

Management Plan 2025

Directorate-General for
Maritime Affairs and Fisheries

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PART 1. Introduction and strategic outlook

Mission statement and operating context

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

“To strive for healthy seas and ocean, in the EU and worldwide, for today’s and future generations, and boost the sustainable blue economy. This involves the conservation of marine biological resources through the full implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy, which also contributes to providing jobs and prosperity to fishers and coastal communities as well as food security. All this is supported by a comprehensive agenda for marine knowledge, research, innovation and investment; and can only be done through a holistic approach to all policies impacting the ocean and projecting these policies internationally.”

DG MARE’s work is guided by the [Commission’s Political Guidelines for 2024-2029](#) and President von der Leyen’s [mission letter](#) to the Commissioner for Fisheries and Oceans, Costas Kadić. Our deliverables contribute mainly to three priority areas: “A new plan for Europe’s sustainable prosperity and competitiveness”, “Sustaining our quality of life: food security, water and nature”, and “A global Europe: Leveraging our power and partnerships”. Internationally, our actions contribute to the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals 2030 (SDGs), notably SDG 14 dedicated to life below water, SDG 2 on food security and SDG 13 addressing climate change and its impacts.

Under the **common fisheries policy (CFP)** – the first strand of our work – the EU has **exclusive competence** for the conservation of marine biological resources, which also applies to the policy’s external dimension, notably Union activities in international fisheries organisations, the sustainable management of the EU’s external fishing fleet, the **sustainable fisheries partnership agreements (SFPAs)** with third countries and other forms of bilateral (e.g. UK, Norway, Iceland) and multilateral agreements (e.g. Regional Fisheries Management Organisations). On fisheries control, we work with the **European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA)**. For the areas of **shared competence** between the EU and its Member States ⁽¹⁾ – including aquaculture and market policy – the subsidiarity principle ⁽²⁾ applies. The maritime policy, in particular the sustainable blue economy policy, is the second strand of our actions. The third strand is international ocean governance for a safe, secure, clean and sustainably managed ocean.

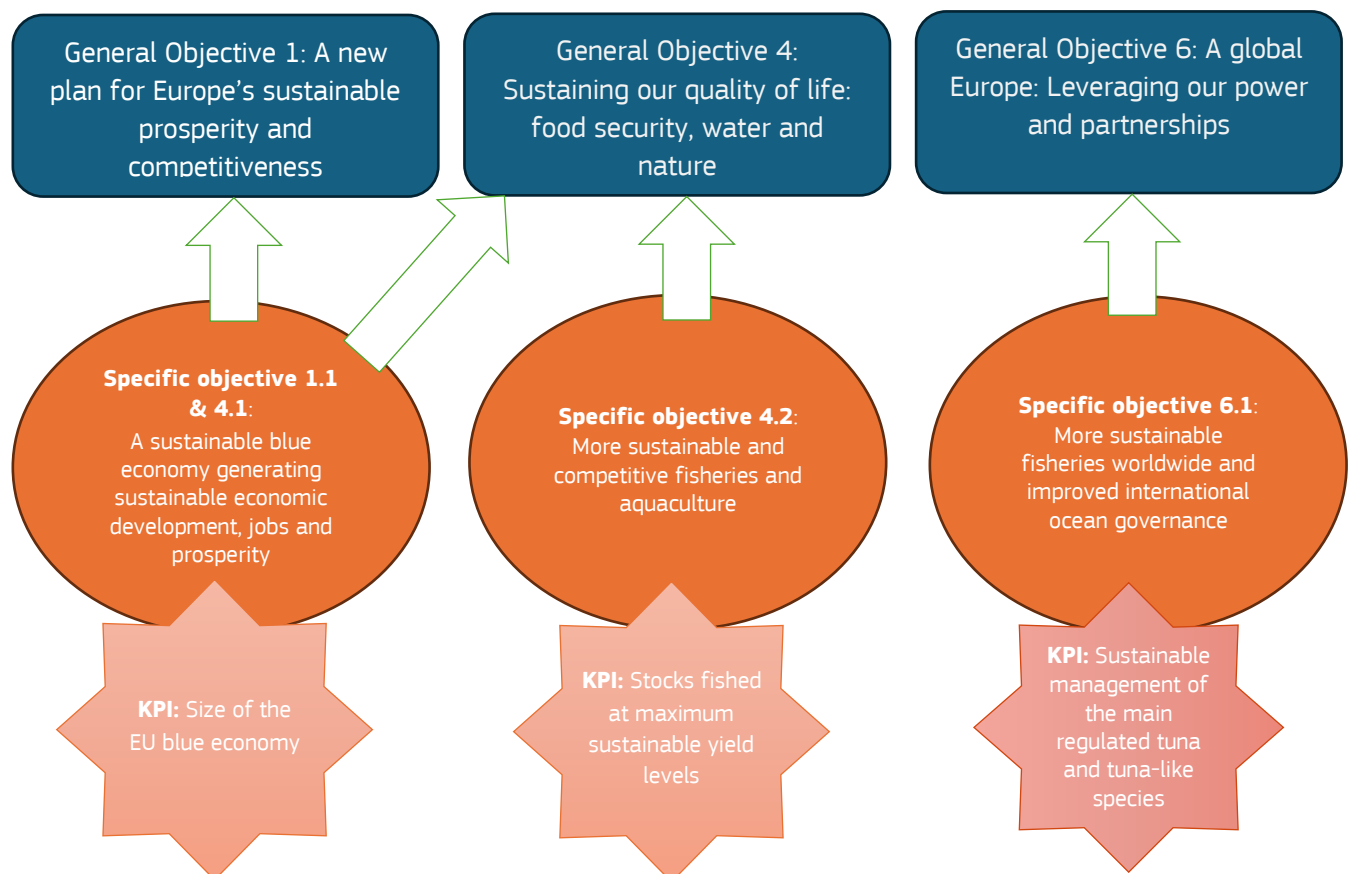
The European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) for 2021-2027 is the main and key instrument to support the implementation of the common fisheries policy and certain actions under the maritime policy and international ocean governance. The greatest

⁽¹⁾ Article 4(2)(d) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

⁽²⁾ Article 5(3) of the Treaty on the European Union.

part of the EMFAF financial allocation is managed in **shared management** jointly with the Member States, in addition to expenditure managed under **SFPAs, in direct and indirect management**. To implement the EMFAF, DG MARE is also working with the **Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA)**.

The following chart illustrates the links between three general objectives as well as DG MARE’s specific objectives and key performance indicators, which contribute to the general objectives for the period 2025-2029:



Strategic outlook 2025 - 2029

General Objective 1: A new plan for Europe's sustainable prosperity and competitiveness

General Objective 4: Sustaining our quality of life: food security, water and nature

Specific objective 1.1 & 4.1: A sustainable blue economy generating sustainable economic development, jobs and prosperity ⁽³⁾

Key performance indicator: Size of the EU blue economy

The **EU's blue economy is a powerhouse of economic and transformational potential**, supporting close to 5 million jobs and generating over EUR 250 billion in gross added value. It is integral to Europe's broader industrial and security strategy. It is wide spanning and diversified, with (i) traditional sectors such as fisheries, aquaculture, shipping, and coastal tourism; (ii) emerging sectors like renewable energy, blue biotechnology, underwater robotics, and ocean observation, as well as (iii) global ocean technologies champions, driven by innovations in AI, clean tech, and deep tech. Overall, the EU sustainable blue economy has an immense potential for an increased contribution to the EU's economic growth, to the creation of highly skilled and well-paid jobs, as well as to the EU's leading role on the global stage.

The **European Ocean Pact** outlines a roadmap of initiatives contributing, among others, to a sustainable blue economy.

The Pact also proposes an ambitious **EU Ocean Observation Initiative** to improve knowledge of the ocean. It will be underpinned by an **Ocean Research and Innovation Strategy** and feed the European Digital Twin of the Ocean.

A **strategy for resilience and opportunities in coastal communities** will be presented in 2026, forming a key pillar of the Ocean Pact. This initiative will address climate impacts, biodiversity loss, and socio-economic challenges while promoting the blue economy, including sustainable fisheries, aquaculture, and renewable energy.

DG MARE will contribute, inter alia, to the new Bioeconomy Strategy, the Industrial Maritime Strategy, which should include a Blue Economy Alliance, the new Pact for the

⁽³⁾ This specific objective is also linked to General Objective 4: Sustaining our quality of life: food security, water and nature, as a sustainable blue economy is one of the means to ensure food security and the health of our seas and ocean.

Mediterranean, the EU strategic approach for the Black Sea region and the EU Port Strategy. DG MARE will put forward a **Blue Generational Renewal Strategy** in 2027.

To enhance competitiveness of the EU single market and accelerate strategic transitions, especially decarbonisation, the EU must scale up innovation across traditional and emerging blue economy sectors. This means further supporting our fisheries and aquaculture sectors, fast-tracking the deployment of clean blue technologies, supporting business models that preserve or restore ocean ecosystems and biodiversity — through nature-based solutions and carbon-negative products — and creating the right conditions for growth. This requires a smart mix of public funding, private investment, enabling regulation, skills development, knowledge sharing, and effective maritime spatial planning.

Maritime security is a key enabler for the development of a sustainable blue economy and for ensuring vital EU interests at sea but also on land. As such, the objective of maintaining a secure maritime space around the EU and beyond forms an integral part of the **European Ocean Pact**. In the current geopolitical situation, with the multiplication of threats in the maritime domain, the implementation of the EU Maritime security strategy (EUMSS) and its Action Plan remain a key priority for DG MARE for 2025 and beyond. Moreover, in 2026 the Commission and the High Representative will present a report on the implementation of the EUMSS.

To achieve the Ocean Pact's targets, the Commission will present an **Ocean Act** by 2027. This Act will establish a single framework to facilitate the implementation of the Pact's key objectives, while cutting red tape. It will build on the Maritime Spatial Planning Directive, which will enhance cross-sectoral coordination and sea basin management.

General Objective 4: Sustaining our quality of life: food security, water and nature

Specific objective 4.2: More sustainable and competitive fisheries and aquaculture

Key performance indicator: Stocks fished at maximum sustainable yield levels

Fisheries and aquaculture are a key blue economy sector. They are vital for food supply and EU food security, yet 70% of aquatic food consumed in the EU today is imported. It is a priority to ensure stable supply for the EU market through full implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and increased aquaculture production, while safeguarding marine resources and ecosystems. As announced in the [Vision for Agriculture and Food](#), the comprehensive **evaluation of the CFP Regulation, including the provisions of the Common Market Organisation (CMO)**, and the **Vision 2040 for fisheries and aquaculture** will mark a significant milestone ensuring long-term competitiveness and

resilience of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors and underpinning a sustainable EU food system.

The **CFP** aims to maximise seafood catches within sustainable limits. To this end, catch limits and effort limitations have to be set at levels that maintain healthy fish stocks in the long term (maximum sustainable yield, MSY). A stock is fished sustainably at MSY when the ratio between actual fishing mortality (F) and fishing mortality at MSY (F_{msy}) is below or equal to 1. After many years of downward trends, the MSY rates have reached 0.59 for the North-East Atlantic, and 0.94 for the Mediterranean and Black Seas ⁽⁴⁾.

The aim will be to bring (and hold) the MSY rate for all stocks (for those stocks assessed and for which data is available) at, or below 1. **The evaluation of the CFP Regulation**, due for completion in 2026 will be the basis for informed decisions on how best to continue this positive trend and **to develop a long-term vision for a resilient, competitive and sustainable fisheries and aquaculture sector with a 2040 perspective**. The **2026 energy transition roadmap** will serve as a strategic plan to help the sector become more sustainable, resilient, and climate-neutral by 2050.

The stocks in the Baltic Sea continue to be under pressure from several sources other than fisheries, which have led to an ecosystem failure and a degraded biodiversity, with failure to implement EU legislation continuing to be an issue, and the effect of nutrient enrichment on fisheries being widespread in the ecoregion. Pressures from agriculture, timber industry and other land-based activities will continue to negatively affect the ecosystem in the Baltic Sea if action is not stepped up to improve the implementation of EU legislation. While the Baltic Sea multiannual plan provides many tools to help fish stocks recover, it is important for Member States to implement all EU legislation in full, in order to tackle this ecosystem failure. The commitments made in the Our Baltic [2020 ministerial declaration](#) and [2023 conference](#) continue to be of vital importance.

In the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, efforts to strengthen fisheries management and to improve the state of stocks still need to be pursued, while also considering the socio-economic dimension of fisheries. Alongside ensuring full implementation of EU measures, such as the [Multi-annual Plan for the Western Mediterranean Sea \(West Med MAP\)](#), the EU will continue to play a crucial role in pushing forward adequate management measures, and their enforcement for shared stocks applicable to all coastal states involved in the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), with the aim to ensure a level playing field at the regional level.

⁽⁴⁾ [Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries \(STECF\) Adhoc-25-01](#). In this report, “North-East Atlantic” refers to stocks in FAO Area 27 inside and outside EU waters, and “Mediterranean and Black Seas” refers to stocks in FAO Area 372. The stocks that are included in the North-East Atlantic analysis are those stocks in International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) category 1, 2 and 3, for which assessments are available and that were managed through a total allowable catch (TAC) at EU level in 2017 (based on DG MARE’s total allowable catches / quotas database).

Based on the 2021 [Strategic Guidelines for Aquaculture](#), the Commission has taken measures to further develop the potential of EU aquaculture. Following a mid-term assessment of the guidelines in 2025, we will explore whether additional measures are needed, including aquaculture development further offshore and integrating aquaculture with other uses, notably offshore wind farms and nature restoration. The European Ocean Pact announced an **EU Partnership on Aquaculture**, which will bring the open method of coordination to a different level by setting concrete targets and actions, including the development of projects aimed at multi-use of the space, as well as cooperation between Member States sharing the same sea basin.

General Objective 6: A global Europe: Leveraging our power and partnerships

Specific objective 6.1: More sustainable fisheries worldwide and improved international ocean governance

Key performance 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

Under the umbrella of the European Ocean Pact, we will promote the EU's international ocean governance agenda, in particular through a strategic approach to ocean diplomacy and an **EU strategy for fisheries external action**, to confirm the EU's role as a credible and reliable actor at global stage, leading the way on international ocean governance, both at multilateral and bilateral level.

We will do so by seeking ambitious results in multilateral events and negotiations in support of reaching SDG 14, with priority to **protecting biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction** and putting an end to harmful fisheries subsidies in the context of the **World Trade Organization (WTO)**. We will promote a coherent approach for sustainable fisheries in all multilateral fora and bilateral dialogues, with priority to **strengthening Regional Fisheries Management Organisations** (RFMOs), designing **a new generation of sustainable fisheries partnership agreements**, and applying a **zero tolerance to illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing**. We will seek to strengthen cooperation and dialogue on fisheries and ocean with key partner regions and countries, building on existing EU strategies and relevant priorities. In these efforts, we will uphold a level playing field and protect the European fisheries value chain from unfair competition.

Cross-cutting efforts – implementation and simplification agenda

DG MARE will intensify the **systematic evaluation of its acquis** with particular attention to opportunities to simplify and reduce administrative burden. **The evaluation of the CFP Regulation** will assess the regulation's performance and its 'fitness for purpose', based on the key evaluation criteria of effectiveness, efficiency, relevance coherence and EU added value. A key element in this context is the analysis of cost, including administrative cost / burden, and benefit.

Stress-testing DG MARE's acquis will be a continuous process. It implies legal and economic analysis, together with gathering information and feedback from stakeholders in **implementation dialogues** between the Commissioner for Fisheries and Oceans and stakeholders, and from practitioners through **reality checks**. Where there is scope to simplify the acquis in a certain area, a stress test can lead to **proposals for regulatory simplification measures, or specific evaluation, or fitness check**.

DG MARE will adopt in 2025 its **simplification and administrative burden reduction roadmap**, with a list of concrete actions to successfully contribute to the Commission's simplification efforts, without undermining the policy objectives, including multi-annual planning of stress tests and reality checks.

The main conclusions of the implementation dialogues, reality checks and other relevant implementation and simplification-related activities will be presented in an **Annual Progress Report on implementation and enforcement**. The first report will be transmitted to the European Parliament and the Council by 30 September 2025, covering the period from 1 January to 31 July 2025. The subsequent reports will cover the period from 1 August of the previous year to 31 July of the ongoing year.

When shortcomings in the application and implementation of EU law by Member States persist despite dialogue and support activities, other tools to ensure compliance will be considered. **Infringement procedures** have proved useful to ensure that Member States respect relevant EU rules. We will continue to make use of the available tools, including legal enforcement as appropriate, to address situations of non-compliance with the EU provisions on a wide range of issues.

PART 2. Delivering on the Commission's priorities in 2025

General Objective 1: A new plan for Europe's sustainable prosperity and competitiveness

General Objective 4: Sustaining our quality of life: food security, water and nature

Specific objective 1.1 & 4.1: A sustainable blue economy generating sustainable economic development, jobs and prosperity

In June 2025, the Commission adopted the **European Ocean Pact**, focusing on ocean health, a competitive sustainable blue economy, supporting coastal, island communities and outermost regions, marine research, knowledge, innovation, skills and literacy, maritime security and international ocean governance.

The [Directive on Maritime Spatial Planning](#) supports Member States in optimising planning of their maritime space at national level. The Commission will assess the need for a revision of the Directive, based on a thorough evaluation and taking into consideration, inter alia, the new opportunities offered by digital tools and the need to strengthen regional cooperation in assessing cumulative impacts and in planning offshore energy developments, marine protection and nature restoration at sea basin level.

In July 2025, the Commissioner for Fisheries and Oceans will hold an **implementation dialogue on the Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) Directive**, which will provide a key opportunity to assess its effectiveness, address challenges, and gather insights from national authorities and stakeholders. The dialogue will contribute to the 2025 Implementation and Enforcement Report by offering targeted feedback on practical implementation issues beyond the scope of the ongoing evaluation study.

DG MARE will continue to monitor closely the situation in the Member States which have still not established and communicated their maritime spatial plans, and will further pursue infringement procedures, as appropriate, until the said obligation is complied with.

In 2025, we will support the implementation of the European Ocean Pact's regional dimension, through our three long-standing [sea basins strategies](#) in the Atlantic, West Mediterranean, and Black Sea, as well as the most recent one in the North Sea. All these activities will be supported by an Assistance Mechanism. Building on the success of the Atlantic Strategy, we will facilitate preliminary discussions on a potential review of its Action Plan. We will also initiate discussions for the setting up of a new sea basin strategy

in the Eastern Mediterranean in consultation with the countries concerned. We will continue to collaborate closely with the Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy to promote our Smart Specialisation Platform for the Sustainable Blue Economy and to strengthen synergies between sea basin and macro-regional strategies particularly those with a strong maritime component, the Adriatic and Ionian macroregional strategy (EUSAIR) and the Baltic macroregional strategy (EUSBSR).

We will continue to support maritime regional cooperation in the broader Mediterranean context, working with the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) for the implementation of the [2021 Ministerial Declaration on Sustainable Blue Economy](#), and contributing also to the objectives of the new Pact for the Mediterranean (led by the Directorate-General for Middle East, North Africa, Gulf), to be adopted by the Commission in the second half of 2025.

The yearly editions of the **European Ocean Days** and the **European Maritime Day**, as well as the **Fisheries and Ocean dialogues and the Youth dialogues** will continue to serve as central hubs for stakeholder engagement, networking and communication on a competitive and sustainable blue economy, sustainable fisheries, international ocean governance, marine knowledge and ocean literacy and the implementation of the European Ocean Pact. Furthermore, the EU-wide campaign “European Maritime Day In My Country” will support local events in coastal communities across the EU and beyond.

In implementing the [EU Maritime Security Strategy \(EUMSS\)](#), DG MARE will concentrate in 2025 on (a) strengthening maritime surveillance (including surveillance of critical maritime infrastructure) by promoting a more generalised use of the Common Information Sharing Environment for the maritime domain (CISE), with more Member States getting connected to it; (b) supporting coastguard cooperation both at EU and sea basin context; (c) implementing ongoing projects and initiatives contributing to the safe management and neutralisation of unexploded munitions in EU sea basins, targeting particularly the Baltic but with lessons learnt transposable also to other sea basins around the EU, including the Black Sea.

Please refer to the **performance tables in Annex 2** for details of the outputs (page 31).

General Objective 4: Sustaining our quality of life: food security, water and nature

Specific objective 4.2: More sustainable and competitive fisheries and aquaculture

In the 2023 Fisheries and Ocean Package ⁽⁵⁾, the Commission reiterated its commitment to improve transparency, promote sustainable fishing practices and support small-scale and coastal fishers through the preparation of a vade-mecum on the allocation of fishing opportunities by Member States. This vade-mecum, which will be published in 2025 will invite Member States to reflect on their respective systems and methods for allocating fishing opportunities and encourage them to improve those systems, where necessary, in the light of the legal requirements of Article 17 of the [CFP Regulation](#) (Member States should use transparent and objective criteria, including those of an environmental, social and economic nature, when allocating such opportunities).

In November 2025, the Commissioner for Fisheries and Oceans will hold an **implementation dialogue on small-scale coastal fisheries (SSCF)**, aimed at gathering feedback from Member States' authorities and stakeholders on how SSCF are defined and treated in different regions, identifying weaknesses in the recognition and sustainability of SSCF (definition, contribution to data collection framework, monitoring and control, funding, business model), assessing challenges and prioritising the needs of this sector.

Two key assessments should be concluded in 2025: the EMFAF mid-term evaluation and a study on the evolution, challenges, and future of the European Union's fishing fleet. The latter study aims to provide the state of play of the Union's fleet, identifying current and future challenges and explaining how these impact the fleet's sustainability, as well as to give insights on how to address these challenges. Furthermore, following the completion this year of the baseline study on the international convention on standards of training, certification and watchkeeping for fishing vessel personnel (STCW-F), the Commission will initiate work on launching a study to support impact assessment work with the aim of STCW-F transposition.

The national EMFAF programmes are a key source of EU support to the fisheries and aquaculture sector to enable the transition towards more sustainable and competitive fisheries and aquaculture, with a smaller carbon and environmental footprint, and for building resilient coastal communities. As a fund related to the marine environment, the EMFAF has a strong climate and biodiversity focus, which is translated into firm

⁽⁵⁾ Consisting of 4 documents: the [Communication on the functioning of the Common Fisheries Policy](#), the [Action Plan "Protecting and restoring marine ecosystems for sustainable and resilient fisheries"](#), the [Communication on the energy transition initiative](#) and the [Report on the functioning of the Common Market Organisation \(CMO\)](#)

commitments by Member States for climate and biodiversity related actions in their EMFAF programmes.

In 2025, DG MARE will continue encouraging and supporting Member States to accelerate the implementation of their EMFAF programmes to achieve the relevant policy objectives and minimise the risk of losing EU funds at the end of 2025 due to the automatic decommitment rule.

Early June, we presented the **annual communication on the state of play of the CFP and orientations for 2026**, outlining our approach for setting the fishing opportunities for 2026 and reporting on the latest progress towards sustainable fishing, implementation of the fleet policy and the landing obligation. The CFP legal framework, including multiannual plans, as well as the best available scientific advice and data, and stakeholders' feedback will underpin the Commission's annual proposals setting the total allowable catches (TACs), fishing efforts and quotas for the EU sea basins (Atlantic, North Sea, Baltic Sea, Mediterranean and Black Seas) and beyond EU waters.

For stocks managed only by the EU in the Baltic Sea, Skagerrak / Kattegat and the Atlantic, the Commission will propose TACs and quotas in line with the MSY and precautionary advice. Where the conditions set out in the multiannual plans are met, the Commission may propose using the upper range of MSY for healthy stocks. For fish stocks decreased below healthy limits, the Commission will propose to rebuild these stocks and include remedial measures. The Commission will continue by-catch reduction measures adopted alongside unavoidable by-catch-only TACs to alleviate potential choke situations. The Commission will propose more multiannual TACs for certain EU-only stocks where such scientific advice is available and will collaborate closely with Member States, stakeholders and the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) to this end. This will increase efficiency and predictability for the EU fishing industry.

The approach to increase the number of stocks at MSY level and to promote the sustainable management of fish stocks will be at the basis of the Commission proposal on fishing opportunities for 2026 for the Mediterranean and the Black Seas, also in line with the political commitments made in the [MedFish4Ever](#) and [Sofia](#) Declarations. This will also take into account the results of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) 2025 annual session and the scientific advice for demersal stocks covered by the West Med MAP.

In 2025, DG MARE will undertake a mid-term assessment of the 2021 [Strategic Guidelines for Aquaculture](#), aiming to explore whether additional measures are needed. We plan to prepare further guidance documents implementing the Strategic Guidelines, notably on the environmental performance of aquaculture.

Based on the 2022 [EU Algae Initiative](#), the Commission will continue to work on scaling up European algae production, leveraging the **new Bioeconomy Strategy** (led by the Directorate-General for Environment) to be adopted by the end of 2025. We will finalise the

algae industry study by mid-2025 and organise the **second EU Algae Awareness Summit** in Berlin in October 2025.

Following the entry into force of the [revised Control Regulation](#) we will continue working in 2025 to ensure the timely adoption in the second half of the year of the required implementing and delegated acts. These acts will address new provisions related to fishing authorisations, marking of fishing gears, fishing logbooks and other registration documents, vessels' tracking, fishing without a vessel, traceability and weighing procedures. Also, advance preparation is already needed in 2025 for later implementing and delegated acts on new requirements for vessels on traceability, required for 2028 and 2029.

Appropriate action, which may include legal enforcement will be used to address situations of non-compliance with the rules of the CFP, such as provisions on weighing and catch registration, measures to protect European eel in certain areas, use of alien and locally absent species in aquaculture, as well as to achieve full implementation of action plans addressing shortcomings in the Member States' fisheries control systems.

An Annual Progress Report on Implementation and Enforcement ⁽⁶⁾ will be prepared to present the progress made on key policy objectives, enforcement actions, implementation and simplification measures between 1 January and 31 July 2025.

Please refer to the **performance tables in Annex 2** for details of the outputs (page 32).

General Objective 6: A global Europe: Leveraging our power and partnerships

Specific objective 6.1: More sustainable fisheries worldwide and improved international ocean governance

The current geopolitical context, including pressures on multilateralism is increasingly being felt in the framework of fisheries and ocean policy, with mounting challenges for EU access to fisheries resources. Nevertheless, many international events dedicated to the ocean offer opportunities to step up the EU's role as an ocean leader and demonstrate an effective implementation of its international ocean governance agenda and sustainable fisheries policies.

DG MARE will strive for ambitious results in multilateral events and negotiations, ensuring that the EU is ambitious, visible and coordinated at the 3rd UN Ocean Conference in June, promoting the entry into force and implementation of the **Agreement on Biodiversity**

⁽⁶⁾ This progress report covers all measures under Commissioner Kadis' portfolio, also including those that are related to specific objectives 1.1&4.1 "A sustainable blue economy generating sustainable economic development, jobs and prosperity" and 6.1 "More sustainable fisheries worldwide and improved international ocean governance".

Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) (notably through the relaunch of the BBNJ High Ambition Coalition), and supporting the negotiation of a balanced and fair phase II agreement on fisheries subsidies in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) as well as the implementation of the phase I of the WTO Agreement, in particular on notification to the WTO and the implementation of relevant EU obligations into EU law.

At regional level, DG MARE will continue to promote the EU's sustainable fisheries management agenda in all 17 regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs) of which the EU is a member. DG MARE will assist the [GFCM](#) by supporting activities that contribute to the implementation of its strategy, notably through data collection, defining and implementing multiannual fisheries management plans in the GFCM area of competence, reinforcing compliance with GFCM decisions, advancing in the fight against IUU fishing and fostering a sustainable aquaculture development in the region. In the [International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas \(ICCAT\)](#), the objective will be to set new total allowable catches for bluefin tuna based on the sustainable management procedures. In the [Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources \(CCAMLR\)](#), the aim will be to achieve progress on the adoption of the EU proposals for the establishment of marine protected areas in East Antarctica and the Weddell Sea. In [the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission \(IOTC\)](#) in April, the EU hosted this year's annual meeting in La Réunion, highlighting that the EU is also a coastal State to this organisation.

DG MARE will also continue promoting harmonised data sharing through the UN/FLUX standard to support effective and cost-efficient fisheries control at international level.

In addition to this work within RFMOs, DG MARE will assist the co-legislators on reaching an agreement on its "omnibus proposal" of May 2025 concerning the implementation of several RFMOs' decisions into EU law.

DG MARE will continue promoting the EU's objectives through active bilateral relations with many countries and regions around the world. In 2025, we will organise dialogues on ocean and fisheries with Japan, Canada, US and Australia and co-organise a multi-stakeholder "Partnership Forum" with Canada. We will continue to pay particular attention to Africa, notably by following up on the work of the EU-Africa strategic group on the ocean and by contributing to the renewed EU-Africa partnership announced in the President's political guidelines. We will negotiate new protocols to Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements (SFPAs) and continue formal and informal dialogues with non-EU countries to step up the fight against IUU fishing.

2025 will be the culmination of several years of preparation to digitalise the EU's IUU catch certification scheme (CATCH). DG MARE aims to have CATCH fully operational on 10 January 2026, as required by the [revised IUU Regulation](#). Preparatory work will continue to develop the new IT system, support Member States and operators and explain and promote the system with third countries. Another priority for 2025 will be the revision to the

[Implementing Regulation \(EC\) 1010/2009](#), which will establish, among others, the basic general rules of the functioning of CATCH.

Firm action, including legal enforcement will be necessary to address any lack of effective implementation of the catch certification scheme for imports of fishery products, under the [IUU Regulation](#), and of the rules related to the sustainable management of EU vessels fishing outside EU waters.

Please refer to the **performance tables in Annex 2** for details of the outputs (page 36).

PART 3. A modern and sustainable public administration: outputs in 2025

The internal control framework supports sound management and decision-making. In particular, it ensures that risks to the achievement of objectives are addressed 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 this internal control system will be assessed on an ongoing basis throughout the year and will be subject to an annual assessment covering all internal control principles.

Please refer to the **performance tables in Annex 3** for details of the outputs (page 40).

A. Human resource management

In the survey of 2023, MARE staff engagement index was 74%. In order to maintain staff engagement above the Commission average and increase it further up to 76% by 2029, our main focus will be on the **implementation of the staff survey 2023 follow up Action Plan** and on communication to staff on the progress. We will organise regular debriefs from Management Board meetings and Town hall meetings with the Director-General and senior management team to ensure staff are well informed of the latest developments. Senior managers will hold career talks with staff, starting with those who have been on the same job for more than four years.

On 1 December 2024, 10 out of 20 middle managers were female, which corresponds to 50%, and we aim to maintain this balance. To ensure development of leadership, all established senior and two middle managers will benefit from a 360⁰-feedback exercise. To provide more opportunities for colleagues to grow into management function, we will launch a co-development group coaching programme for DG MARE team leaders. Three DG MARE colleagues will be proposed to participate in the corporate Management Development Programme for future Middle Managers.

We will organise HR talks on various topics and will continue to regularly facilitate internal communication on HR issues including through the "MARE4All" Equality, Diversity and Inclusion group, and the Greening DG MARE team.

B. Digital transformation and data management

Digital transformation and cybersecurity

DG MARE is advancing its digital transformation in alignment with the Corporate Digital Strategy, by building a cohesive IT ecosystem that supports key policy areas in the framework of the Ocean Pact: maritime knowledge, ocean governance, blue economy and fisheries, with a focus on interoperability and data governance. By leveraging cloud technology, mobile apps, and data analytics, DG MARE is working to create a more comprehensive, integrated and simplified approach to fisheries management, which will benefit both the environment and the fishing industry. At the forefront of these efforts is the **Ocean Store**, a flagship project which seeks to establish a comprehensive data lake, using cloud-native technologies for all fisheries-related systems.

DG MARE plays a significant role in enhancing the European Commission's **digital culture (Specific Objective 1 of the European Commission Digital Strategy)**. This involvement includes promoting cybersecurity awareness and offering training sessions to the IT team and Systems Owners, as well as educating them on innovative technologies like artificial intelligence and data analytics. Business innovation is explored through a proof of concept using artificial intelligence for preparing briefing notes for annual bilateral meetings with Member States on the implementation of EMFAF grants. DG MARE also collaborates with other Directorates-General on specific initiatives and develops mobile solutions tailored to the fisheries sector. DG MARE is actively engaged with the M365 Champions network, promoting best practices among staff. In 2024, the percentage of staff who completed at least one IT training session was 36.45% ⁽⁷⁾.

DG MARE is committed to ensuring that EU policymaking is **digitally ready (Specific Objective 2)**. To achieve this, a multifunctional team from various Units (technical and business) provides awareness and local support for policy initiatives with a digital component. Furthermore, the IT team works closely with policymakers, identifying digital opportunities within the context of the implementation of the revised regulation on Fisheries Control. Every two months, Member States and the Commission engage in discussions to review the evolution of fisheries reporting standards, the introduction of new features in applications, and necessary changes to the implementing rules. This ongoing dialogue ensures that the policies remain responsive and adaptable to the digital landscape.

Our **digital transformation is driven by business (Specific Objective 3)** and ensured by a comprehensive Data and IT Governance at senior management level. Alongside the Ocean Store, DG MARE is developing several projects to support the enhanced Fisheries Control Regulation:

⁽⁷⁾ Source: Digital Commission Dashboard.

- **Small-Scale Fisheries Tool:** an easy-to-use mobile app designed for fishers to report their positions and fishing activities. This tool is expected to reduce development costs for Member States while enhancing the monitoring of small-scale fisheries.
- **RecFishing IT system** (PoC) to support catch reporting in recreational fisheries. This system will include a mobile app for Member States to collect data, providing a complete view of catches from recreational fisheries across the EU. The system is being developed using cloud technology on the AWS platform, with the goal of reducing development costs for Member States.
- **EU IUU CATCH project:** in collaboration with DG SANTE, this project will deliver a unified database and procedures for the harmonised exchange and cross-checks of information on catch certificates and associated information. Additionally, the [Data Collection Framework](#) will streamline electronic communication between Member States, the Commission and end-users in scientific fisheries and aquaculture data. The platform will support the evaluation of work plans, annual reports, and regional work plans evaluation, thereby reducing manual tasks and increasing efficiency.

DG MARE is also contributing to the development of the **Ocean Observation platform**, which will provide state-of-the-art technology to reduce administrative burden for ocean observers, national authorities, and the European Commission services. The platform will provide a holistic view of ocean observation across the EU.

DG MARE is committed to advancing with a **seamless digital environment (Specific Objective 4)** by decommissioning legacy systems and migrating to cloud solutions. As part of this ongoing initiative, significant changes are anticipated for 2025, primarily due to the impending end of support for Weblogic 12. DG MARE plans to migrate its application servers to Wildfly for all fisheries applications, except for the transportation layers, within the Ocean Store. Additionally, some applications will transition to cloud-native modules in the Ocean Store. The decommissioning process will also include the replacement of the User Management application with EU Access for applications that are set to undergo a lift and shift to the Ocean Store, as well as for the FLUX TL Monitoring site. Furthermore, DG MARE will continue to implement the EUI upgrade across all applications as part of a continuous improvement strategy. In 2024, the percentage of IT systems utilising cloud infrastructure services was 43.24% ⁽⁸⁾.

As regards the implementation of a **green, secure and resilient infrastructure (Specific Objective 5)**, DG MARE is adopting a proactive approach on cybersecurity by rolling out several crucial initiatives. These efforts include consistently updating IT Security Plans and performing yearly assessments of Priority Controls. Cybersecurity training is provided to all IT personnel and staff, and there is close collaboration with DG DIGIT and the broader community to keep abreast of best practices. These actions align with the goals set in the Corporate Cybersecurity Strategy. Additionally, DG MARE is advancing its IT

⁽⁸⁾ Compared to the total number of MARE IT systems. Source: DG MARE.

Modernisation Plan for the applications portfolio and reinforcing cybersecurity through the adoption of EU Login and Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) for all MARE systems, use of the AIVM tool for vulnerability management, GovSev for documenting IT Security Plans, and the GRC tool to attest controls.

Data management

The maturity level of DG MARE in implementing corporate data policies can be considered as “developing”. While all data assets have been reported to the EC data catalogue, roles and responsibilities have not been defined yet. Regarding data quality, FAIR ⁽⁹⁾ principles are being applied for some data domains but there is no consistent approach yet to ensure that this is the case across the board. There is no structured approach on data skills yet. In 2025 DG MARE will therefore revise its data management strategy to ensure full compliance with corporate principles on data management and to accelerate the transformation towards evidence-based policy making. The priority will be put on establishing roles and responsibilities. This will include putting in place mechanisms to measure and improve data quality and data skills across the different data domains. The objective would be to reach the level “established” for all four indicators by 2027 and “advanced” by 2029.

Data protection

DG MARE is committed to ensure full compliance with Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 (IDPR), as a continuous effort to achieve the highest level of protection for the rights and freedoms of the data subjects. The DG has appointed a Data Protection Coordinator (DPC) and an Assistant DPC, who advise and assist colleagues within the DG in all aspects related to data protection and provide regular trainings. To implement the goal of 100% of staff having received a training, all newcomers to the DG and existing staff will receive training either through corporate, or tailored in-house trainings. Processing operations are evaluated continuously, and records established or revised where necessary, including following periodical review of records in line with the guidance issued by the Commission Data Protection Office. DG MARE has implemented administrative procedures for the handling of data subject requests and the management of data breaches and will continue its efforts to provide high quality and easily accessible information to data subjects on the processing of their data, especially through privacy statements. Where joint processing operations take place, the necessary arrangements, clarifying the roles and obligations of the respective controllers are put in place in line with Article 28 Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 and internal guidance.

⁽⁹⁾ Findability, Accessibility, Interoperability, and Reuse

Record Management

In 2025, DG MARE will continue to implement the record management policy of the Commission. Our key priorities for 2025 will be (i) to close old files and adjust active files when necessary, so that each unit's filing plan only has the files that are currently relevant for the work of the unit; (ii) to reduce the size of the physical archives of the DG, by eliminating any documents that are not useful for the archives and then by sending any eligible files to the historical archives.

C. Sound financial management

Shared management

For both programming periods 2014-2020 and 2021-2027, DG MARE, DG REGIO, DG EMPL and DG HOME (2021-2027 only) have developed Single Audit Strategies. These strategies provide for compliance audits to assess the effectiveness of the management and control systems in the Member States and to verify the legality and regularity of expenditure. In addition, they provide for other audits focussing on horizontal themes or specific risks identified.

By March 2025, DG MARE has received substantial assurance packages relating to seven European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) operational programmes and nine assurance packages relating to the EMFAF. These packages are the subject of thorough desk reviews, complemented by targeted risk-based audits for both programming periods (21 assignments for the EMFF and 4 assignments for the EMFAF). In view of the closure of the EMFF operational programmes, DG MARE is aiming at obtaining reasonable assurance on the legality and regularity of expenditure for all operational programmes through dedicated audit assignments.

The risk related to the expenditure declared to DG MARE in the accounting year 2023-2024 is considered limited, since DG MARE has reached an adequate level of assurance through its own audits in the past years. Up to end-2024, DG MARE carried out 168 audits covering all Member States and will, in 2025, continue increasing the overall coverage and address open issues and specific risks before closure of the EMFF operational programmes. At the same time, DG MARE will start carrying out on-the-spot audit work under the EMFAF.

DG MARE therefore has reasonable assurance on the related EU payments. Pre-financing bears no risk and for the interim payments, adequate mechanisms are in place to ensure that only legal and regular expenditure is certified in the annual accounts. In addition, the retention of 10% (2014-2020) / 5% (2021-2027) from all the interim payments further protects the EU budget.

Direct and Indirect management

DG MARE delegates the implementation of around 40% of its directly managed budget to the Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA). CINEA applies its own control systems and assurance mechanisms on the reliability and accuracy of the recorded expenditures. With SUMMA, the Commission's new budget management IT tool, all transactions follow the complete workflow. All the grants, procurement procedures, and contribution agreements are also verified by DG MARE before the award decisions.

DG MARE's objective is to retain its estimated risk at payment below 2%, while the baseline in 2024 was 0.57%.

D. Fraud risk management

The Joint Anti-Fraud Strategy (JAFS) of DGs REGIO, EMPL and MARE was updated in December 2019. It 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 main actions for 2025 will continue focussing on further raising fraud awareness and developing cooperation with key partners such as OLAF and the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO). DG MARE will also contribute, within its possibilities, to the update of the JAFS.

DG MARE will also continue implementing the relevant actions of the Commission's Anti-Fraud Strategy Action Plan of July 2023⁽¹⁰⁾. In particular, DG MARE's actions for 2025 and subsequent years will consist of carrying out audit work to assess the effectiveness of proportionate anti-fraud measures in place in the Member States (key requirement 7 of the management and control systems), regularly using Arachne in the preparatory phase of audit assignments, where relevant for the audit scope, and adapting the audit checklist for key requirement 7 audits 2021-2027 to include the aspect of national anti-fraud strategies.

Finally, DG MARE will continue to duly follow up on OLAF's financial recommendations remaining open from previous years and possibly received in the course of 2025.

⁽¹⁰⁾ Communication from the Commission 'Commission Anti-Fraud Strategy: enhanced action to protect the EU budget', COM(2019)176 of 29 April 2019 – 'the CAFS Communication'; Communication from the Commission 'Commission Anti-Fraud Strategy Action plan - revision 2023, COM(2023)405 of 11 July 2023 – 'the Communication on the 2023 revision' – and the accompanying document, SWD(2023)245 – 'the revised Action Plan'.

E. Sound environmental management

Building on the successful reduction of CO₂ emissions from missions since 2019 (by 38%, baseline: 3.7 tonnes per person), DG MARE remains committed to contribute to the Commission's goal ⁽¹¹⁾ to reach corporate climate neutrality, reducing emissions from missions by 50% by 2030. With the adoption of the Commission's new corporate mission guide, DG MARE will ensure that all staff and management are aware of the updated rules, and that missions planning and implementation will be appropriately monitored. With the aim to reach energy savings, DG MARE will participate as always in the corporate energy savings actions (BEST), by closing both buildings J-99 and J-79 in summer and at the end of the year.

Similar to the rules applicable to Commission staff, careful selection of transport means takes place for the experts, with the aim to reduce travel emissions. The physical meetings of our experts have been drastically reduced since 2021, and in 2025 only 43% of the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF) meetings will take place physically. The rest of the meetings will be organised fully in online format.

⁽¹¹⁾ As outlined in the Greening the Commission Communication, [c 2022 2230 2 en act part1 v11.pdf](#).

ANNEX 1: Specific objectives and result indicators 2025-2029

General objective 1: A new plan for Europe's sustainable prosperity and competitiveness

General objective 4: Sustaining our quality of life: food security, water and nature

Specific Objective 1.1 & 4.1: A sustainable blue economy generating sustainable economic development, jobs and prosperity

Related to spending programme(s): European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Funds 2021-2027 and post-2027

Result indicator 1.1.1 & 4.1.1 Size of the EU blue economy

Explanation: This indicator will measure sustainable economic development and employment 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

Source of data: European Commission's Blue indicators online dashboard ⁽¹²⁾

This result indicator is selected as a KPI

Baseline (2022) ⁽¹³⁾	Interim milestone (2025)	Target (2029)
Percentage of blue economy (BE) GVA over total economy: 2.4%	2.5%	2.6%
Percentage of BE employment over total economy: 1.7%	1.7%	1.8%
Direct employment: 4.82 million persons	4.9 million	5.0 million

⁽¹²⁾ https://blue-economy-observatory.ec.europa.eu/dashboard-0_en

⁽¹³⁾ [Home - The EU Blue economy report 2025 - Maritime Affairs and Fisheries \(DG-MARE\)](#)

Result indicator 1.1.2 & 4.1.2 Maritime security measured by the number of new CISE (Common Information Sharing Environment) connections / nodes

Explanation: This indicator measures the capacity of Member States and other institutions (e.g. European agencies) to connect to CISE and share their data.

Source of data: EMSA report

Baseline (2025)	Interim milestone (2027)	Target (2029)
16	22	26

Result indicator 1.1.3 & 4.1.3 Improved marine knowledge measured by the number of unique visitors to the European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet) portal and the users of webservices ⁽¹⁴⁾ per month.

Explanation: By making marine data more available and interoperable, EMODnet reduces uncertainties on the behaviour of the sea, which allows for innovation and productivity in the blue economy. The trends in users, direct and through webservices, is at present the best way to measure progress. The indicator will be calculated monthly and summed in annual basis.

Source of data: Europa Analytics and metrics provided by the EMODnet Portal operators (available also through the Annual Reports from EMODnet secretariat: <http://www.emodnet.eu/>)

Baseline (2024) <i>Source: Europa Analytics, EMODnet Secretariat and Central Portal team</i>	Interim milestone (2027)	Target (2029)
161,479 users	Circa 170,000 users	Circa 180,000 users

⁽¹⁴⁾ These are the users that are “pulling” EMODnet data for their applications without visiting the website / downloading data, taking advantage of EMODnet’s advanced technological offer.

General objective 4: Sustaining our quality of life: food security, water and nature

Specific Objective 4.2: More sustainable and competitive fisheries and aquaculture

Related to spending programme(s): European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Funds 2021-2027 and post-2027

Result indicator 4.2.1 Stocks fished at maximum sustainable yield (MSY) ⁽¹⁵⁾ levels

Explanation: Fishing at MSY means fishing at a rate such that the average long-term catches are the highest that the stock can provide over the long-term and that sustainability is guaranteed. This ensures higher and more stable revenue for fishers. This indicator of fishing pressure should be at, or below 1.

Source of data: Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries report 'Monitoring the performance of the Common Fisheries Policy' and assessments in the Black Sea and in the Mediterranean Sea; Reports from General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean Working groups on stock assessment of demersal species and small-pelagic species; EU Sustainable Development Goal indicator; Eurostat (Eurostat online data code: sdg_14_21, sdg_14_30)

This result indicator is selected as a KPI

Baseline (2023 and 2022) ⁽¹⁶⁾ ⁽¹⁷⁾	Interim milestone (2026)	Target (2028)
Median fishing pressure – North-East Atlantic: 0.59 Median fishing pressure – Mediterranean Sea and Black Sea: 0.94	<1	<1

⁽¹⁵⁾ This indicator measures the potential for yield (fish catches) derived from the sustainable exploitation of marine biological resources. The number of stocks fished at maximum sustainable yield (MSY) levels are given for the North East Atlantic and adjacent waters, and the Mediterranean and the Black Sea.

⁽¹⁶⁾ 'North-East Atlantic' refers to stocks in area 27 of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and 'Mediterranean and Black Seas' refers to stocks in FAO area 37.

⁽¹⁷⁾ Source of the data for the baseline: [STECF-Adhoc-25-01: Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries](#)

Result indicator 4.2.2 Profitability of the EU fishing fleet

Explanation: The net profit margin (calculated as the ratio of net profit and revenues) gives an indication of the relative profitability of the fishing fleet. It reflects the short-term economic sustainability of the fishing companies and is an indicator of the success of the Common Fisheries Policy in balancing fleet capacity and resources productivity.

Source of data: Data Collection Framework data obtained from the Annual Economic Report on the EU Fishing Fleet (STECF) ⁽¹⁸⁾

Baseline (2022)	Interim milestone (2025)	Target (2029)
<i>Source: 2024 Annual Economic Report on the EU Fishing Fleet (STECF 24-07), p. 26 ⁽¹⁹⁾</i>		
Net profit margin: 2%	10%	15%

Result indicator 4.2.3 Contribution from the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Funds (EMFAF) for 2021-2027 and post-2027 to climate related EU spending

Explanation: This indicator measures the share of climate relevant expenditure under EMFAF (2021-2027 and post-2027) in relation to the total budget allocation.

Source of data: [FAMENET](#)

Baseline (2023)	Interim milestone (2026)	Target (2029)
27% for EMFAF 2021-2027	30%	30%

⁽¹⁸⁾ [Economic and Social analyses - European Commission](#)

⁽¹⁹⁾ https://stecf.jrc.ec.europa.eu/documents/d/stecf/stecf_24-07_aer

General objective 6: A global Europe: Leveraging our power and partnerships

Specific Objective 6.1: More sustainable fisheries worldwide and improved international ocean governance

Related to spending programme(s): Regional Fisheries Management Organisations

Result indicator 6.1.1 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

Explanation: This indicator measures to what extent the main tuna and tuna-like regulated species managed by RFMOs fished by the EU fleet are fished at sustainable levels ($F_{curr}/F_{msy} \leq 1$) ⁽²⁰⁾. The species concerned are those stocks fished by the EU fleet and for which the RFMOs scientific bodies have provided scientific advice available.

Source of data: Annual stock situation in scientific reports of RFMOs concerned. The data on results will be assessed qualitatively by the Commission (DG MARE), which could include indicators on the EU's implementation of SDG 14 on life below water.

This result indicator is selected as a KPI

Baseline (2024)	Interim milestone (2027)	Target (2029)
19 out of 20 stocks ⁽²¹⁾	19 out of 20 stocks	20 out of 20 stocks

⁽²⁰⁾ A stock is considered subject to overfishing if the ratio of F_{curr}/F_{MSY} is greater than 1. F_{curr} : current fishing rate/mortality. F_{MSY} : the rate of fishing that produces the maximum sustainable yield (MSY).

⁽²¹⁾ 20 tuna and tuna-like stocks targeted by the EU fleet: Albacore (North Atlantic, South Atlantic); bigeye (Atlantic, Eastern Pacific, Western Pacific, Indian Ocean); bluefin (East Atlantic); skipjack (Atlantic, Eastern Pacific, Western Pacific, Indian Ocean); swordfish (Atlantic, Mediterranean, Eastern Pacific, Western Pacific, Indian Ocean); yellowfin (Atlantic, Eastern Pacific, Western Pacific, Indian Ocean). See the relevant RFMOs managing those species at: <http://iccat.int/en/> ; <http://iotc.org/> ; <https://www.wcpfc.int/> ; <http://iattc.org/>

Result indicator 6.1.2 Fighting illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing measured by the number of non-EU States that the Commission has engaged in a dialogue with and the number of countries having addressed their deficiencies.

Explanation: This indicator measures the number of non-EU countries with whom the EU has conducted a formal dialogue established by Commission Decisions published in the Official Journal, and the number of countries that have successfully addressed identified deficiencies ⁽²²⁾. It also measures the number of informal dialogues, taking into consideration the submission of questionnaires, exchanges of letters and information and reports of meetings that are registered in Ares.

Source of data: Commission, DG MARE

Baseline (2024)	Interim milestone (2027)	Target (2029)
Number of countries that the Commission has conducted an IUU dialogue with: 71 (cumulative figure for 2012-2024)	74	76

⁽²²⁾ The constraints affecting this indicator relate to international relations, and in this particular case, the domestic political situation of the countries concerned and their administrative capacities to implement reforms needed. Achieving the target will also depend on the countries' willingness to take the necessary steps and implement reforms at national level.

Result indicator 6.1.3 The sustainable fisheries partnership agreements (SFPAs) financial programme maintains at least 85% of execution of the available budget.

Explanation: The level of budget disbursement is directly linked to the capacity of the EU fishing fleet to conduct its fishing operations in non-EU waters in a highly regulated environment ⁽²³⁾ and to the capacity of the third partner countries to implement their sectoral support programme ⁽²⁴⁾.

Source of data: DG MARE Financial report

Baseline (2024)	Interim milestone (2027)	Target (2029)
98%	85% ⁽²⁵⁾	87%

⁽²³⁾ The objective is to ensure as much as possible continuity between fishing grounds – in particular for the tuna fleet – through a network of SFPAs in force based on the following principles of the Common Fisheries Policy: sustainability, value for money, improved governance and consistency with other EU policies. Each year, on average 25% of the SFPA protocols expire. In order to ensure fishing continuity and maintain a network of SFPAs, new protocols must be negotiated and timely enter into force. Regarding the extension of the SFPA network, the capacity of the EU to engage into negotiations for new SFPAs, and to manage them, will depend on the guarantees obtained in terms of sustainability of the fishing stocks, and the availability of adequate financial and human resources.

⁽²⁴⁾ Under each SFPA, the financial assistance for sectoral support is decoupled from payments for access to fisheries resources. The financial assistance is managed by the partner countries and aim to strengthen the science knowledge, the control and surveillance as well as governance of the partner countries' fisheries sector.

⁽²⁵⁾ From 2027, a new generation of SFPAs will be implemented, which will require some adjustments and might, in the short term, potentially slightly impact the disbursement efficiency.

ANNEX 2: Performance tables – delivering on Commission priorities in 2025

General objective 1: A new plan for Europe's sustainable prosperity and competitiveness


General objective 4: Sustaining our quality of life: food security, water and nature

Specific Objective 1.1 & 4.1: A sustainable blue economy generating sustainable economic development, jobs and prosperity

Related to spending programme(s): European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Funds 2021-2027 and post-2027

Main outputs in 2025:

New policy initiatives

Output	Indicator	Target
 European Ocean Pact ⁽²⁶⁾ ⁽²⁷⁾	Adoption by the Commission	Adopted: COM(2025)281 final of 05/06/2025

Implementation dialogues and reality checks

Output	Indicator	Target
Implementation Dialogue: Maritime Spatial Planning	Dialogue is held	1 July 2025

Major implementation activities and enforcement actions

Output	Indicator	Target
Adoption of national Maritime Spatial Plans	Number of infringement cases moved or closed	2025

Other major outputs

Output	Indicator	Target
European Maritime Day 2025	Number of participants	1,200-1,400
European Ocean Days	Number of participants	2,500
European Maritime Day 'My Country events'	Number of attendees	35,000
BlueInvest 2025	Number of companies coached	60

⁽²⁶⁾ Also linked to Specific objective 4.1 More sustainable and competitive fisheries and aquaculture by 2029

⁽²⁷⁾ Initiatives that are part of the 2025 Commission Work Programme (CWP) are marked with the following icon



Output	Indicator	Target
Macro regional and Sea basin strategies days - annual event organised jointly with DG REGIO	Number of participants, including countries and strategy implementers (i.e., project representatives, regional and EU organisations, civil society)	300-350
Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)	Meetings per year of the Sustainable blue economy platform	2
Blue Med Partnership (BMP) implementation	Funding to the BMP (EMFAF)	EUR 1 million
#EUBeachCleanup campaign, led by DG MARE	Number of attendees at events organised worldwide	15,000
Smart Specialisation Strategies (S3)	New interregional partnerships created (joining the existing 5 on the S3 sustainable blue economy platform)	2-3

General objective 4: Sustaining our quality of life: food security, water and nature

Specific Objective 4.2: More sustainable and competitive fisheries and aquaculture

Related to spending programme(s): European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Funds 2021-2027 and post-2027

Main outputs in 2025:

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 2026 "	Adoption by the Commission	Adopted: COM(2025)296 final of 06/06/2025
Proposals for Council Regulations fixing for 2026 the fishing opportunities in:	Adoption by the Commission	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Baltic Sea 		August 2025
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Mediterranean and Black Seas 		Q3 2025

Output	Indicator	Target
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Union waters and, for Union fishing vessels, in certain non-Union waters 		Q4 2025
Proposals for Council Regulations amending Regulation (EU) 2025/202 fixing for 2025 and 2026 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks:	Adoption by the Commission	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st amendment 		Adopted: COM(2025)92 final of 06/03/2025
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2nd amendment 		Adopted: COM(2025)257 final of 26/05/2025
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3rd amendment 		Q3 2025
Implementing Regulation laying down rules provided by Art 24 of Technical Measures Regulation	Adoption by the Commission	Q3 2025
Exploratory fisheries and modification to the fishing footprint for deep-sea stocks	Adoption by the Commission	Q4 2025
Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) amending Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 404/2011 of 8 April 2011 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 establishing a Community control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of the Common Fisheries Policy	Adoption by the Commission	Q3 2025
Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) laying down special rules for the weighing of certain pelagic species supplementing Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 establishing a Community control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of the Common Fisheries Policy	Adoption by the Commission	Q4 2025
Vade-mecum on the allocation of fishing opportunities by Member States	Adoption by the Commission	Q3 2025

Evaluations and fitness checks – part of the stress testing of the EU acquis		
Output	Indicator	Target
Ex post evaluation of European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)	Publication of the stand-alone Staff Working Document	Q3 2025
Mid-term evaluation of the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) 2021-2027	Publication of the stand-alone Staff Working Document	Q3 2025
Implementation dialogues and reality checks		
Output	Indicator	Target
Implementation Dialogue Small Scale Coastal Fishers (SSCF)	Dialogue is held	November 2025
Major public consultations		
Output	Indicator	Target
Public consultation on the CFP Regulation	Consultation is held	27 January – 21 April
Public consultation on the Communication ‘Towards more sustainable fishing in the EU: state of play and orientations for 2026’	Consultation is held	June – August
Major implementation activities and enforcement actions		
Output	Indicator	Target
Implementation of action plans on fisheries control	Legal enforcement action launched, moved or closed	2025
Control of catch registration and weighing systems	Legal enforcement action launched, moved or closed	2025
Use of alien and locally absent species in aquaculture	Legal enforcement action launched, moved or closed	2025
Measures to protect European eel in certain areas	Legal enforcement action launched, moved or closed	2025
Commission Implementing Decisions establishing that the Member State has seriously failed to comply with its obligations under the Common Fisheries Policy	Adoption by the Commission	2025
Commission Implementing Decisions on the suspension of the interim payments under the EMFF	Adoption by the Commission	2025
Commission Implementing Decisions on the suspension of the interim payments under the EMFAF	Adoption by the Commission	2025

Output	Indicator	Target
COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) operating deduction from the Atlantic salmon fishing quota allocated to Finland in 2025 on account of overfishing in 2024	Adoption by the Commission	Adopted: C(2025)2315 of 30/04/2025
Other major outputs		
Output	Indicator	Target
2025 Report on the balance between fleet capacity and fishing opportunities (STECF)	Report published	December 2025
2025 Annual Economic Report on the EU fishing fleet (STECF)	Report published	October 2025
2025 EU Fish Market report and monthly EUMOFA highlights	Reports published	November 2025
2025 Report on Social data in the EU fisheries sector (STECF)	Report published	December 2025
Commission opinion on the draft Single Programming Document (SPD) for 2026-2030 of EFCA	Adoption by the Commission	Q2 2025
Aquaculture campaign	Number of Member States using the toolbox developed by DG MARE	17
Guidance document on environmental performance of EU aquaculture	Stand-alone Commission Staff Working Document published	Q4 2025
Study to support a sustainable EU algae industry	Study published	Q3 2025
Second EU Algae Awareness Summit (Berlin)	Summit organised	October 2025
Mid-term assessment of the 2021 Strategic Guidelines for Aquaculture	Report published	Q4 2025
Study supporting the evaluation of the landing obligation	Study published	Q3 2025
Baseline study on International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Fishing Vessel Personnel, 1995 (STCW-F/1995)	Study published	Q2 2025
Study on the EU's fishing fleet evolution, challenges and future	Study published	Q3 2025

Output	Indicator	Target
Annual progress report on implementation and enforcement	Report published (transmission to the Council and the EP)	Q3 2025

General objective 6: A global Europe: Leveraging our power and partnerships

Specific Objective 6.1: More sustainable fisheries worldwide and improved international ocean governance

Related to spending programme(s): Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs)

Main outputs in 2025:

New policy initiatives

Output	Indicator	Target
Transposition of RFMO rules into EU law – proposals for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council:	Adoption by the Commission	
• North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC)		Q4 2025
• Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)		Q3 2025
• Southern East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO)		Q3 2025
• Amending regulations concerning international fisheries in NAFO, SPRFMO, IOTC, WCPFC, IATTC and ICCAT		Adopted: COM(2025)195 final of 12/05/2025
Proposals for negotiation mandates and/or for the signature and conclusion of a new SFPA/Protocol or the renewal of an existing SFPA/Protocol with the following third countries ⁽²⁸⁾:	Adoption by the Commission	
• Sao Tome and Principe proposals		Q3 2025
• Cook Islands proposals		Q3 2025

⁽²⁸⁾ SFPAs and their associated protocols enter into force after concluding negotiations with the third country concerned.

Output	Indicator	Target
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Morocco mandate (new SFPAs) and proposals 		Mandate: Q3 2025 Proposals Q4 2025
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seychelles mandate and proposals 		Mandate adopted: COM(2025)269 final of 04/06/2025 Proposals: Q4 2025
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gabon mandate 		Q3 2025
Revision to the Implementing Regulation (EC) 1010/2009 on illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing	Adoption by the Commission	Q3 2025

Evaluations and fitness checks – part of the stress testing of the EU acquis

Output	Indicator	Target
Evaluations on SFPAs/Protocols: (B3)	Staff Working Document (SWD) evaluation report published together with the negotiation mandate if necessary / Ex-ante ex-post evaluation study published for all SFPAs	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation - Morocco 		Q4 2025
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation - Seychelles 		Q3 2025
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation - Gabon 		Q3 2025
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation - Mauritania 		Q4 2025
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation - Mauritius 		Q4 2025

Major public consultations

Output	Indicator	Target
Public consultation on the sustainability of the EU tariff reduction regime for import of fisheries products	Consultation is held	10 April – 3 July
Public consultation on the evaluation of SFPAs	Consultation is held	27 January – 21 April

Major implementation activities and enforcement actions

Output	Indicator	Target
Implementation of the catch certification scheme - IUU Regulation	Legal enforcement action launched, moved or closed	2025
Sustainable management of EU vessels fishing outside EU waters	Legal enforcement action launched, moved or closed	2025

Other major outputs		
Output	Indicator	Target
BBNJ ⁽²⁹⁾	EU ratifies and starts implementing the BBNJ, supports others to do so (Global Ocean Programme)	2025
	Re-launch the High Ambition Coalition at UNOC3 (number of countries)	Additional countries join the coalition (target: at least 60 members by year-end), agenda turns to implementation
UNOC3	Commitments, political declaration and side-events	56 EU commitments Political declaration endorsed Side-events on EU priorities (Ocean Pact, BBNJ)
Port States Measures Agreement: support to third countries under the FAO global capacity development umbrella programme	Number of third countries that received support to strengthen the countries' legal, technical and operational capacities to implement the Agreement	at least 5 third countries supported
Our Ocean Conference 2025 – EU commitments	EU commitments adopted by the Commission and endorsed by the Council	13 EU commitments Ministerial side-event on the International Platform for Ocean Sustainability (IPOS)
Implementation of the Updated EU Arctic policy (JOIN(2021) 27 final):		
• EU Arctic Forum and Indigenous Peoples' Dialogue	Number of participants	250 on site and 250 online
Africa Blue Invest event	Number of participants	250 on site
Ocean and fisheries dialogues with Japan, Canada, US, Australia	Organisation of dialogues	Canada and Japan in May 2025 US and Australia tbd in 2025
Multi-stakeholder 'Partnership Forum' with Canada	Forum is held / Number of European experts invited	May 2025 with 10 European experts invited
CATCH (on SANTE's TRACES platform) developed in line with legal basis for its compulsory use	CATCH environment aligned with adopted legal basis - revision of the IUU Regulation	Q4 2025 - Ongoing with numerous adaptations, in particular for the transitional period (2026-2028) where old and new templates will be valid
Risk management of the IUU catch certification system (CATCH)	List of automated alerts in CATCH environment	Q4 2025 – with updates when necessary

⁽²⁹⁾ [Intergovernmental Conference on an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction \(BBNJ\)](#)

Output	Indicator	Target
Guidelines and FAQs for the use of CATCH	<p>Finalisation of guidelines modules for Member States' authorities, third countries' authorities, EU importers and third countries' exporters</p> <p>Finalised FAQs published on DG MARE website</p>	<p>Q4 2025 – with updates when necessary</p> <p>FAQ on DG MARE website</p>
Shark study supporting the impact assessment for the 'Better protecting sharks through sustainable fishing and trade' initiative	Study finalised	Q4 2025
Autonomous Tariff Quota study supporting back-to-back evaluation and impact assessment of the Autonomous Tariff Quota Regulation	Study finalised	Q4 2025

ANNEX 3: Performance tables – A modern and sustainable public administration

A. Human resource management

Objective: DG MARE employs a skilled, diverse and motivated workforce to deliver on the Commission's priorities		
Main outputs in 2025:		
Output	Indicator	Target
Regular interactive town hall meetings with the Director-General and other (senior) managers to ensure staff are well informed of the latest developments in the department (in person and / or online)	Number of Townhall meetings	2
Enhanced leadership through strengthened cohesion of management team and 360 exercise	Extended management seminar Number of managers undergoing 360 exercise	1 All senior and middle managers on the post for longer than 2 years
Colleagues invest time in their personal development (trainings, coaching, job shadowing etc.)	Days invested in personal development (trainings, coaching, job shadowing etc)	50% of MARE staff have 5 days of training / year
Launch of co-development programme for DG MARE team leaders	Number of participants; Number of programmes	1 programme for at least 6 participants, among which 50% females

B. Digital transformation and data management

Objective: DG MARE is using innovative, trusted digital solutions for better policymaking, data management and administrative processes to create a digitally transformed, user-focused and data-driven Commission		
Main outputs in 2025:		
Output	Indicator	Target
<i>Digital Transformation:</i>		

Output	Indicator	Target
Digital Culture (ECDS-S01) ⁽³⁰⁾	(ECDS-S01 ID2 ⁽³¹⁾) Average participation rate in Cyberawareness training	38%
Digital-ready Policymaking (ECDS-S02)	% of policy initiatives with digital impact assessed during the year	90%
Business-driven digital transformation (ECDS-S03)	Innovation: total number of initiatives	1
Seamless digital environment (ECDS-S04)	(MARE-DSP2-2 ⁽³²⁾) Percentage of business applications / projects taking into account IT architecture and technology standards	81%
Green, secure and resilient infrastructure (ECDS-S05)	(ECDS-S05 ID22) Risk Maturity Quadrant	Low risk and High maturity level according to Risk Maturity Quadrant ("Acknowledge" quadrant)
<i>Data Management:</i>		
Average data quality of logbooks and landing declarations received	% of logbooks and landing declarations that pass business rule engine without major errors	98%
<i>Records Management:</i>		
Reorganisation and clean-up of the DG's paper archives	Linear meters of paper archives treated	>100 meters
Update of the filing plan of the DG	Number of old files closed	>1,000 files
Promotion of the correct use of Ares by staff	Number of training sessions organised	2 newcomers' trainings and 2 thematic trainings
<i>Data Protection:</i>		
Records are in place and updated in line with Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 and internal guidance	% of records kept up to date in line with internal guidance	100% of records are kept up to date in line with internal guidance
Promotion of data protection awareness	Number of trainings organised in-house and general trainings promoted	At least 2 newcomer / refresher trainings organised within DG MARE and adequate promotion of general trainings organised with a view to ensure 100% of MARE staff having followed at least one data protection training by 2029

⁽³⁰⁾ ECDS: European Commission digital strategy. Next generation digital Commission C(2022) 4388
S01 to S05: Specific Objectives of the ECDS

⁽³¹⁾ IDx: reference of the indicator in the Digital Commission Dashboard.

⁽³²⁾ Reference of the indicator in the DG MARE Digital Strategy, used for tracking.

C. Sound financial management

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 2025

Output	Indicator	Target
Effective controls: legal and regular transactions	Estimated risk at payment	remains < 2 % of relevant expenditure
	Estimated risk at closure	remains < 2 % of relevant expenditure
Efficient controls	Budget execution	remains 100% of payment appropriations
	Timely payments	remains >97% of payments (in value) made on time
Economy of controls	Overall estimated cost of controls	remains <5% of funds managed

D. Fraud risk management

Objective: The risk of fraud is minimised through the application of effective anti-fraud measures and the implementation of the Commission anti-fraud strategy ⁽³³⁾ aimed at the prevention, detection and correction ⁽³⁴⁾ of fraud

Main outputs in 2025:

Output	Indicator	Target
Raising awareness regarding OLAF and EPPD related procedures to ensure that DG MARE staff remains vigilant to fraud	Number of information campaigns organised about anti-fraud procedures	At least 1 information campaign in 2025

⁽³³⁾ Communication from the Commission 'Commission Anti-Fraud Strategy: enhanced action to protect the EU budget', COM(2019)176 of 29 April 2019 – 'the CAFS Communication'; Communication from the Commission 'Commission Anti-Fraud Strategy Action plan - revision 2023, COM(2023)405 of 11 July 2023 – 'the Communication on the 2023 revision' – and the accompanying document, SWD(2023)245 – 'the revised Action Plan'.

⁽³⁴⁾ Correction of fraud' is an umbrella term, which notably refers to the recovery of amounts unduly spent and to administrative sanctions.

Output	Indicator	Target
Support to Member States in their anti-fraud efforts	Number of Member States to which fraud-related support was provided (e.g. technical input, guidance, or discussion during meetings)	Fraud-related matters discussed with at least 80% of Member States by the end of 2025 during relevant missions, annual coordination meetings and / or other suitable occasions
Regular meetings with counterparts from OLAF / DAC policy and investigative units	Number of meetings per year	At least 4 meetings in 2025

E. Sound environmental management

Objective: Reaching climate neutrality by 2030 and a reduced environmental footprint for the Commission.

Main outputs in 2025

Output	Indicator	Target
Actions to reduce emissions from staff missions	Number of actions to reduce emissions from staff missions	2 actions by end 2025: - awareness raising and promotion to staff and management about new mission guide - planning and monitoring of missions.
Energy saving actions	% of Department buildings participating in the annual BEST energy saving actions	100% by end 2025
Staff awareness actions	Number of staff awareness actions in line with EMAS / greening corporate campaigns	At least 3 actions organised by the MARE Greening Teams by end 2025: - Walking challenge and Vélomai: active participation and promotion; Vélomai kick-off picnic; joint award ceremony - Digital mindfulness session - Action / initiative to be put in place in line with autumn EMAS corporate campaign