percentage of payments on the budget made within the time limits.</i>	<i>&gt;95%</i>
<i>Open audit recommendations from European Court of Auditors (ECA) and Internal Audit Service (IAS).</i>	<i>Number of critical recommendations overdue for more than 6 months.</i>	<i>None</i>
<i>Cost-effectiveness of controls<sup>34</sup> carried out.</i>	<i>Conclusion reached on cost-effectiveness of controls.</i>	<i>Positive conclusion</i>
<i>Effectiveness of the internal control system.</i>	<i>Conclusion reached on the effectiveness of the internal control system.</i>	<i>Positive conclusion</i>

<sup>34</sup> In accordance with new guidance on the estimation, assessment and reporting on the cost effectiveness of control Ref. Ares(2018)4917637

**Objective 3: Minimisation of the risk of fraud through application of effective anti-fraud measures, integrated in all activities of the DG, based on the DG's anti-fraud strategy (AFS) aimed at the prevention, detection and reparation of fraud.**

**Main outputs in 2018:**

Output	Indicator	Target
<i>Regular reporting on the results of anti-fraud measures carried out in conformity with the AFS.</i>	<i>Reporting to the Commissioner</i>	<i>Bi-annual reporting</i>
<i>Timely follow-up of OLAF final case reports in line with the procedure in place.</i>	<i>Timely follow-up of all cases reported.</i>	<i>100% of cases followed-up.</i>

**C. Better Regulation**

The main planned outputs linked to the Better Regulation objective in the Strategic Plan are listed in Part 1 under the relevant specific objective in the tables. For 2019 as the last year of the Commission's mandate, these are mainly evaluations.

**D. Information management aspects**

**Objective: Information and knowledge in your DG is shared and reusable by other DGs. Important documents are registered, filed and retrievable.**

**Main outputs in 2019:**

Output	Indicator	Target
<i>Implementation of e-signatory workflow as a general rule on internal and outgoing documents.</i>	<i>Number of registered documents with a fully approved e-signatory (no paper circulation in parallel).</i>	<i>Maintain level of 2018 (October 2018: 92% e-signatory; 18% parallel paper signatory).</i>
<i>Sharing information: files opened to the entire Commission.</i>	<i>Percentage of MARE files opened to the entire Commission.</i>  <i>Files' opening combined with awareness raising actions on the use of markings.</i>	<i>+1% (October 2018: 39%)</i>
<i>Filing of registered documents.</i>	<i>Percentage of non-filed documents.</i>	<i>≤1% (October 2018: 1%)</i>
<i>Reducing paper storage in eligible cases.</i>	<i>Volume of paper stored in MARE archives spaces.</i>	<i>≤5% (October 2018: 1100 linear meters)</i>
<i>Use of Internal Message in Ares.</i>	<i>Number of Internal Messages in Ares.</i>	<i>≥100 (October 2018: 30)</i>

<i>All briefing requests for the Commissioner and the Director-General are encoded and managed in BASIS.</i>	<i>Percentage of briefings managed in accordance with a uniform business process and using a common tool.</i>	<i>100% of the briefings is managed in BASIS according to a standard procedure. Exception: briefing requests from DGs, Services or Delegations not using BASIS are managed by email.</i>
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\* Data based on HAN statistics (ARES reports) by DMO (data of 10/10/2018).

## **E. External communication activities**

**Objective: Citizens perceive that the EU is working to improve their lives and engage with the EU. They feel that their concerns are taken into consideration in European decision-making and they know about their rights in the EU.**

### **Main outputs in 2019:**

Output	Indicator	Target
<i>Events</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- European Maritime Day (EMD) 2019: number of participants</li> <li>- Beach Clean (number of Delegations + Representations participating)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- EMD 2019: between 1.200 and 1.500</li> <li>- Beach Clean: 60</li> </ul>
<i>Social media</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Number of Facebook likes</li> <li>- Number of Twitter followers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Facebook likes: 115.000</li> <li>- Twitter followers: 50.000</li> </ul>
<i>Newsletter</i>	<i>Number of subscribers</i>	<i>16.000</i>
<i>Europa Web pages</i>	<i>Number of pageviews</i>	<i>1.900.000 (subject to impact of ongoing digital transformation)</i>

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