



# Management Plan 2020

DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries

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## INTRODUCTION

The **mission** of the Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (or "DG MARE") is:

“To strive for healthy seas and a sustainable use of the oceans and of marine resources in the EU and worldwide. This involves ensuring sustainable fisheries through the full implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy, promoting in the EU an integrated approach to all policies impacting the oceans, including fostering a sustainable blue economy, thus providing jobs and prosperity to coastal communities and sustainable food, and contributing to a healthy environment for today’s and future generations, as well as projecting these policies internationally.”

This mission statement guides DG MARE’s strategy for the entire mandate of the current Commission, as set out in our **strategic plan 2020-2024**. The strategy is built around general objectives reflecting the Commission’s headline ambitions and specific objectives defining the contribution of DG MARE.

The **management plan for 2020** details the outputs that DG MARE will deliver this year. This plan is based on the Commission Work Programme 2020<sup>1</sup> and covers new policy and legislative initiatives, major evaluations and fitness checks.

While the Commission Work Programme 2020 has been revised in the light of the COVID-19 crisis<sup>2</sup>, a certain degree of flexibility will be required in the way this plan will be implemented and some adjustments might become necessary in the course of the year, in particular because important events (which determine some of the planned outputs) have been cancelled or postponed, and new dates are not yet set. DG MARE will continue to follow the impact of the COVID-19 crisis very closely and will propose corrective action whenever necessary.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/2020-commission-work-programme-key-documents\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/2020-commission-work-programme-key-documents_en)

<sup>2</sup> [COM\(2020\) 440 final of 27.05.2020](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/COM(2020)440_final_of_27.05.2020).

## **PART 1. Delivering on the Commission's priorities: main outputs for the year**

DG MARE is fully committed to contribute to achieving the **Commission's political priorities for 2020**, through the following policy deliverables:

Our work will be a crucial contribution to the European Green Deal, and in particular the Farm to Fork Strategy and the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, but also for the preparation of the future EU climate adaptation strategy planned for adoption in early 2021. Internationally, we will contribute to the implementation of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), notably SDG 14 dedicated to life below water, SDG 2 on food security and SDG 6 addressing climate change and its impacts. Our work on International Ocean Governance and sustainable fisheries worldwide makes us an important contributor to making "Europe Stronger in the World".

As outlined in Commissioner Sinkevičius' mission letter, a **full implementation and enforcement of the Common Fisheries Policy** is a top priority. We strive to bring fish stocks to healthy levels in all EU sea basins. Fishing at maximum sustainable yield (MSY) increases the profitability of EU fishing fleets. Full implementation of the landing obligation is also essential. Delegated regulations specifying the implementation of the landing obligation (usually referred to as "discard plans") and technical measures (rules on where, when and how to fish) will follow a regionalised approach tailored to the specific needs of each sea basin and addressing the need to minimise the negative impact of fisheries on the marine environment and sensitive species. More sustainable fisheries in the Mediterranean and in the Black Sea will require close cooperation with the riparian third countries and improved ocean governance in these regions, notably in the context of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean. At the same time, we want to ensure an EU-wide level playing field through improved fisheries control. It will therefore be important to make progress in our negotiations with the co-legislators on the Commission's proposal of May 2018 reviewing the EU fisheries control system and further enhance compliance by EU Member States through audit verifications and appropriate follow-up actions.

Following the departure of the United Kingdom from the EU as of 1 February 2020, negotiations are currently ongoing on the future relationship between the EU and the UK. In the area of fisheries, where the EU and the UK share an important number of fish stocks, which will have to be managed jointly in the future, the outcome of these negotiations will have an important impact on fisheries management in the EU. In addition, this will also impact on the current EU-Norway bilateral relationship since some of the key stocks (e.g. cod) in the North Sea will have to be managed on a trilateral basis (EU-Norway and the UK) or multilaterally (EU and other coastal states in the North East Atlantic). The modalities of the future cooperation will therefore also have to be reflected in a series of initiatives and actions described in this management plan, depending on the outcome of the ongoing negotiations.

We will review the Commission's guidelines for the **sustainable development of EU aquaculture** and start the work towards the adoption of an EU Strategy on algae in 2021, as well as the development of other aspects of the blue bioeconomy. These initiatives will contribute directly towards key 'Farm to Fork' priorities.

Through the **European Maritime and Fisheries Fund** 2014-2020, we will continue supporting the implementation of fisheries and maritime policies, in particular also assisting Member States in addressing the socio-economic challenges caused by the COVID-19 outbreak and supporting the European fisheries sector towards more sustainable fishing practices. We will facilitate negotiations on the Commission's proposal for the new fund for 2021-2027 to allow for a timely start of programme implementation. However, due to still ongoing negotiations of the future financial and legal framework, a delayed start of the new spending programmes is likely.

Developing the EU **blue economy** in a sustainable way will remain a priority, not least as a contribution to creating new sources of sustainable economic development in the EU's coastal regions as part of the EU's Recovery Plan<sup>3</sup> in the aftermath of the COVID-19 downturn. DG MARE will work on a new strategy for a sustainable blue economy, addressing both established and emerging sectors, and promoting structural change to allow these sectors to fully contribute to a green and blue recovery to kick-start Europe's economy quickly, especially at the local level in coastal communities.

Overall, DG MARE will deploy all its means to contribute to the implementation of the EU's economic recovery plan and its detailed contributions will be developed over the coming months. They will be an essential part of DG MARE's activities in 2020, and will be mainstreamed wherever possible in the actions set out in this plan. The newly established BlueInvest assistance mechanism will generate finance for innovative services and products in the blue economy. The adoption in 2020 of the revised Atlantic Action Plan and the implementation of the West Med Initiative and the Common Maritime Agenda for the Black Sea should stimulate a sustainable blue economy in the EU and in neighbouring countries.

In the context of the delivery on the EU's ambitious climate targets, DG MARE will contribute substantially to the Commission's offshore renewable energy strategy planned to be presented in autumn, and we will assess whether the current framework for Maritime Spatial Planning is appropriate to address the challenges of offshore decarbonisation.

Planning and assessing the impacts of activities at sea or on our coasts rely on efficient **ocean observation**. In 2020, we will launch an impact assessment and a public consultation to identify options for moving from observing for specific purposes – research, safe navigation, fisheries management, environmental reporting – to “measure once and use many times”.

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<sup>3</sup> [COM\(2020\) 456 final of 27.05.2020.](#)

A thriving blue economy also depends on **safe and secure framework conditions**. Therefore, we will promote the EU Maritime Security Strategy and its 2018 Action Plan, together with the European External Action Service.

To fight ocean pollution and reduce **marine litter**, and in particular plastic waste in the ocean, DG MARE will target specifically lost fishing gear.

The Commission's **International Ocean Governance agenda** is an integral part of the EU's response to the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and contributes to a Stronger Europe in the World. Reaching an Agreement at the World Trade Organisation to ban harmful subsidies by 2020 will be an important milestone for that. To prepare for a new initiative on International Ocean Governance, stakeholders will be consulted on further action needed on the basis of an online consultation and the discussions of the **International Ocean Governance Forum** launched in 2020. The Arctic plays a key role in the regulation of our climate and oceans. As co-coordinator for the **EU's Arctic Policy**, DG MARE will launch a public consultation to assess whether the existing policy remains fit for purpose. It will also work closely with the parties to the new **Central Arctic Ocean Fisheries Agreement** to start its implementation. We will enhance cooperation with African partners on ocean governance, including in the areas of sustainable fisheries and the blue economy, also in the context of the new comprehensive EU-Africa Strategy. We will continue to engage actively in the ongoing negotiations on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction (**BBNJ**). The EU is committed to reaching an ambitious agreement by 2020, if the timing of the 4<sup>th</sup> Intergovernmental Conference allows. To feed discussions and action at global level, we will analyse the costs and benefits of sound ocean governance and study the effectiveness and efficiency of EU policies in view of achieving the ocean-related SDG targets. The EU will also contribute to strengthening the **ocean-climate nexus** in the preparations for the next conference of the parties under the UNFCCC.

The **fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing** will continue unabated through cooperation with third countries in the 10<sup>th</sup> year of application of the EU's IUU Regulation. The digitalisation of the EU IUU catch certification scheme will bring greater assurances that imported fishery products stem from legal fishing operations.

We will continue to work in **Regional Fisheries Management Organisations** (RFMOs) for better science and compliance and science based conservation measures, and transpose those into EU law.

An evaluation of the **sustainable fisheries partnership agreements** is planned for end 2020 to improve future agreements in terms of value for money and sustainability.

Due to the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on DG MARE activities, some of the actions or public events planned for 2020 may have to be changed, postponed or cancelled.

## **General objective 1: A European Green Deal**

### **Specific objective 1: More sustainable and competitive fisheries and aquaculture by 2024**

*Result indicator: Stocks fished at maximum sustainable yield (MSY) levels (cf. Annex 'Performance tables', p. 38)*

As outlined in Commissioner Sinkevičius' mission letter, full implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) – including the landing obligation, multiannual management plans, and effective control and enforcement – is a top priority of his mandate. This will be an important contribution to the **European Green Deal**, and in particular the **Farm to Fork Strategy** and the **EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030**.

DG MARE will continue to work towards the achievement of the **key objectives of the Common Fisheries Policy**, in particular:

- Bringing fish stocks to healthy levels. Our target is to maintain maximum sustainable yield (MSY) for those stocks where it was reached and to reach maximum sustainable yield for those stocks where it was not yet possible, and
- Ending the wasteful practice of discards through continued implementation of the landing obligation for all species subject to total allowable catches (TACs) limits or Minimum Conservation Reference Sizes in the Mediterranean.
- Minimise the negative impact of fishing on the marine environment, including on sensitive species through appropriate technical measures.

In mid-2020, we will deliver the fourth report on the state of play of the Common Fisheries Policy and orientations for 2021, which constitutes the basis for consultations on our approach for establishing the **fishing opportunities for 2021**. This will underpin our annual proposals setting the total allowable catches (TACs) and quotas for the different EU sea basins (Atlantic, North Sea, Baltic Sea, Mediterranean and Black Seas) and beyond EU waters. We will also propose fishing opportunities for 2021-2022 for Union vessels fishing for deep-sea stocks.

We will continue working with the regional groups of Member States to introduce **new discard plans**. Regional **technical measures** will also be established through regionalisation under the Basic Regulation<sup>4</sup> and new Technical Measures Regulation<sup>5</sup>.

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<sup>4</sup> [Regulation \(EU\) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 on the Common Fisheries Policy, amending Council Regulations \(EC\) No 1954/2003 and \(EC\) No 1224/2009 and repealing Council Regulations \(EC\) No 2371/2002 and \(EC\) No 639/2004 and Council Decision 2004/585/EC.](#)

<sup>5</sup> [Regulation \(EU\) 2019/1241 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 on the conservation of fisheries resources and the protection of marine ecosystems through technical measures, amending Council Regulations \(EC\) No 1967/2006, \(EC\) No 1224/2009 and Regulations \(EU\) No 1380/2013, \(EU\) 2016/1139, \(EU\)](#)

Since the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy in 2014, a new generation of **multiannual plans** (MAPs) has been adopted. In 2020 for the first time, all the fishing opportunities were set in line with the existing MAPs in the Atlantic, North Sea and Baltic Sea, as well as in the Western Mediterranean. In 2020, the Commission will report on the implementation of the MAP for the Baltic sea basin. 2020 also marks the first year of full implementation of the first–ever MAP for the Mediterranean Sea. By contrast, in view of the absence of progress on the MAP for small pelagic species in the Adriatic, the Commission has announced the withdrawal of its proposal in the context of its 2020 Work Programme.

The **new Technical Measures Regulation** (Regulation (EU) No 2019/1241) came into force on 14 August 2019. This new framework simplified the technical conservation measures that had become increasingly complex over the years. The framework provides a more regionally flexible and more results-oriented approach. For the first time, regional groups can propose to the Commission to amend the specific rules applicable to them through joint recommendations. The first progress report due by end-2020 will identify areas where further action is needed, such as by-catch of cetaceans and recreational fisheries. Member States are expected to take proactive steps in these areas, even prior to the publication of the technical measures report. Finally, the Commission will adopt all the necessary implementing regulations as mandated by Article 24 of the new Regulation.

As regards the **Mediterranean and the Black Sea**, 2020 is the first year of full implementation of the Western Mediterranean MAP. Effort reductions are already agreed for 2020. The modalities for further effort reduction in 2021 will need to be fixed in the 2021 fishing opportunities regulation for the Mediterranean and the Black Sea against the background of the MAP's objective to achieve maximum sustainable yield (MSY) by 2025. The regulation will also include measures adopted by the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), including those adopted in 2019 and possibly in 2020, such as the multiannual plan for demersal stocks in the Adriatic, the Adriatic emergency measures for small pelagic species, total allowable catches (TACs) for turbot and sprat in the Black Sea and measures for eels.

The implementation of the Mediterranean Regulation<sup>6</sup> will continue to focus on assessing derogation requests by Member States on the basis of scientific advice from the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF), and on revising national management plans in order to align them with the objectives of the Common Fisheries Policy.

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[2018/973, \(EU\) 2019/472 and \(EU\) 2019/1022 of the European Parliament and of the Council, and repealing Council Regulations \(EC\) No 894/97, \(EC\) No 850/98, \(EC\) No 2549/2000, \(EC\) No 254/2002, \(EC\) No 812/2004 and \(EC\) No 2187/2005.](#)

<sup>6</sup> [Council Regulation \(EC\) No 1967/2006 of 21 December 2006 concerning management measures for the sustainable exploitation of fishery resources in the Mediterranean Sea, amending Regulation \(EEC\) No 2847/93 and repealing Regulation \(EC\) No 1626/94.](#)



In order to achieve more sustainable fisheries in the Mediterranean and in the Black Sea, it is important to continue enhancing cooperation with and among the riparian third countries and improve ocean governance in the region. We will continue to support the implementation of the GFCM 2017-2020 strategy<sup>7</sup> and build on the objectives of the MedFish4Ever Declaration for the Mediterranean<sup>8</sup> and the Sofia Declaration<sup>9</sup> for the Black Sea. During 2020, the 2021-2025 GFCM strategy will be prepared. Further recommendations will be adopted in cooperation with Member States at the 44th Annual Session of the GFCM.

Building awareness of and support for the Common Fisheries Policy is a cornerstone of DG MARE's communication strategy (2020-2024). Two main actions will be conceived and implemented during the second half of 2020 / early 2021. Firstly, an integrated campaign contributing to the European Green Deal through promotion of sustainable seasonal fish species among consumers from a select group of Member States. Disseminated mainly through social media - but also broadcast - the campaign will engage "celebrity chefs" to attract attention and help restoring demand for sustainable EU seafood in the aftermath of the COVID-19 crisis and its serious negative impact on the seafood sector. The campaign will closely tie in with messaging and visual approach of communication actions on the Farm to Fork Strategy, but also contribute in building political momentum behind the sustainability agenda in the run up to the AGRIFISH Council. The principal result indicator is the number of engagements in the target countries. Secondly, a seminar will be organised for journalists from national and regional press - including specialised media - to increase awareness and understanding of key challenges and policy responses in relation to the Common Fisheries Policy, thus contributing to an informed public debate. The seminar, in 2020 organised virtually, will be the first in an ongoing effort to reinforce media outreach and foster transparency.

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<sup>7</sup> [http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/faoweb/GFCM/News/Mid-term\\_strategy-e.pdf](http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/faoweb/GFCM/News/Mid-term_strategy-e.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_17\\_770](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_17_770)

<sup>9</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/sites/fisheries/files/docs/2018-06-07-sofia-declaration\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/sites/fisheries/files/docs/2018-06-07-sofia-declaration_en.pdf)

*Result indicator: Profitability of the EU fishing fleet (cf. Annex 'Performance tables', p. 41)*

The work towards sustainable fisheries in the different EU sea basins will also continue to contribute to boosting the economic performance of the EU fishing fleets. Sustainable fisheries pays off in terms of higher profits of the fleets. As fish stocks are more abundant, landings per unit of effort (such as the number of fishing days, number of hooks, nets) are higher and the operational costs lower. By contrast, profitability stagnates in the fleet segments that depend on overfished stocks.

The Annual Economic Report on the EU fishing fleet<sup>10</sup> will provide an overview of the structure and **economic performance of EU Member States' fishing fleets**. The report will include information on the EU fleet's fishing capacity and effort, employment, landings, income and costs, as well as performance estimates.

In April 2020, following an urgent proposal by the Commission, the co-legislator adopted a set of ambitious proposals to mitigate the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on the fisheries and aquaculture sectors, notably in form of amendments to the EMFF.<sup>11</sup> The temporary measures will contribute to sustaining business and jobs, thus facilitating the recovery of the sectors affected. The package includes:

- support to fishers for the temporary cessation of fishing activities due to coronavirus crisis;
- support to aquaculture farmers for the suspension or reduction of production due to coronavirus crisis and provision of working capital;
- support to producer organisations for the temporary storage of fishery and aquaculture products;
- support to the processing sector for reduction of production and sales and provision of working capital;
- a more flexible reallocation of financial resources within the operational programme of each Member State and a simplified procedure for amending operational programmes with respect to the introduction of the new measures.

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<sup>10</sup> [The 2019 annual economic report on the EU fishing fleet \(STECF 19-06\)](#)

<sup>11</sup> [Regulation \(EU\) 2020/560 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2020 amending Regulations \(EU\) No 508/2014 and \(EU\) No 1379/2013 as regards specific measures to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak in the fishery and aquaculture sector.](#)

*Result indicators on aquaculture (cf. Annex 'Performance tables', p. 41):*

- *Volume and value of aquaculture production in the EU*
- *Volume of organic aquaculture production in the EU*
- *Profitability of aquaculture production in the EU*

Aquaculture is a key sector of the blue economy. In addition to generating economic development in both coastal and rural areas, aquaculture production contributes to food security. Under the **Farm to Fork Strategy for Sustainable Food**, aquaculture will play a key role in providing sustainable food that is also safe, nutritious and of high quality.

As part of the **new Strategic Guidelines for the sustainable development of EU aquaculture**, to be adopted towards the end of 2020, the European Commission will promote the increase of the environmental performance of EU aquaculture activities in all its aspects, as well as the diversification of EU aquaculture towards an aquaculture with a lower carbon footprint and lower impact on the environment, including algae farming (which would be the subject of a specific initiative to be adopted in 2021). The new guidelines will also aim at promoting the recognition by the EU consumer of the sustainability of EU aquaculture products so that sustainability can become a competitive advantage. The Commission will also keep an overview on the review, in parallel, of EU Member States' Multiannual National Strategic Plans on aquaculture, which should take into consideration work on the new EU Strategic Guidelines.

The **European Market Observatory for Fisheries and Aquaculture Products** (EUMOFA)<sup>12</sup> fulfils the legal obligation for market intelligence under the CMO Regulation<sup>13</sup> by ensuring provision of quality data and continues to expand its panel of services. EUMOFA is now the world's largest database on trade flows of fishery and aquaculture products, and is considered a reference market observatory on food commodities. EUMOFA is highly responsive and able to respond to sudden information needs, as is the case with the COVID-19 crisis, where regular and timely information continues to be provided to inform economic operators and policy-makers.

The **Economic Report of the EU Aquaculture Sector**<sup>14</sup> which provides for information on the economic performance of the sector and is used as input for policy development and potential impact assessments will be published at the end of 2020.

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<sup>12</sup> <https://www.eumofa.eu/>

<sup>13</sup> [Regulation \(EU\) No 1379/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 on the common organisation of the markets in fishery and aquaculture products, amending Council Regulations \(EC\) No 1184/2006 and \(EC\) No 1224/2009 and repealing Council Regulation \(EC\) No 104/2000.](#)

<sup>14</sup> [Economic report of the EU aquaculture sector \(STECF-18-19\).](#)

*Result indicator: Effectiveness of Member States' fisheries control systems measured by the number of control action plans implemented within the deadline set (cf. Annex 'Performance tables', p. 43)*

The success of the Common Fisheries Policy depends on the implementation of an **effective fisheries control system**. The system contributes towards ensuring a level playing field, where the rules are applied in a harmonised way across the EU. In order to further strengthen the system, the Commission adopted in May 2018 a proposal to review the EU fisheries control system<sup>15</sup>. The proposal remains under negotiation by the co-legislators. In 2020, DG MARE will continue to work closely with the European Parliament and the Council, with the aim of maximising progress on this important proposal.

If agreed by the co-legislators, the revised Control Regulation would modernise controls, ensure better quality and sharing of fisheries data and information (including for the small-scale fleet), reduce administrative burden, strengthen the enforcement provisions, as well as support the implementation of the landing obligation and the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

The Commission will also work on updated **Specific Control and Inspection Programmes** (SCIPs) pursuant to article 95 of the current Fisheries Control Regulation<sup>16</sup>. The purpose is to reflect recently adopted Union fisheries conservation and management measures and GFCM recommendations, as well as to clarify the role of all parties involved in the exchange of fisheries data (European Fisheries Control Agency, Commission and Member States).

In addition, the Commission will oversee that any shortcomings in the Member States' control and enforcement systems are adequately addressed, that rules are complied with, and a level playing field among Member States is sustained. This requires an active monitoring of the implementation, among other things, of ongoing (and possible future) **Action Plans** to overcome the shortcomings identified in the fisheries control system of some Member States.

In addition to the verifications and audits work, the Commission will finalise a study on the **Member States' sanctioning systems**. This will feed into the ongoing discussions with co-legislators for a new Fisheries Control System as well as the second 5-year (2015-2019) report from the Commission on the implementation of the Fisheries Control Regulation. This report is expected to be adopted in early 2021. This work will be complemented by the results of an ongoing study on a pilot project on control schemes for recreational catches of sea bass to be finalised in 2020 and by an EU-wide workshop on recreational fisheries.

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<sup>15</sup> [COM\(2018\) 368 final 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).

<sup>16</sup> [Council Regulation \(EC\) No 1224/2009](#).

The Commission will continue to perform audits and verifications in Member States to assess the correct implementation of the rules of the Common Fisheries Policy, taking into account the restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 outbreak. In addition, the Commission will work closely with the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) and Member States to share best practices on safety measures to be taken during fisheries inspections at sea and landing during the COVID-19 crisis.

*Result indicator: Contribution from the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) for 2014-2020 and 2021-2027 to climate related EU spending (cf. Annex 'Performance tables', p. 45)*

The **European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)** (2014-2020 and 2021-2027) is the single specific financing instrument for all of DG MARE's policies, covering also the Blue Economy Strategy under specific objective 2 and International Ocean Governance under specific objective 3.

The EMFF is essential as the EU's financing instrument to support the full implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy, both under the current (2014-2020) and under the future (2021-2027) multiannual financial frameworks. It provides support to fishers in the transition towards more sustainable fisheries and provides funding for data collection and fisheries control, which are both essential for ensuring sustainable fisheries. It also supports the implementation of a new Blue Economy Strategy, and will help transforming the EU into a modern, resource-efficient and sustainable economy.

Throughout 2020, we will continue supporting the implementation of the fisheries and maritime policies through the **EMFF 2014-2020** and encourage Member States to improve the absorption of the EU funds, including for dedicated climate related actions and to cater for the impact of the COVID-19 crisis. Indeed, the fishing and aquaculture sectors, but also other blue economy sectors such as coastal tourism, were among the most immediately affected by the economic disruption caused by the COVID-19 outbreak. A first package of support measures was adopted in March under the Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative and under a specific Temporary State aid framework. Additional specific measures for the fisheries and aquaculture sector became available under an amendment of the **EMFF** as part of a second package, adopted by the co-legislators in April.<sup>17</sup>

Member States will also be encouraged to give the necessary consideration to climate related actions to ensure that all efforts possible are made to deliver the expected contribution of 30% of the EMFF 2021-2027 budget towards EU climate objectives.

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<sup>17</sup> [Regulation \(EU\) 2020/560 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2020 amending Regulations \(EU\) No 508/2014 and \(EU\) No 1379/2013 as regards specific measures to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak in the fishery and aquaculture sector.](#)

DG MARE will also continue facilitating the negotiation process between the co-legislators for a timely adoption of the **EMFF 2021-2027** to allow Member States to adopt Programmes and launch implementation in a timely manner. Delays in the financial and legal framework may lead to a later start of the new spending programme than 1 January 2021. This may lead to an initial low absorption which may also be exacerbated by the time allowed to declare costs (the 'n+3' rule)<sup>18</sup> under the current EMFF.

DG MARE will fully contribute to and align with corporate communication on the next Multi-annual Financial Framework (2021 – 2027), including by applying the appropriate visual identity and by showcasing EMFF-funded projects across various outlets, and actively engage in the framework of the INFORM-INIO network coordinated by DG REGIO.

### **Specific objective 2: A sustainable blue economy generating sustainable economic development, jobs and prosperity by 2024**

*Result indicator: Size of the EU blue economy (cf. Annex 'Performance tables', p. 47)*

Starting in 2018, DG MARE (in collaboration with the Joint Research Centre) has been producing an EU Blue Economy Report to measure and monitor the size of the Blue Economy in the EU. The Blue Economy Indicators<sup>19</sup> IT tool gives everyone access to the blue economy data in a simplified, centralised and user-friendly way. Reliable and accurate data may contribute to the development of informed policies and initiatives as part of the European Green Deal.

During 2020, the **BlueInvest Assistance Mechanism** will continue to support access to finance for SMEs and start-ups, early stage businesses and scale-ups in the blue economy through matchmaking events and business support. Grants will be awarded from the 2019 and 2020 Blue Economy Window calls. Synergies and interaction between projects will be facilitated.

The European Investment Fund will open a call for expression of interest for fund managers to disburse a new €75 million **BlueInvest Fund** backed by guarantees from the European Fund for Strategic Investment. The new EMFF and InvestEU will offer new investment opportunities from 2021 onwards.

Contributing to the European Green Deal, the Commission is preparing a new approach to developing a **sustainable blue economy**, to replace the Blue Growth strategy from

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<sup>18</sup> Member States have three years to use the funds committed and declare costs to the Commission for reimbursement (the "n+3" rule). After that time, a system of "automatic decommitments" is meant to clear any unused funds.

<sup>19</sup> <https://blueindicators.ec.europa.eu/>

2012.<sup>20</sup> This initiative will also contribute to economic recovery in the aftermath of the COVID-19 crisis. A public consultation will be launched in 2020.

Through the organisation of BlueInvest outreach events, DG MARE will also contribute to matching private investment capital with innovative blue economy projects, thus supporting the development of sustainable technologies.

To stimulate the blue economy at regional level, DG MARE will continue to foster **cooperation in Europe's sea basins**, including with third countries with whom the EU shares the same seas. In 2020, our work will build on the adoption of the revised Atlantic Action Plan and the implementation of the West Med Initiative and the Common Maritime Agenda. Specific guidance will be provided to outermost regions to help them develop their blue economy strategies.

Showcasing successful EU-funded blue economy projects from the EU and beyond will remain a fixture of MARE's televised magazine, "Ocean", produced monthly in cooperation with Euronews. The second season will broadcast in 2020 with 12 episodes of 8 minutes and an extensive accompanying social media coverage.

*Result indicator: Improved marine knowledge measured by the degree of use of the European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet) in terms of the quantity of downloaded data per month (cf. Annex 'Performance tables', p. 48)*

Efficient and effective **ocean observation** is essential for planning any activity at sea and along coasts and for monitoring its impact on other activities and on the environment.

The **European Marine Observation and Data Network** (EMODnet) provides data and data products, enhancing the productivity of those analysing our seas and oceans. Private bodies represent about a quarter of EMODnet usage. During 2020, we will further improve the access to data and data products through a central data gateway.

DG MARE will be drafting parts of the strategic plan for **Horizon Europe** and its 2021-2022 work programme. It will also provide support to the Board of the specific Mission established under Horizon Europe for "healthy oceans, seas, coastal and inland waters" and respond to its proposals. This offers a unique opportunity to guide research towards long-term challenges concerning the use and protection of ocean resources.

Increased attention will be devoted to improving the efficiency of ocean observation. During 2020, an impact assessment and a public consultation will examine options for moving from observing for a specific purpose – research, safe navigation, fisheries management, environmental reporting – to a new paradigm of "*measure once and use many times*".

DG MARE launched the EU4Ocean Coalition. It aims to unite ocean literacy efforts in Europe with particular emphasis on increasing understanding amongst youth of how humankind

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<sup>20</sup> [Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions - Blue Growth opportunities for marine and maritime sustainable growth, COM\(2012\) 0494 final of 13.09.2012.](#)



and the ocean influence each other. The European Atlas of the Seas will be specially tailored to meet the requirements of this audience.

To increase citizens' awareness and facilitate the public's access to knowledge about ocean-related issues, DG MARE is developing a **virtual reality tool** covering the EU's ocean policies in an innovative format. The project is developed in close cooperation with Euronews and will be available both at events (with virtual reality gear) and in an online version that allows the user to explore the blue planet and what the EU is doing to protect it, from home. Event specific key performance indicators to measure results achieved will be established, when the tool is displayed.

*Result indicator: Reduction of economic impact of marine litter in the EU measured in terms of median number of litter items per 100 metres of beach in the EU (cf. Annex 'Performance tables', p. 49)*

The Commission has taken unprecedented action to **reduce the quantity of plastic reaching the sea**. Directive (EU) 2019/904 on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment, also introduced obligations for producers of fishing gear to take responsibility for its safe disposal. Directive (EU) 2019/883 on port reception facilities for the delivery of waste from ships removed incentives to dump waste at sea. To that end, port fees should not depend on the amount of waste delivered. This includes passively-fished waste.

DG MARE's work in 2020 will focus on developing the reporting protocols for **fishing gear** placed on the market, collected at ports (with separate analysis of passively fished waste) and preparing a request to standardisation authorities for the circular design of fishing gear.

DG MARE will lead the third edition of the global **#EUBeachCleanup campaign**, jointly with DG COMM and EEAS and in partnership with the United Nations, IMPS/Smurfs and a number of civil society organisations.<sup>21</sup> Building on the success of the previous two years, as of 2020, the campaign will be a flagship action under European Green Deal communication. It will be organised across the world by Commission Representations and EU Delegations. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the roll-out will depend on local situations. A social media challenge implemented jointly with DG COMM and EEAS will appeal to individualised or community engagement, where large group actions are not possible, due to sanitary restrictions..

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<sup>21</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/press/smurfing-our-blue-planet-european-union-and-smurfs-team-protect-ocean\\_ro](https://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/press/smurfing-our-blue-planet-european-union-and-smurfs-team-protect-ocean_ro)



*Result indicator: Maritime security measured by the number of new CISE (Common Information Sharing Environment) connections/nodes (cf. Annex 'Performance tables', p. 50)*

Successful economic activities in the maritime domain depend on the security of this environment. **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 set 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 purpose. DG MARE – acting as the coordinator of the implementation 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 stakeholders, including other Commission services, EU Agencies and Member States.

In 2020, DG MARE will also further develop the **Common Information Sharing Environment** (CISE), including by supporting and supervising the work of the European Maritime Safety Agency and Member States.

*Result indicator: Installed capacity of offshore wind energy and ocean energy in the EU (cf. Annex 'Performance tables', p. 51)*

The European Green Deal announced an **offshore renewable energy strategy** in 2020. Beyond issues related to energy policy (e.g. grid development, financing), access to maritime space, industrial and manufacturing capacities, interactions with other economic sectors that are using the sea, such as fisheries, tourism and aquaculture, as well as safeguarding marine biodiversity will be core challenges that will be addressed in this strategy.

Through its competence and expertise for several maritime industries, as well as its experience in integrating different policies related to the sea, DG MARE will contribute significantly to the offshore renewable energy strategy (lead by DG ENER). Beyond the strategy, DG MARE will also start assessing whether the current framework for **Maritime Spatial Planning** is appropriate to address the challenges of offshore decarbonisation and its required massive upscaling in a perspective beyond 2030.

## **General objective 2: A Stronger Europe in the World**

### **Specific objective 3: More sustainable fisheries worldwide and improved international ocean governance by 2024**

*Result indicator: Sustainable management of the main regulated tuna and tuna-like species fished by the EU fleet under the purview of Regional Fisheries Management Organisations of which the EU is a Member (cf. Annex 'Performance tables', p. 53)*

Scientific evidence shows that the oceans and their ecosystems are in a dire state due to climate change, pollution and other impacts from human activities such as the overexploitation of marine resources. Failure to act decisively in the short term entails the risk of escalating costs to achieve **healthy oceans**.

In 2020, the Commission will further implement the **International Ocean Governance agenda**, which is an integral part of the EU's response to the United Nations' 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and our contribution to making Europe Stronger in the World and the international dimension of the European Green Deal. The Commission will continue its actions to fill governance gaps, reduce the pressure on the oceans and increase ocean science and knowledge. Bilateral dialogues on sustainable oceans and fisheries with key partners are held, including through the joint implementation of the "Ocean Partnerships" with China and Canada

The EU Stakeholder **Forum for International Ocean Governance** started in April 2020 to discuss challenges and identify solutions for a better ocean governance. A targeted online consultation will be launched for a broader stakeholder engagement.

The Commission is committed to leading the way on international ocean governance by playing a prominent role in the discussions in various regional and international fora<sup>22</sup>. In particular:

- Considering the urgency to address the unprecedented **climate change impacts on the oceans** and cryosphere, the Commission will continue to support the "dialogue on the ocean and climate change" aiming to "consider how to strengthen ocean climate change mitigation and adaptation action" as decided at the 25<sup>th</sup> conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (CoP25).
- The **Arctic** plays a key role in regulating our climate and oceans. As co-coordinator for the EU's Arctic Policy, DG MARE will launch a public consultation to see if the current EU Arctic Strategy from 2016<sup>23</sup> requires updating in 2021 and how. It will also work with the other parties to the Central Arctic Ocean Fisheries Agreement to start its implementation and prepare a negotiation mandate to that end.

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<sup>22</sup> Most meetings listed are being postponed in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

<sup>23</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/policy/sea\\_basins/arctic\\_ocean\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/policy/sea_basins/arctic_ocean_en)

- Relations with **Africa** have gained a higher profile on the EU external action agenda<sup>24</sup>. DG MARE will enhance cooperation with African partners to encourage better ocean governance, including the development of sustainable fisheries and blue economy. DG MARE will consider the establishment of an EU-Africa Ocean Task Force in the framework of the EU-Africa Strategy.
- In the wider context of protecting biodiversity and also as part of the international dimension of the biodiversity strategy, DG MARE will continue to engage in the fourth Substantive Session 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**) with the aim to conclude an ambitious agreement.
- Furthermore, DG MARE will endeavour to take a more active role<sup>25</sup> and to promote a precautionary and eco-system approach for the extraction of marine minerals in the international seabed area at the International Seabed Authority (ISA) in line with the biodiversity strategy.

DG MARE will carry out a **study** analysing the economic, social and environmental costs and benefits of sound ocean governance. It will also finalise a study on the effectiveness and efficiency of EU policy tools in the implementation of SDG 14 and other ocean-related targets.

On fisheries governance, DG MARE will actively participate in the 34<sup>th</sup> session of the **FAO Committee on Fisheries**, which will feature in particular climate change, IUU fishing and food security and will lead to the adoption of declaration on sustainable fisheries for the future in the margins of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Code of Conduct

Furthermore, the EU will be hosting jointly with FAO the **first Review Conference on the Port State Measures Agreement**. Meanwhile, at the **United Nations**, DG MARE will participate in the **review** on actions taken by States and Regional Fisheries Management Organizations or Arrangements (RFMO/As) in implementing measures to **protect vulnerable marine ecosystems from the impacts of bottom fishing**. The results of this exercise will feed into an evaluation of Regulation (EU) No 734/2008 on measures to protect vulnerable marine ecosystems by the part of the EU fleet under the scope of this regulation.

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<sup>24</sup> [A Comprehensive Strategy with Africa, JOIN\(2020\) 4 final of 09.03.2020.](#)

<sup>25</sup> This will be done on the basis of a mapping of competences.

Result indicator: Conservation measures based on scientific advice adopted for the main regulated species fished by the EU fleet under the purview of Regional Fisheries Management Organisations of which the EU is a Member (cf. Annex 'Performance tables', p. 55)

**Regional Fisheries Management Organisations** (RFMOs) are the key vectors for the joint management of straddling and highly migratory fish stocks under the Law of the Sea. Their performance is key to ensure sustainable fisheries worldwide, notably through:

- the promotion of science based conservation and sustainable management of the highly migratory and straddling stocks and their ecosystems and marine biodiversity more generally,
- better compliance with rules,
- a reinforced fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, and
- improved performance of RFMOs in accordance with the external objectives of the Common Fisheries Policy and the EU's Biodiversity and Farm to Fork Strategy.

The EU is party to 17 Regional Fisheries Bodies. The transposition of conservation and control measures adopted by them into EU law is key for ensuring legal certainty and compliance within the EU.

2020 will see the transposition of the control, conservation and management measures adopted by tuna RFMOs in the Indian Ocean (IOTC) and the Pacific (IATTC and WCPFC), the ICCAT multiannual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean, the most recent amendments to conservation and enforcement measures (CEMs) adopted by NAFO and the application of the electronic Bluefin Tuna Catch Document approved by the ICCAT. The recommendations adopted by the GFCM in 2018 and 2019 will be transposed into EU law through a proposal for a recast. The regulation on control measures in the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) will be amended to provide for an electronic reporting system in NEAFC, which is the first RFMO to launch such a system.

*Result indicator: Fighting illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing measured by the number of non-EU Member States that the Commission has engaged in a dialogue with and the number of countries having addressed their deficiencies (cf. Annex 'Performance tables', p. 56)*

Pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008 on the **fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing**<sup>26</sup>, only fishery products that are certified as caught in accordance with applicable conservation and management measures can access the EU market. Currently, the competent authorities of 92 third countries have been notified to the EU for the validation of **catch certificates** required to import fishery products to the EU.

Using a system of green, yellow and red cards, the EU warns third countries' partners that they could be listed as a non-cooperating country in the fight against IUU fishing, if they do not comply with their **obligations as flag, coastal, port and market State** under international law. Since November 2012, the Commission entered into formal dialogues with 27 third countries, i.e. officially warning them of the need to take effective action to fight against IUU fishing (yellow card). Only a few countries have not demonstrated the willingness to carry out necessary reforms, resulting in that the fishery products caught by their vessels cannot be imported into the EU (red card). DG MARE will pursue systematic cooperation and dialogue to foster the necessary reforms in all third countries that are currently subject to the card system.

In the 10<sup>th</sup> year of application of the IUU Regulation and before end 2020, the Commission will **report** to the European Parliament and the Council on the application of the IUU Regulation taking stock of the actions undertaken by the Commission and the Member States since the last Commission Communication of 1 October 2015<sup>27</sup>.

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<sup>26</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>27</sup> [Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council On the application of Council Regulation \(EC\) No 1005/2008 establishing a Community system to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. COM\(2015\) 0480 final of 01.10.2015.](#)

*Result indicator: Control of imports of fisheries products in the EU measured by the number of catch certificates import refusals by Member States (cf. Annex 'Performance tables', p. 57)*

One of the main operational elements of the IUU Regulation<sup>28</sup> is the **EU IUU catch certification scheme**. The scheme aims to ensure that fishery products imported into the EU 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) is ongoing to digitalise the submission of information contained in catch certificates and processing statements and other relevant processes, thus improving the efficiency of the system. The formal release of the CATCH project, functional and available to all Member States, took place in May 2019. The CATCH functionalities will be further developed in 2020 in close cooperation with the Member States. The Commission will also continue working with co-legislators to create the legal basis for the mandatory use of CATCH in the context of the revision of the fisheries control system.

*Result indicator: Number of sustainable fisheries partnership agreements (SFPAs) in force (cf. Annex 'Performance tables', p. 58)*

**Sustainable fisheries partnership agreements** (SFPAs) give access for the EU fishing fleet to a number of fishing zones in third country waters, while at the same time providing support to the third countries concerned to improve fisheries governance and ensure the sustainable development of their local fishing sector, including in the context of the COVID-19 crisis.

The objective followed regarding SFPAs is to renew and possibly extend the network of Agreements and active Protocols to ensure a continuity in the activities of the EU long distant fishing fleets in third country waters. When needed, the framework agreement is also renegotiated in order to integrate the Common Fisheries Policy principles. This work will be pursued throughout 2020.

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<sup>28</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 \(EC\) NTheo 1447/1999.](#)

## **PART 2. Modernising the administration: main outputs for the year**

In parallel with our policy priorities, we will focus on **modernising the way we work**.

We will put a revamped human resources strategy in place, move further towards digitalisation and collaborative methods, further streamline workflows and procedures and continue to reduce the environmental footprint of DG MARE.

The ongoing professionalization of external communication will continue in order to enable efficient and impactful actions supporting the delivery of DG MARE's policy objectives, whilst underpinning wider corporate communication priorities and approaches. Due to the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on DG MARE activities, some of the actions or public events planned for 2020 may have to be changed, postponed or cancelled.

The internal control framework<sup>29</sup> supports sound management and decision-making. It notably ensures that risks to the achievement of objectives are taken into account and reduced to acceptable levels through cost-effective controls. DG MARE has established an internal control system tailored to its particular characteristics and circumstances. The effective functioning of the service's internal control system will be assessed throughout the year and be subject to a specific annual assessment covering all internal control principles.

### **A. Human resource management**

DG MARE is fully committed to achieving the corporate objectives set in the area of organisational management. In its human resource policy, DG MARE will focus on the development of a local HR strategy with a medium to long-term outlook (3 to 5 years) consistent with the overall corporate HR strategy. We will pay particular attention to the efficient use of resources and to the wellbeing and the engagement of staff.

DG MARE is committed to ensuring that the gender balance targets are fully attained at all management levels. We will make sure that the target of 50% of women at all levels of management by 2024 is met through appointing 1 first female to middle management positions by 2022.

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.

Regarding managerial competencies, DG MARE will invest in 360° evaluations for at least 50% of middle managers in 2020 as well as in coaching, specialised training programmes

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<sup>29</sup> [Communication to the Commission - Revision of the Internal Control Framework, C\(2017\) 2373 of 19.04.2017.](#)

within and outside DG MARE and peer-learning via the MARE Middle Management network established in 2019. Improving middle managers' people management skills will help DG MARE to attract and retain talented staff, develop potential, and to boost staff engagement and satisfaction, which will contribute to increased productivity and operational outputs.

Regarding our other staff, we aim to support their professional development through training courses, internal mobility, coaching, and specific measures for staff on temporary contracts, building on the creation of a network of MARE temporary staff in 2019.

To ensure that DG MARE's needs for highly specialised expertise in our policy areas are met DG MARE will continue recruitments from the specialised reserve lists of temporary agents in the areas of fisheries science and management, control and inspection. Based on the input from the local HR Strategy, we will prepare for the launch of the specialist competition for permanent staff in 2021.

DG MARE will focus on the implementation of the Action Plan for Staff Engagement adopted in 2019 based on analysis of the 2018 Staff Survey results and inclusive discussions with MARE staff. In addition to management development and supporting professional development of staff, the key priority in the short-term is to tackle workload and to improve work-life balance. To this end, in line with the corporate Fit@Work strategy, DG MARE will 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. A thorough lessons-learnt exercise will be carried out following the end of the COVID-19 lockdown to gain understanding from the exceptional working conditions during that period.

In 2020, 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 2020. A first survey has been carried out in February on environmentally friendly behaviours amongst our staff. 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).



**Objective:** DG MARE employs a competent and engaged workforce and contributes to gender equality at all levels of management to effectively deliver on the Commission's priorities and core business

**Main outputs in 2020:**

Output	Indicator	Target
Gender balance at all management levels	1 woman out of 2 first appointments in middle management	50% women in Middle Management
Staff engagement	Staff engagement index	80%

## B. Sound financial management

Internal control processes ensure an 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 (+/- 82% 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 has also carried out early preventive system audits (EPSAs) focussing on the functioning of the most important key requirements at this early stage of implementation. This provided 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 was finalised in February 2019 with the last two audits in Italy and Poland.

In addition, the SAS provides for compliance audit assignments, which focus on assessing the legality and regularity of expenditure declared to the Commission. DG MARE has started carrying out these audit assignments in 2018 and 2019 and they will form the main audit work to be carried out in 2020, together with other targeted audit assignments focussing on specific horizontal themes or risks.

All 27 Member States transmitted substantial (i.e. non-zero) accounts in February / March 2020. The accompanying documents, in particular the annual control reports of the national audit authorities, are the subject of thorough desk reviews and will be complemented by targeted audit missions, based on a risk assessment.

DG MARE has reasonable assurance on EU payments made for the 2014-2020 programming period 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 24 Member States, with substantial accounts, in February 2019, i.e. for which the entire control cycle including DG MARE on-the-spot audit work was finalised, confirmed that the overall the risk for the payments made is below the materiality threshold.

**(In)direct Management** – 18% of the budget:

A substantial part of direct managed expenditure has been delegated to the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME)<sup>30</sup>. For the remaining part, DG MARE ensures 100% ex ante verification of all payment above €5.000. Smaller payment transactions below €5.000 are checked on regular basis as part of the accounting controls on the quality of the financial data.

100% of the grants and procurement procedures are also verified at ex-ante level before the award decisions are issued.

Building on the efficiency measures introduced in the period 2017-2019, in 2020, we will further improve the efficiency of the electronic workflows for financial transactions (update of checklists). In addition, a centralisation of the financial management of pre-financing payments for grants is planned.

In 2020, following the roll-out of the Corporate IT Public Procurement Management Tool (PPMT), incorporating all procurement procedural modules, DG MARE will be able to improve its planning and reporting for procurement procedures, allowing in addition full electronic management of the process up to the signature of contracts.

As part of maintaining a strong internal control system, regular meetings will be maintained with the Director-General of MARE, informing of the status and implementation of financial and internal control. In addition, quarterly meetings will continue to be held with the Budget Correspondents in the DG, offering guidelines, a communication channel, and a forum for discussions.

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<sup>30</sup> See section F on the 'Cooperation with EASME'.

**Objective:** The authorising officer by delegation has reasonable assurance that resources have been used in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and that cost-effective controls are in place which give the necessary guarantees concerning the legality and regularity of underlying transactions

**Main outputs in 2020:**

Output	Indicator	Target
Effective controls: Legal and regular transactions	Risk at payment	< 2 % of relevant expenditure
	Estimated risk at closure	< 2 % of relevant expenditure
Efficient controls	Budget execution	100% of payment appropriations
Efficient controls	Time-to-pay	97% of payments (in value) on time
Economical controls	Overall estimated cost of controls	<5% of funds managed
Monitoring of the effectiveness of the internal control system	Bi-annual reporting to the Commissioner on the results of audit controls	Reporting twice a year
Monitoring of the effectiveness of the internal control system	Quarterly meetings with the Budget Correspondents – provide guidelines on financial management, open a forum for discussions and improvements	4 meetings a year
Monitoring of the effectiveness of the internal control system	Regular meetings with MARE Director-General on financial management	At least 3 meetings a year

## C. Fraud risk management

The Joint Anti-Fraud Strategy (JAFS) of DG REGIO, DG EMPL and DG MARE was updated in December 2019, following the new 2019 anti-fraud strategy of the Commission. The Joint Anti-Fraud Strategy covers the whole anti-fraud cycle: prevention, detection, investigation and corrective measures. It seeks to reinforce measures in place to protect 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 Joint Anti-Fraud Strategy builds upon the relevant measures that were implemented both at administrative and at institutional level including as part of the action plan attached to the previous Joint Anti-Fraud Strategy and the outcome of a stocktaking study on Member States' compliance with the new anti-fraud requirements following the entry into force of the Common Provisions Regulation (EC) No 1303/2013. The main actions for 2020 will focus on further developing cooperation with key partners such as OLAF - while continuing based on established exchange and information sharing practices. The joint action plan of the updated Joint Anti-Fraud Strategy foresees several actions for the three

DGs, for one of which DG MARE is in the lead – Development of a new checklist for Key Requirement (KR) 7 agreed by the three DGs. This checklist was drafted by DG MARE and tested during the three related thematic audit carried out during October and November 2019. Based on the experience gained during these audits it will be updated in 2020 to be available for the thematic audits planned during the second half of the year.

**Objective:** The risk of fraud is minimised through the application of effective anti-fraud measures and the implementation of the Commission Anti-Fraud Strategy (CAFS)<sup>31</sup> aimed at the prevention, detection and correction<sup>32</sup> of fraud

**Main outputs in 2020:**

Output	Indicator	Target
Support Member States in further administrative capacity building in the field of fraud prevention and detection	Provide relevant information to the Member States' authorities during meetings, including update of template letters, as necessary	100%
Enhance the harmonised approach for anti-fraud related audits	Update of checklist for auditing Key Requirement 7 (effective and proportional anti-fraud measures by the Member States) and disseminate to the other Structural Funds DGs	Late 2020
Regular meetings with counterparts from OLAF policy and investigative units	Number of meetings per year	At least 2 meetings in 2020

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<sup>31</sup> Communication from the Commission 'Commission Anti-Fraud Strategy: enhanced action to protect the EU budget', [COM\(2019\) 196 final of 29.04.2019](#) – 'the CAFS Communication' – and the accompanying action plan, [SWD\(2019\) 170 final](#) – 'the CAFS Action Plan'.

<sup>32</sup> Correction of fraud is an umbrella term, which notably refers to the recovery of amounts unduly spent and to administrative sanctions.

## D. Digital transformation and information management

### Information and knowledge management

DG MARE will continue the revamping of its web presence in line with corporate guidance under the digital transformation process. This involves putting user needs first, making what the EU does easier to understand and striving for cost efficiency, including by reducing the overall amount of content and number of **websites maintained by DG MARE**.

DG MARE will deploy its intranet as a means to sharing information between management and staff and among staff, sustaining a collaborative community of active users. DG MARE will proactively align internal communication actions with the forthcoming “together” campaign, fostering a harmonized approach and harvesting efficiency gains, where relevant.

MARE’s Staff Engagement Action Plan contains actions aiming to improve **information flow** in the DG, in particular between colleagues working with a specific sea-basin or Member State. This includes, for example, the development of informal thematic or geographic networks. In addition, we continue to try and improve process for bringing newcomers on-board more rapidly, and also to draw on **knowledge** of colleagues with long-standing experience (Active Seniors, Legacy Talks).

### Digital transformation

In order to enhance corporate and local data management, building on our experience in DG MARE, we contribute to the elaboration of corporate rules for managing and providing corporate reference data. This will allow avoiding redundancy in managing data when exchanging/sharing between various entities and partners. Moreover, we ensure that data assets are governed in accordance with corporate rules on data governance. When such databases include personal data, the rules on the protection of personal data set out in Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 must be complied with. For several of the IT systems elaborated by DG MARE, these obligations require for instance keeping a record available in the public register of the Data Protection Officer of the Commission<sup>33</sup> and informing concerned people about the main elements of processing of their personal data by means of specific privacy statements.

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<sup>33</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/dpo-register/>

**Objective:** Compliance by DG MARE with corporate data strategy

**Main outputs in 2020:**

<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
Corporate rules for managing corporate reference data	Alignment	Full implementation within MARE data assets
Inventory of data assets	Up-to-date inventory of MARE data assets	100%

DG MARE will continue in 2020 with its **Digital Modernisation Plan** (DMP), which is in line with the Digital Strategy of the European Commission. The main needs identified in the DMP correspond to having more solutions for collaborative work (videoconference and sharing platforms), tools streamlining the legislative process across EU Institutions, increasing the availability of mobile tools, better external communication platforms and enhanced availability and access to data. Progressing with solutions to cover all these needs relies on support from corporate services and from the corporate governance board.

The IT plan supporting business needs are implemented according to the **priorities** established by the DG MARE IT Steering Committee:

1) Support existing operational systems under the Integrated Fisheries Management Programme (IFDM) and develop new tools with the projects Licence, FLUX-FMC and Data Management:

- FLUX FMC: the development of the system (remaining must functionalities, integration of the Movements module and architectural improvements) should be completed within the context of the existing QTM contract. The budget proposed for 2020 covers also maintenance after the system enters into operation;
- LICENCE: after the completion of the first phase of the project LICENCE in February 2020, the development of the following phases of the application should be done gradually in 2020 and 2021. This is closely linked to the entering into force of Regulation (EU) 2017/2403 on the sustainable management of external fishing fleets<sup>34</sup>;
- Data Storage Solution: the analysis of technical options should be completed in 2020, thus preparing the ground for a decision on the way forward. The priority for 2020 is to define better the business needs and pilot important aspects of the solution;

2) Provide guidance on IT to business Units, especially as regards the alignment with corporate requirements and with the EC Digital Strategy;

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<sup>34</sup> [Regulation \(EU\) 2017/2403 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 December 2017 on the sustainable management of external fishing fleets, and repealing Council Regulation \(EC\) No 1006/2008.](#)

3) Progressing with corporate actions, notably the migration of our Local Data Centre, phasing out of outdated technologies (ColdFusion) and supporting DG DIGIT in the modernisation of our Digital Workplace.

Finally, the IT Strategy of DG MARE will be updated for the period 2020-2024 to support DG MARE objectives, the political priorities and taking into account the principles of the new EC Digital Strategy.

**Objective:** DG MARE is using innovative, trusted digital solutions for better policy-shaping, information management and administrative processes to forge a truly digitally transformed, user-focused and data-driven Commission

**Main outputs in 2020:**

Output	Indicator	Target
Development of IFDM tools	Alignment with the IT Plan	December 2020

**Document management**

Our priorities for 2020 as regards Document Management are the following:

- **Contribute to a digital, paperless administration by:** ensuring the correct application of the corporate list of documents requiring handwritten ink signature, following the progress and gradual implementation of the future qualified electronic signature and keep on working towards full implementation of electronic workflows in ARES (Advanced Records System) and integrated systems; supporting the reduction of office paper consumption and switching subscription to paper newsletters and magazines to online access and/or promote sharing paper copies amongst colleagues; supporting the integration of IT systems to the Commission’s central register “Hermes” making sure e-Domec rules are followed.
- **Contribute to the sharing of data, information and knowledge and to networking by:** promoting the widest sharing of files within the DG and throughout the Commission (between DGs and EU Agencies mainly EASME) to ensure good flow of information while ensuring the protection and security of sensitive and classified information and facilitating the access to documents on a “Need to know” basis; promoting proper electronic register and filing of documents, high quality filing plan and better metadata quality of documents and files. This will be done via networking such as the Document Management Correspondents group in DG MARE, direct dialogue with the operational Units, communication and training actions.
- **Contribute to a data driven administration by:** cooperating with the IT sector for the development and implementation of the future Digital Preservation Strategy for medium and long term preservation of IT systems; supporting the data, information and knowledge corporate search by promoting the use of better

metadata in ARES (Advanced Records System) and NOMCOM (*Nomenclature Commune*).

- **Contribute to the protection of personal data by:** cooperating with the Data Protection Coordinator in the sharing of knowledge and application of rules on protection of personal data.

**Objective:** DG MARE is using innovative, trusted digital solutions for better policy-shaping, information management and administrative processes to forge a truly digitally transformed, user-focused and data-driven Commission

**Main outputs in 2020:**

Output	Indicator	Target
Implementation of e-signatory workflow as a general rule on internal and outgoing documents	Minimum percentage of non-incoming registered documents with a fully approved e-signatory	90%
	Maximum percentage of above mentioned documents with a paper circulation in parallel	15%
Sharing data, information and knowledge: files opened to the entire Commission	Minimum percentage of MARE files opened to the entire Commission	40%
Filing of registered documents	Percentage of non-filed registered documents	≤1%
Use of internal message in ARES	Minimum number of total internal messages used in ARES at the end of 2020	250
Reducing paper storage in eligible case	Minimum reduction of volume of paper files stored in MARE archives spaces (in linear meters and corresponding number of files (physical units) approximately)	15 linear meters / ±180 files (physical units)



## **Protection of personal data**

Since 2018, new rules on protection of personal data apply to the EU Institutions. The Data Protection Coordinator in DG MARE provides guidance on the implementation of these rules laid down in the Internal Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 and the Commission's Data Protection Action Plan (C(2018) 7432).

These rules essentially set out how the right to the protection of personal data enshrined in Article 8(1) EU Charter of the fundamental rights and Article 16(1) TFEU is to be guaranteed in the daily work of the Commission services. In the fisheries and maritime policy, DG MARE handles personal data of many sorts such as identification and professional data of natural persons like stakeholders, or vessels identifiers, which under certain circumstances can constitute personal data of owners and operators of fishing vessels.

On the basis of the work done in 2019, DG MARE's work will continue the focus on ensuring compliance with the data protection rules, in particular by:

- Keeping an updated and complete inventory of all data processing operations (new records and finalisation of the conversion of the notifications of DG MARE into records in the IT system dedicated to record keeping of the Commission – the Data Protection Records Management System which then makes all finalised records available for public consultation in the public register);
- Continued assessment of compliance with general principles in particular as regards lawfulness, data minimisation and storage limitation, by for instance the Data Protection Coordinator will keep the controllers in DG MARE informed about the rules and principles and check with the controllers whether the processing operations under their responsibility are compliant with these rules and principles;
- Appropriate information provided to the data subjects concerned through concise and intelligible privacy statements (including a thorough exercise of updating the specific privacy statements on the websites under DG MARE's responsibility);
- Implementing the Commission decision (EU) 2019/1862 laying down internal rules in relation to the provision of information to data subjects and the restrictions of certain of their rights in the context of implementing Council Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008 establishing a Community system to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing;
- Organisation of awareness raising events such as lunch conferences about the topic, trainings to newcomers and, if necessary, joint workshops with the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME) to explain how to protect personal data when managing projects delegated to this Agency by DG MARE.

**Objective:** Compliance by DG MARE with rules on the protection of personal data

**Main outputs in 2020:**

<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
Record keeping of processing operations under DG MARE's responsibility	Conversion rate of legacy notifications into records; finalization of pending draft records (the number of pending draft records)	Full conversion of legacy notification to published records;
Updated specific privacy statements by means of which natural persons are informed about their rights and the processing operations of their personal data	Updating all websites under DG MARE's responsibility and IT systems managing personal data, informing natural persons when collecting data	Full compliance every time personal data are collected and processed
Implementing the Commission decision (EU) 2019/1862	Establishing internal DG MARE's procedure on handling in line with the decision every time DG MARE restricts certain rights of natural persons	Compliance with the decision and internal procedure every time application of restrictions of certain rights of natural persons is necessary
Awareness raising on the rules and principles of personal data	Number of events organised and trainings given by the DPC	Every time ARES training is organised to the newcomers to DG MARE, DPC presents the basic information on the protection of personal data, DPC organises lunch conferences on different aspects of personal data, DPC may also organise, if necessary joint workshops with partners (e.g. DPO of EASME)

## E. Sound environmental management

In January 2020, DG MARE adopted a package of measures to reduce the environmental footprint of our DG. These measures were developed in an inclusive manner, building on many individual local initiatives put in place in DG MARE in recent years, at the initiative of the Greening MARE Team and MARE management.

The 2020 Greening MARE package includes at its core, the Strategy to Reduce DG MARE's Carbon Footprint<sup>35</sup>, which was endorsed by Commissioner Virginijus Sinkevičius and presented to staff in an all-staff meeting on 31 January 2020. During this event, all MARE managers signed a MARE Green Pledge<sup>36</sup>, accompanying the Greening Strategy, in which they commit to implement a number of measures to reduce MARE's Carbon Footprint. To raise awareness of the importance of staff's behaviour in reducing our carbon footprint, DG MARE also launched a "MARE New Year's Resolution 2020" video featuring MARE colleagues and teams making a personal pledge to adopt a green behaviour at work.

The Green Strategy covers the following core areas for which we set targets to reduce DG MARE's carbon footprint: MARE conferences, missions, commuting to work, resources and waste, electricity and gas. The reductions will be achieved through a combination of structural measures and supporting actions, such as training, and in addition, the strategy presents "good practices" which all colleagues are encouraged to adopt on a voluntary basis to help us reduce our carbon footprint, and meet our target.

In addition to improvements at local level, DG MARE will continue to contribute to ongoing corporate efforts to reduce the Commission's environmental footprint. This will be done through our contribution to the EMAS Steering Committee, which DG MARE was invited to join in 2019 following our active contribution to waste-reduction in the Commission, as well as through the EMAS network and by sharing good practice with other services. In addition, DG MARE is an active member of the Steering Committee for the Study on the Feasibility of Making the Commission Carbon-neutral by 2030, which will provide key input for the Commission to adopt longer-term measures to meet its 2030 carbon-neutrality objective.

If successfully implemented, these environmental measures should result in financial savings for the Commission (e.g. fewer missions and fewer resources used). For several structural measures, such as those relating to infrastructure, we rely on support from corporate services such as the Office for Infrastructure and Logistics in Brussels (OIB).

The table below reflects the targets and outputs adopted in our Strategy to Reduce DG MARE's Carbon Footprint. According to the UNEP's Emissions Gap Report 2019<sup>37</sup>, the

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<sup>35</sup> <https://myintracomm.ec.europa.eu/dg/mare/NewsPortal/Documents/MareIntranetNewsMain/strategy-to-reduce-dg-mare-s-carbon-footprint.pdf>

<sup>36</sup> <https://myintracomm.ec.europa.eu/dg/mare/collaboration/Documents/greening/signed-management-greening-pledge.pdf>

<sup>37</sup> UNEP's emissions gap report 2019.

greenhouse gas reduction required worldwide is of a magnitude of 7.6% per year<sup>38</sup>. Those are the emission reductions we all must make to meet the Paris objective. At our level, therefore, we set a target to reduce the carbon footprint of DG MARE by 8% per year as of 2020. As we do not have data on DG MARE’s total emissions, beyond those generated by our missions, this target will be applied to each of the areas in the Strategy, at the level at which we can monitor our progress. The targets in this action plan may also be revised in light of new corporate targets, which the Commission may adopt in the coming years and the potential new areas that will be included in the monitoring system.

Regarding DG MARE Conferences, we do not have baseline data on their environmental impact, so we propose a target relating to the number of conferences that follow green criteria.

**Objective:** DG MARE takes full account of its environmental impact in all its actions and actively promotes measures to reduce the related day-to-day impact of the administration and its work

**Main results and outputs in 2020:**

Output	Indicator	Target <sup>39</sup>
Reduced carbon emissions caused by MARE missions	Emissions from MARE missions	Reduce by 8% compared to 2018
Reduced carbon emissions caused by commuting of MARE staff	Average number of working days on which MARE staff travelled to work by car	Reduce by 8% compared to 2019
Reduced consumption of paper	Number of paper sheets per person used in MARE building J-99	Reduce by 8% compared to 2018
Reduced generation of unsorted waste	Unsorted waste produced per person in MARE building -J99	Reduce by 8% compared to 2018
Reduced generation of PMD (plastic & metal) waste	PMD (plastic & metal) waste we produce in J99	Reduce by 8% compared to 2018
	Consumption of electricity & gas in MARE building J-99	Reduce by 8% compared to 2018

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<sup>38</sup> The UNEP emissions gap report 2019 calculated that to get in line with the Paris Agreement, emissions must drop 7.6% per year from 2020 to 2030 for the 1.5°C goal.

<sup>39</sup> To contribute internally to the Green Deal, and be consistent with the Paris Agreement, DG MARE has developed this strategy, which sets an annual target of 8% reduction of its carbon footprint as of 2020: <https://myintracomm.ec.europa.eu/dg/mare/NewsPortal/Documents/MareIntranetNewsMain/strategy-to-reduce-dg-mare-s-carbon-footprint.pdf>

## F. Example(s) of initiatives to improve economy and efficiency of financial and non-financial activities

We strive to continuously improve and optimise the **financial process**. While our control mechanisms will ensure full respect of the Financial Regulation requirements, further automation of the financial processes will be sought, together with exploring opportunities to further reduce the time needed to complete financial transactions.

For 2020, DG MARE will introduce a centralisation of the financial initiation of pre-financing payments for grants. The financial unit in DG MARE will immediately initiate these payments after the grant signature, thus reducing the risk of payment delays and shortening the workflows.

On the **IT contracts**, there are two actions aimed at more efficiency:

- Close follow up and flexible planning for the implementation of actions assigned to external consultants;
- Shifting the development from insourcing (external staff doing the development in-house) to outsourcing, which has proven to be effective in terms of deadlines and budget. It is yet to be seen on the long term how the quality and maintainability of the applications are. On the other hand, the contractual aspects are more tedious and take time. Until now, the experience is rather positive as the value for money is rather high.

As regards our **cooperation with the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises** (EASME): DG MARE has delegated a number of actions under the work programme 2020<sup>40</sup> to EASME in the following areas:

- 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 economic development in innovative and emerging maritime sectors (18 actions);
- Scientific advice and projects necessary for the development and the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy (6 actions).

Given their policy support nature, EASME will implement 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, closely cooperate with regard to communication, and provide policy-relevant feedback to DG MARE.

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<sup>40</sup> Commission Implementing Decision of 17.12.2019 on the financing of the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and the adoption of the work programme for 2020, C(2019) 8977 final.

## ANNEX: Performance tables

This annex includes under each specific objective the most important outputs planned for 2020.

General objective 1: A European Green Deal		
<i>Specific objective 1: More sustainable and competitive fisheries and aquaculture by 2024</i>		<i>Related to spending programmes: European Maritime and Fisheries Funds for 2014-2020 and 2021-2027</i>
Result indicator: Stocks fished at maximum sustainable yield (MSY) levels		
Main outputs in 2020:		
New policy initiatives		
Output	Indicator	Target
Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council "Towards more sustainable fishing in the EU: state of play and orientations for 2021" (PLAN/2020/7156)	Adoption by the Commission	Adopted: COM(2020) 248 and SWD(2020) 112 of 16/06/2020
Proposal for a Council Regulation on fishing opportunities in the Baltic Sea for 2021 (PLAN/2019/6187)	Adoption by the Commission	Adopted: COM(2020) 436 of 28/08/2020
Proposal for a Council Regulation fixing the fishing opportunities in Union waters and, for Union fishing vessels, in certain non-Union waters, for 2021 (PLAN/2019/6038)	Adoption by the Commission	October 2020
Proposal for a Council Regulation fixing for 2021 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks in the Mediterranean and Black Seas (PLAN/2019/6095)	Adoption by the Commission	Adopted: COM(2020) 377 of 17/08/2020
Proposal for a Council Regulation fixing the fishing opportunities for 2021-2022 for Union vessels fishing for deep-sea stocks (PLAN/2019/6049)	Adoption by the Commission	October 2020
Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council - Amendment of conservation and control measures in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea region (recast) (PLAN/2019/5890)	Adoption by the Commission	November 2020
Commission delegated regulations establishing <b>discard plans</b> for:	Adoption by the Commission	
- pelagic and demersal fisheries		Adopted: C(2020) 5645 of

in South-Western waters (PLAN/2018/4370)		21/08/2020 (merged with item PLAN/2018/4371, see below)
- pelagic and demersal fisheries in North-Western waters (PLAN/2018/4371)		Adopted: C(2020) 5645 of 21/08/2020
- small pelagic fisheries for industrial purposes in the North Sea (PLAN/2018/4373)		September 2020
- pelagic and demersal fisheries in the North Sea (PLAN/2018/4763)		Adopted: C(2020) 5640 of 21/08/2020
- small pelagic fisheries in the Mediterranean Sea (PLAN/2020/6487)		Adopted: C(2020) 5295 of 05/08/2020
Commission delegated regulations <b>amending the discard plan</b> for:	Adoption by the Commission	
- South-Western Waters demersal fisheries (PLAN/2019/5008)		September 2020
- North Sea demersal and South Western waters pelagic discard plans (PLAN/2019/5010)		Adopted: C(2020) 5823 of 28/08/2020
- demersal fisheries in the Mediterranean Sea for 2021 (PLAN/2020/6480)		Cancelled on 01/09/2020
Commission Delegated Regulation establishing technical measures for the North Sea and South-Western Waters (PLAN/2020/7641)	Adoption by the Commission	Adopted: C(2020) 5641 of 21/08/2020
Commission delegated regulation on a derogation to the Technical Measures Regulation for clams in Italian waters (PLAN/2020/6473)		Adopted: C(2020) 5342 of 13/08/2020
Commission delegated regulation on a high survivability exemption for Baltic salmon (PLAN/2020/6884)	Adoption by the Commission	Q4 2020
Commission delegated regulations amending fisheries conservation measures in the North Sea (PLAN/2018/4360, PLAN/2018/4363, PLAN/2018/4369, PLAN/2018/4366)	Adoption by the Commission	Q3-Q4 2020
Commission Implementing Regulation laying down the signal and implementation characteristics of acoustic deterrent devices (PLAN/2019/6221)	Adoption by the Commission	Adopted: C(2020) 4348 of 03/07/2020
Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 on the Common	Adoption by the Commission	Q4 2020

Fisheries Policy (Extension of the access to waters regime) (PLAN/2020/7512)		
<b>Initiatives linked to regulatory simplification and burden reduction</b>		
<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
See before: Proposal on conservation and control measures in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea region (recast) (PLAN/2019/5890)	Adoption by the Commission	November 2020
<b>Evaluations and fitness checks</b>		
<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
Evaluation of the Eel Regulation (PLAN/2018/2447)	Publication of the Staff Working Document	Published: SWD(2020) 35 and SWD(2020) 36 of 17/02/2020
Evaluation of access to deep-sea fishing in the north-east Atlantic (PLAN/2019/5337)	Publication of the Staff Working Document	Q4 2020
<b>Public consultations</b>		
<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and Council "Towards more sustainable fishing in the EU: state of play and orientations for 2021" (PLAN/2020/7156)	Public consultation launched	Public consultation from 17/06/2020 to 31/08/2020 <sup>41</sup>
Access to deep-sea fishing in the north-east Atlantic (linked to evaluation above)	Public consultation launched	Public consultation from 13/05/2020 to 05/08/2020 <sup>42</sup>
<b>External communication actions</b>		
<b>Output/ Result</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
Campaign promoting sustainable seasonal fish species among consumers	Impressions	1,000,000
Seminar for journalists on the Common Fisheries Policy	number of journalists	10
<b>Other important outputs</b>		
<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
Commission Report on the implementation of the multiannual plan for the Baltic Sea (PLAN/2019/5021)	Adoption by the Commission	September 2020
Commission Implementing Regulation on transfer of unused quotas 2019-2020 (PLAN/2020/6598)	Adoption by the Commission	Adopted: C(2020) 5099 of 30/07/2020

<sup>41</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/consultations/fishing-opportunities-2021-under-common-fisheries-policy\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/consultations/fishing-opportunities-2021-under-common-fisheries-policy_en)

<sup>42</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/11815-Evaluation-of-access-to-deep-sea-fishing-in-the-north-east-Atlantic/public-consultation>



## General objective 1: A European Green Deal

**Specific objective 1:** *More sustainable and competitive fisheries and aquaculture by 2024*

*Related to spending programmes: European Maritime and Fisheries Funds for 2014-2020 and 2021-2027*

### Result indicator: Profitability of the EU fishing fleet

#### Main outputs in 2020:

#### Other important outputs

Output	Indicator	Target
2020 Report on the balance between fleet capacity and fishing opportunities (STECF)	Publication of the report	December 2020
2020 Annual Economic Report on the EU fishing fleet (STECF)	Publication of the report	November 2020
2020 Report on Social data in the EU fisheries sector (STECF)	Publication of the report	December 2020
Finalisation of the EU Fleet Portal on Europa website	Release of the portal	April 2020 <sup>43</sup>

## General objective 1: A European Green Deal

**Specific objective 1:** *More sustainable and competitive fisheries and aquaculture by 2024*

*Related to spending programmes: European Maritime and Fisheries Funds for 2014-2020 and 2021-2027*

### Result indicators on aquaculture:

- **Volume and value of aquaculture production in the EU**
- **Volume of organic aquaculture production in the EU**
- **Profitability of aquaculture production in the EU**

#### Main outputs in 2020:

#### New policy initiatives

Output	Indicator	Target
Commission Communication on the revision of the Strategic Guidelines for the sustainable development of EU aquaculture (PLAN/2019/5572)	Adoption by the Commission	Q4 2020

#### Evaluations and fitness checks

Output	Indicator	Target
Interim Evaluation of the Open Method of Coordination (OMC) for	Publication of the Staff Working	Published:

<sup>43</sup> [https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fleet-europa/index\\_en](https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fleet-europa/index_en)

the Sustainable Development of EU Aquaculture	Document	SWD(2020) 6 and SWD(2020) 7 of 14/01/2020
<b>Public consultations</b>		
<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
See 'New policy initiatives': revision of the Strategic Guidelines on EU aquaculture	Launch of the public consultation	Public consultation from 14/07/2020 to 27/10/2020 <sup>44</sup>
Proposal on the Review of the marketing standards for fishery and aquaculture products (planned adoption in Q2 2021, PLAN/2019/5780)	Launch of the public consultation (linked to an impact assessment)	October 2020
<b>External communication actions</b>		
<b>Output/ Result</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
Launch event for the revised Strategic Guidelines for EU Aquaculture	Stakeholder event to be held	November 2020
<b>Other important outputs</b>		
<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
2020 EU Fish Market report	Publication of the report	December 2020
The EU aquaculture sector. Economic Report 2020 (STECF)	Publication of the report	December 2020
Impact assessment study for an algae initiative	- Launch study - Final report	- Q2 2020 - Q1 2021

<sup>44</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12261-Strategic-Guidelines-for-EU-aquaculture-update/public-consultation>

## General objective 1: A European Green Deal

**Specific objective 1:** *More sustainable and competitive fisheries and aquaculture by 2024*

*Related to spending programmes: European Maritime and Fisheries Funds for 2014-2020 and 2021-2027*

**Result indicator: Effectiveness of Member States fisheries control systems measured by the number of control action plans implemented within the deadline set**

**Main outputs in 2020:**

### New policy initiatives

Output	Indicator	Target
Proposal on the revision of the Fisheries Control System (REFIT initiative) (COM(2018) 368; 2018/0193(COD) of 30/05/2018)	Adoption by the co-legislators	2021

### Initiatives linked to regulatory simplification and burden reduction

Output	Indicator	Target
See 'New policy initiatives': Proposal on the revision of the Fisheries Control System		

### Enforcement actions

Output	Indicator	Target
Commission implementing decisions establishing an action plan to improve the fisheries control and enforcement system of certain Member States (PLAN/2018/4040, PLAN/2018/4054, PLAN/2018/4055, PLAN/2020/6776 , PLAN/2020/6772, PLAN/2020/7368)	Adoption by the Commission	2020  Adopted: - PLAN/2018/4054: C(2020) 1858 of 27/03/2020 - PLAN/2018/4055: C(2020) 1633 of 18/03/2020 - PLAN/2020/7368: C(2020) 3154 of 18/05/2020

### Other important outputs

Output	Indicator	Target
Commission implementing decision amending Decision (EU) 2018/1986 on specific control and inspection programmes (PLAN/2019/6132)	Adoption by the Commission	September 2020
Control expenditure under EMFF Regulation (EU) No 508/2014 (shared management) and Regulation (EC) No 861/2006 (direct management)	Payments	2020
Commission decision on the designation of the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) as the body to carry out certain tasks in the context of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean	Adoption by the Commission	Adopted: C(2020) 3643 of 09/06/2020

(PLAN/2020/6509)		
Commission opinion draft Single Programming Document 2021 - 2025 of EFCA (PLAN/2020/6820)	Adoption by the Commission	Adopted: C(2020) 4279 of 30/06/2020
Commission implementing Decision on the withdrawal by the Commission of sampling plans, control programmes or common control programmes for the weighing of fisheries products in accordance with Articles 60 and 61 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 (PLAN/2020/6782)	Adoption by the Commission	Adopted: C(2020) 5526 of 17/08/2020
Commission implementing Decision approving sampling plans for the weighing of fishery products in accordance with Article 60 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 and control plans for the weighing of fishery products (PLAN/2018/4118)	Adoption by the Commission	Adopted: C(2020) 2944 of 08/05/2020
Roll-out of FLUX UN/CEFACT in the EU for all domains	Number of Member States exchanging in EU	22
Roll-out of FLUX FMC in MARE	Minimum viable product	July 2020
Deduction Commission Implementing Regulation from fishing quotas 2020 (PLAN/2020/6596)	Adoption by the Commission	Adopted: C(2020) 5898 of 02/09/2020
Deduction Commission Implementing Regulation other stocks 2020 (PLAN/2020/6597)	Adoption by the Commission	December 2020
Issuing of fishing stops due to established overfishing (PLAN/2020/6595)	Adoption by the Commission (subdelegation)	Continuous

## General objective 1: A European Green Deal

**Specific objective 1:** *More sustainable and competitive fisheries and aquaculture by 2024*

*Related to spending programmes: European Maritime and Fisheries Funds for 2014-2020 and 2021-2027*

**Result indicator: Contribution from the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) for 2014-2020 and 2021-2027 to climate related EU spending**

**Main outputs in 2020:**

### New policy initiatives

Output	Indicator	Target
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))	Adoption by the co-legislators	Q4 2020

### Initiatives linked to regulatory simplification and burden reduction

Output	Indicator	Target
See 'New policy initiatives': proposal on the EMFF post-2020.		

### Evaluations and fitness checks

Output	Indicator	Target
Interim evaluation of the direct management under the EMFF (2017/MARE/018)	Publication of the Staff Working Document	September 2020

### Other important outputs

Output	Indicator	Target
Commission Implementing Regulation on specific measures to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak in the fishery and aquaculture sector (PLAN/2020/7639)	Adoption by the Commission	Adopted: C(2020) 4634 of 14/07/2020
Regional challenges in achieving the objectives of the Common Fisheries Policy – a sea basin perspective to guide negotiations on EMFF operational programmes for 2021-2027 (PLAN/2020/7099)	Publication of the Staff Working Document	September 2020
Commission implementing decisions on the modification of the EMFF operational programme of the Member States (except Luxemburg)		2020
Commission implementing decisions approving the work plan of Member	Adoption by the Commission	Q4 2020

States for data collection on fisheries and aquaculture for 2021 (PLAN/2020/6613)		
Commission implementing decision on the revision of the EU Programme for the list of surveys and thresholds for data collection on fisheries and aquaculture (PLAN/2018/3284)	Adoption by the Commission	Q4 2020
Commission delegated decision on the revision of the EU Programme for biological, environmental and socio-economic data collection in fisheries and aquaculture (PLAN/2018/3286)	Adoption by the Commission	Q4 2020
Commission Report on the exercise of power to adopt delegated acts under the Data Collection Framework Regulation (PLAN/2020/6584)	Adoption by the Commission	Adopted: COM(2020) 131 of 02/04/2020
Commission Report on the implementation and functioning of the Data Collection Framework Regulation (PLAN/2020/6828)	Adoption by the Commission	October 2020

## General objective 1: A European Green Deal

**Specific objective 2:** A sustainable blue economy generating sustainable economic development, jobs and prosperity by 2024

Related to spending programmes: European Maritime and Fisheries Funds for 2014-2020 and 2021-2027

### Result indicator: Size of the EU blue economy in terms of:

- **Percentage of gross value added (GVA) generated by the blue economy relative to the total economy**
- **Percentage of employment in the blue economy relative to the total economy**
- **Direct employment in the blue economy in number of persons**

### Main outputs in 2020:

#### New policy initiatives

Output	Indicator	Target
Commission Communication on Atlantic action plan 2.0 (PLAN/2018/4630)	Adoption by the Commission	Adopted: COM(2020) 329 and SWD(2020) 140 of 23/07/2020

#### External communication actions

Output/ Result	Indicator	Target
BlueInvest 2020	Satisfaction of participants	80%

#### Other important outputs

Output	Indicator	Target
UfM ministerial declaration on Sustainable Blue Economy 2020 (PLAN/2020/6298)	Adoption by the Commission	Q4 2020
Methodological Guidance document to assist Outermost Regions in their efforts to set up blue economy strategies	Publication	Q2 2020
BlueInvest Fund	Call for Expression of Interest from European Investment Fund	April 2020
Mechanism for clustering EMFF projects	Contract signed	December 2020
Monitoring tool for EMFF	Ability to collect information on key performance indicators for shared management	December 2020
Maritime Forum upgrade	Ability to handle all features of the BlueInvest Community, Ocean Governance Forum and the Ocean Literacy Platform	September 2020
Commission Decision on the financing of the preparatory action "Charter of good practices for a sustainable cruise tourism" and the adoption of the work programme for 2020 (PLAN/2020/7510)	Adoption by the Commission	Adopted: C(2020) 2588 of 28/04/2020

## General objective 1: A European Green Deal

**Specific objective 2:** A sustainable blue economy generating sustainable economic development, jobs and prosperity by 2024

Related to spending programmes: European Maritime and Fisheries Funds for 2014-2020 and 2021-2027

**Result indicator: Improved marine knowledge measured by the degree of use of the European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet) in terms of the quantity of downloaded data per month**

**Main outputs in 2020:**

### New policy initiatives

Output	Indicator	Target
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)	Commission adopts the Strategic Plan	2020
Contribution to the Communication reacting to the proposal for missions on "Healthy oceans, seas, coastal and inland waters"	Adoption by the Commission	December 2020

### Evaluations and fitness checks

Output	Indicator	Target
Evaluation of EMODnet (PLAN/2017/1441)	Publication of the Staff Working Document	Q4 2020

### Public consultations

Output	Indicator	Target
Legislative initiative on Ocean Observation (adoption planned in Q3 2021) (PLAN/2020/7284)	Public consultation launched (linked to an impact assessment)	Q4 2020

### Other important outputs

Output	Indicator	Target
Call for tender for two decarbonisation studies	Contract signature	November 2020
Call for tender for seven thematic portals for EMODnet	Contract signature for bathymetry	December 2020
Delivery of more data and data products through central gateway	Number of thematic portals providing all data through central portal	Bathymetry migration complete by December 2020



## General objective 1: A European Green Deal

**Specific objective 2:** A sustainable blue economy generating sustainable economic development, jobs and prosperity by 2024

Related to spending programmes: European Maritime and Fisheries Funds for 2014-2020 and 2021-2027

**Result indicator: Reduction of economic impact of marine litter measured in terms of median number of litter items per 100 metres of beach in the EU**

**Main outputs in 2020:**

### New policy initiatives

Output	Indicator	Target
Standard for the circular design of fishing gear (mandate for CEN)	Commission Decision	December 2020
Implementing decision on reporting formats and methodologies for calculations of fishing gear placed on market and waste fishing gear collected (PLAN/2020/6679)	Adoption by the Commission	Q4 2020

### External communication actions

Output/ Result	Indicator	Target
DG MARE leads the 3rd edition of the global #EUBeachCleanup campaign, jointly with DG COMM and EEAS and in partnership with the United Nations, IMPS/Smurfs and a number of civil society organisations, this time, due to the pandemic, as virtual event	impressions	5.000.000

### Other important outputs

Output	Indicator	Target
Study on circular design of fishing gear	Study report published	Published on 28/08/2020 <sup>45</sup>
Study in reporting for Extended Producer Responsibility for fishing gear	Study report published	September 2020
Co-creation and collaboration events with European teachers and students for ocean literacy using European Atlas of Seas	Number of events	2 in 2020
Creation of 3 EU4Ocean communities	Number of members	80

<sup>45</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/easme/en/news/study-shapes-standards-circular-design-fishing-gear>

## General objective 1: A European Green Deal

**Specific objective 2:** A sustainable blue economy generating sustainable economic development, jobs and prosperity by 2024

Related to spending programmes: European Maritime and Fisheries Funds for 2014-2020 and 2021-2027

**Result indicator: Maritime security measured by the number of new CISE (Common Information Sharing Environment) connections/ nodes**

**Main outputs in 2020:**

### New policy initiatives

Output	Indicator	Target
MARE and EEAS: Joint Staff Working Document Report on the implementation of the EU Maritime Security Strategy Action Plan (PLAN/2019/6280)	Adoption by the Commission	September 2020

### Other important outputs

Output	Indicator	Target
Grant to EMSA facilitating consolidation of coordination and technical support to Member States authorities in the CISE transitional phase	Grant allocation Number of additional Member States (authorities) participating in the CISE network (besides the ones owning a national node)	Q3 2020
European Coast Guard Functions Forum (ECGFF)	Grant allocation Number of participating countries	December 2020 21
Mediterranean Coast Guard Functions Forum (MedCGFF)	Number of participating countries	14 (including 5 EU-Member States)

## General objective 1: A European Green Deal

**Specific objective 2:** A sustainable blue economy generating sustainable economic development, jobs and prosperity by 2024

Related to spending programmes: European Maritime and Fisheries Funds for 2014-2020 and 2021-2027

**Result indicator: Installed capacity of EU offshore wind energy and ocean energy**

**Main outputs in 2020:**

### New policy initiatives

Output	Indicator	Target
Commission Communication on an Atlantic action plan 2.0 (PLAN/2018/4630)	Adoption by the Commission	Adopted: COM(2020) 329 and SWD(2020) 140 of 23/07/2020

### Evaluations and fitness checks

Output	Indicator	Target
Evaluation of EU ocean energy development and the related policy (PLAN/2019/6047)	Publication of the Staff Working Document	Q4 2020

### Public consultations

Output	Indicator	Target
EU ocean energy policy, linked to evaluation above	Launch of the public consultation	Public consultation from 27/08/2020 to 10/12/2020 <sup>46</sup>
Stakeholder consultation on 'future use of the sea and Maritime Spatial Planning (possibly linked to a new initiative)	Launch of the public consultation	September 2020

### Other important outputs

Output	Indicator	Target
Skills development for the blue economy		
Ocean literacy	Launch of the platform	2020
Investment in the blue economy:		
- Assistance mechanism	Completed evaluation of calls for proposals for grants	March 2020
- Investment platform	Agreement by European Investment Fund to launch call for fund manager	March 2020
- Blue Invest Strategy	Conference takes place	BlueInvest conference took place (04/02/2020, Brussels) <sup>47</sup>
Blue Economy Financing Principles -	Number and representativeness of	

<sup>46</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12061-Evaluation-of-ocean-energy-development-and-support-policies>

<sup>47</sup> <https://blueinvest2020.converve.io/>

commitment by financial industry	financial institutions backing the principles.	
Supporting the environmental monitoring of ocean energy devices	Grant awards to successful tenderers	Q2 2020
Call for proposals MSP cross border cooperation Baltic, North Sea and Outermost regions	Publication of the call: May 2020 Grant award to projects following evaluation	May 2020 Q4 2020
Blue Economy Report 2020	Publication of the 3 <sup>rd</sup> edition	Published on 11 June 2020 <sup>48</sup>
Blue Indicators IT Tool	Ongoing improvement and addition of data	- Q1 2020: new sectors incorporated (done) - further improvements throughout 2020
Study on Economic benefits of Maritime Spatial Planning	Publication and dissemination of the final report	Study published on 24/06/ 2020 via the Publications Office of the EU <sup>49</sup>

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<sup>48</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_986](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_986)

<sup>49</sup> <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/254a6ac4-b689-11ea-bb7a-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>

## General objective 2: A Stronger Europe in the World

**Specific objective 3:** *More sustainable fisheries worldwide and improved international ocean governance by 2024*

*Related to spending programmes: Regional Fisheries Management Organisations*

**Result indicator: Sustainable management of the main regulated tuna and tuna-like species fished by the EU fleet under the purview of Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) of which the EU is a Member**

**Main outputs in 2020:**

### New policy initiatives

Output	Indicator	Target
Proposal for a Council Decision on the position to be taken on behalf of the EU at meetings of the Parties to the Agreement to Prevent Unregulated High Seas Fisheries in the Central Arctic Ocean (PLAN/2020/7932)	Adoption of the mandate	Adopted: COM(2020) 438 and 2020/0210 (NLE) of 31/08/2020

### Public consultations

Output	Indicator	Target
Launch of public consultation on the EU Arctic policy (linked to DG MARE and EEAS Joint Staff Working Document on the EU Arctic Policy, planned for Q1 2021 (PLAN/2020/7730))	Consultation launched	Public consultation from 21/07/2020 to 10/11/2020 <sup>50</sup>
Targeted consultation on International Ocean Governance	Consultation launched	Targeted consultation from 15/07/2020 to 15/10/2020 <sup>51</sup>

### Other important outputs

Output	Indicator	Target
Stakeholder Forum for International Ocean Governance	First meeting takes place	22-24 April 2020, Brussels <sup>52</sup>
BBNJ Workshop on Environmental Impact Assessments and Strategic Environmental Assessments	Workshop to contribute to the intersessional work of the BBNJ negotiations at the UN from 23 March to 3 April 2020	Workshop on 28-29 January 2020 brought together over 100 participants representing governments, international institutions, business, civil society and science to discuss the assessments chapter of the future Treaty. <sup>53</sup>

<sup>50</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12523-EU-Arctic-Policy>

<sup>51</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/consultations/targeted-consultation-international-ocean-governance\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/consultations/targeted-consultation-international-ocean-governance_en)

<sup>52</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/events/international-ocean-governance-forum-2020-apr-22\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/events/international-ocean-governance-forum-2020-apr-22_en)

<sup>53</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/press/eu-organised-international-workshop-environmental-impact-assessments-and-strategic\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/press/eu-organised-international-workshop-environmental-impact-assessments-and-strategic_en)

Implementation of the support for the FAO global capacity development umbrella programme on the Port States Measures Agreement	Number of third countries that received support	December 2020
Hosting of the Port State Measures Agreement Meeting of the Parties taking place in Brussels	Meeting to be held	Q4 2020
Our Ocean Conference 2020 – commitments	Adoption by the Commission and endorsement by Council	Q4 2020
UN Ocean Conference commitments	Adoption by the Commission and endorsement by Council	Before end of Q4 2020 (pending new date of the conference)
Discussion paper to the Oceans and Climate Dialogue	Supported by expert committee	Completed
Launch of a study on sound ocean governance	Launch of Terms of Reference	Q2 2020
Feasibility study for the setting-up of an EU-African Task Force for policy cooperation and dialogue on international ocean governance	Study completed	Q4 2020

## General objective 2: A Stronger Europe in the World

**Specific objective 3:** *More sustainable fisheries worldwide and improved international ocean governance by 2024*

*Related to spending programmes:  
Regional Fisheries Management Organisations*

**Result indicator: Conservation measures based on scientific advice adopted for the main regulated species fished by the EU fleet under the purview of Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) of which the EU is a Member**

**Main outputs in 2020:**

### New policy initiatives

Output	Indicator	Target
<p><b>Transposition of RFMO rules into EU law</b> – proposals for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a multiannual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean, amending Regulations (EC) No 1936/2001, (EU) 2017/2107, and (EU) 2019/833 and repealing Regulation (EU) 2016/1627</li> </ul>	Adoption by the European Parliament and by the Council	Q4 2020
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Proposal for a Regulation of EP and Council establishing an electronic catch documentation programme for Bluefin tuna (<i>Thunnus thynnus</i>) (2016/MARE/127)</li> </ul>	Adoption by the Commission	October 2020
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council regarding the introduction of the electronic reporting system in NEAFC (PLAN/2020/7568)</li> </ul>	Adoption by the Commission	Q4 2020
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Transposition of conservation and control measures adopted by the following RFMOs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean and the Black Sea (GFCM) (PLAN/2019/5890)</li> <li>o Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) (PLAN/2019/6100)</li> <li>o Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) (PLAN/2018/4714)</li> <li>o Western Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) (PLAN/2018/4716)</li> <li>o Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (NAFO)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Adoption by the Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o GFCM: November 2020</li> <li>o IOTC: Q4 2020</li> <li>o IATTC - adopted: COM(2020) 308 of 14/07/2020</li> <li>o WCPFC: Q4 2020</li> </ul>

(PLAN/2019/2515 PLAN/2019/6037)	and	o NAFO – adopted: PLAN/2019/2515: C(2020) 2561 of 27/04/2020 and PLAN/2019/6037: COM(2020) 215 of 29/05/2020
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## General objective 2: A Stronger Europe in the World

**Specific objective 3:** *More sustainable fisheries worldwide and improved international ocean governance by 2024*

*Related to spending programmes: European Maritime and Fisheries Funds for 2014-2020 and 2021-2027*

**Result indicator: Fighting illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing measured by the number of non-EU Member States that the Commission has engaged in a dialogue with and the number of countries having addressed their deficiencies**

**Main outputs in 2020:**

### New policy initiatives

Output	Indicator	Target
Commission Decisions on pre-identification of a third country as a non-cooperating third country in fighting IUU fishing	Adoption by the Commission	2020
Revocations of pre-identifications	Adoption by the Commission	2020
Commission Decisions on identification of a third country as a non-cooperating third country in fighting IUU fishing	Adoption by the Commission	2020
Revocations of identifications	Adoption by the Commission	2020
Commission implementing regulation on the EU list of vessels engaged in IUU fishing (update of list) (PLAN/2019/6003 and PLAN/2020/6792)	Adoption by the Commission	PLAN/2019/6003 adopted: C(2020) 1003 of 26/02/2020  PLAN/2020/6792: Q4 2020
Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on the application of Council Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008 establishing a Community system to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing (PLAN/2020/7741)	Adoption by the Commission	November 2020



## General objective 2: A Stronger Europe in the World

**Specific objective 3:** *More sustainable fisheries worldwide and improved international ocean governance by 2024*

*Related to spending programmes: European Maritime and Fisheries Funds for 2014-2020 and 2021-2027*

**Result indicator: Control of imports of fisheries products in the EU measured by the number of catch certificates import refusals by Member States**

**Main outputs in 2020:**

### Other important outputs

Output	Indicator	Target
Development of UN/FLUX standard on catch certificates: submission of Business Requirements Specifications document	Preparation of Business Requirements Specifications document	Q3 2020
Modernisation of the IUU catch certification system (CATCH 1.0) as part of DG SANTE TRACES system	List of amended functionalities in CATCH environment	Q4 2020
Commission Implementing Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 1010/2009 as regards administrative arrangements with third countries on catch certificates for marine fisheries products (PLAN/2019/5548)	Adoption by the Commission	Adopted: C(2020) 1658 of 19/03/2020

## General objective 2: A Stronger Europe in the World

**Specific objective 3:** More sustainable fisheries worldwide and improved international ocean governance by 2024

Related to spending programmes:  
Sustainable fisheries partnership agreements

**Result indicator: Number of sustainable fisheries partnership agreements (SFPAs) in force**

**Main outputs in 2020:**

### New policy initiatives

Output	Indicator	Target
<b>Proposals</b> for negotiation mandates and/or for the signature and conclusion of a <b>new SFPA/Protocol or the renewal of an existing SFPA/Protocol</b> with the following third countries <sup>54</sup> :	Adoption by the Commission	
- Cook Islands – mandate (PLAN/2019/5339) and proposals (PLAN/2020/8043 and 8044)		mandate adopted: COM(2020) 227 of 09/06/2020 proposals: October 2020
- Guinea – mandate (PLAN/2019/5069)		Q4 2020
- Gabon – proposals (2016/MARE/065, 066 and 067)		Q4 2020
- Greenland – proposals (PLAN/2018/4778, 4779 and 4780)		Q4 2020
- Kenya (proposals: 2016/MARE/053, 054 and 055)		Q4 2020
- Liberia – mandate (PLAN/2019/5255)		October 2020
- Mauritania (proposals: PLAN/2018/4743, 44 and 45)		Q4 2020
- Seychelles (proposals)		Adopted: COM(2020) 1, 2 and 3 of 7/01/2020
- EU-Seychelles Agreement on access to the waters of Mayotte (PLAN/2018/4897 and 4899)		Q4 2020
- Mozambique (proposals: 2015/MARE/009, 010 and 011)		Q4 2020

### Evaluations and fitness checks

Output	Indicator	Target
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<sup>54</sup> SFPAs and their associated protocols enter into force after concluding negotiations with the third country concerned.

Ex-post evaluation of the current SFPA/Protocol and ex-ante evaluation and analysis of the impact of a new SFPA/Protocol between the EU and:	Publication of the Staff Working Document	
- Cook Islands (PLAN/2019/5767)		Delivered: SWD(2020) 102 and 103 of 09/06/2020
- Liberia (PLAN/2019/5254)		October 2020

#### Other important outputs

Output	Indicator	Target
Commission Decisions regarding credits for the implementation of SFPAs (financing decisions)	Adoption by the Commission	2020
Proposal for a Council Regulation opening and providing for the administration of autonomous Union tariff quotas for imports of certain fishery products into the Canary Islands: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- from 2021 to 2023 (PLAN/2020/6747)</li> <li>- from 2021 to 2027 (PLAN/2019/5327)</li> </ul>	Adoption by the Commission <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Adopted: COM(2020) 322 of 14/07/2020</li> <li>- Adopted: COM(2020) 437 of 31/08/2020</li> </ul>	

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