



# Management Plan 2023

Directorate-General for  
Maritime Affairs and Fisheries

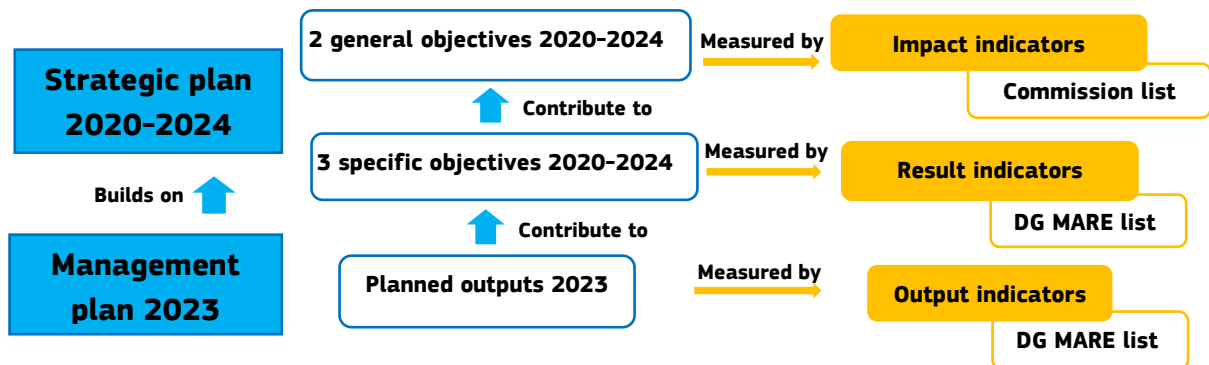
Contents

- Introduction..... 3
- PART 1. Delivering on the Commission’s priorities: main outputs for 2023 ..... 5
  - General objective 1: A European Green Deal..... 10
  - General objective 4: A Stronger Europe in the World ..... 19
- PART 2. Modernising the administration: main outputs for 2023..... 23
  - A. Human resource management ..... 23
  - B. Sound financial management ..... 24
  - C. Fraud risk management ..... 25
  - D. Digital transformation and information management..... 26
  - E. Sound environmental management..... 29
  - F. Initiatives to improve economy and efficiency of financial and non-financial activities ..... 30
- ANNEX: Performance tables..... 31
  - Part 1. Delivering on the Commission’s priorities: main outputs for 2023..... 31
  - Part 2. Modernising the administration: main outputs for 2023 ..... 48

## 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 and their good governance, 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.”* (source: **DG MARE strategic plan 2020-2024**).

The diagram below illustrates the links between DG MARE’s **strategic plan 2020-2024** <sup>(1)</sup> and this **management plan 2023** (please also refer to PART 1, p. 5):



The management plan 2023 reflects President von der Leyen’s **State of the Union 2022** and her **Letter of Intent**, as well as the follow-up to the **Conference on the Future of Europe**.

### DG MARE’s key priorities in 2023 will be:

- To update the **EU maritime security strategy** in a Joint Communication <sup>(2)</sup>, as planned in the **2023 Commission work programme** <sup>(3)</sup>;
- To propose a package of initiatives under the **European Green Deal** <sup>(4)</sup> to make EU fisheries and aquaculture more sustainable, including:
  - a forward-looking **Communication on the functioning of the Common Fisheries Policy** since its reform in 2013;

<sup>(1)</sup> [Strategic plan 2020-2024 – Maritime Affairs and Fisheries | European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#)

<sup>(2)</sup> New initiative from DG MARE/EEAS included in the **2023 Commission work programme**: “Update of the EU maritime security strategy”.

<sup>(3)</sup> [Commission work programme | European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#)

<sup>(4)</sup> [A European Green Deal | European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#)

- an **EU Action Plan on protecting and restoring marine ecosystems for sustainable and resilient fisheries**;
  - a **Communication on the energy transition of the fisheries and aquaculture sector** <sup>(5)</sup>
- To continue to support the undertakings in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors that are affected by the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine and to help these sectors recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and the energy crisis, making them more resilient for the future and support investment in green and digital transition..

**Other important actions in 2023 will be:**

- To continue the full implementation and enforcement of the Common Fisheries Policy.
- To channel funding from the **European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) 2021-2027** to support the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy, the Union's maritime policy, the EU Blue Economy Strategy and the Union's international commitments in the field of ocean governance.
- Through the **Mission ocean and waters**, which stands at the heart of the European Green Deal, ensure the implementation of the Sustainable Blue Economy approach in the EU and internationally.
- To implement the actions announced in the **Strategic Guidelines for Aquaculture** (2021) and the **EU Algae initiative** (2022).
- To conclude the negotiations with the **European Parliament and the Council** for a more effective and modern fisheries control system.
- Together with the **Member States**, further develop a sustainable blue economy in the EU and ensure a sustainable exploitation of fisheries across diverse sea basins.

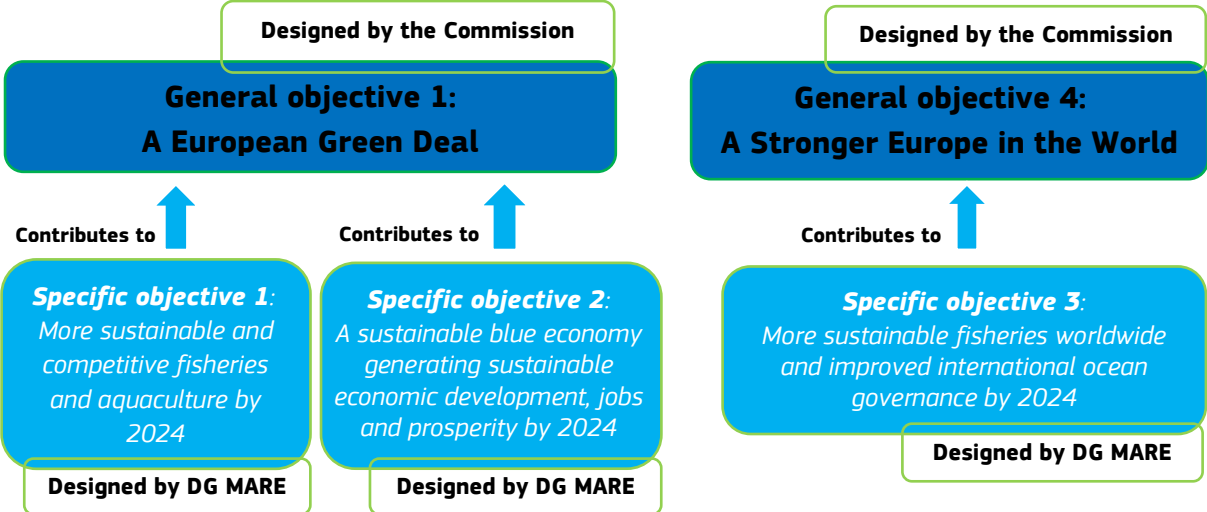
As an organisation, we will continue our work towards a **more modern, efficient and sustainable administration** in line with the corporate Human Resources strategy and the greening action plan.

---

<sup>(5)</sup> [Communication on the Conference on the Future of Europe | European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#): Its [annex \(europa.eu\)](#) mentions that the Commission will consider this initiative as part of new areas of action.

# PART 1. Delivering on the Commission’s priorities: main outputs for 2023

Part 1 explains how our main outputs planned for 2023 contribute to achieving the objectives set in DG MARE’s [strategic plan 2020-2024](#) <sup>(6)</sup>. These contribute as follows to the [political priorities of the von der Leyen Commission](#) <sup>(7)</sup>:



Our work will be a crucial contribution to the **European Green Deal**, and in particular to the [Farm to Fork Strategy](#) <sup>(8)</sup> and the [EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030](#) <sup>(9)</sup>, including their external dimension, but also to the [EU Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change](#) <sup>(10)</sup>. Our work on International Ocean Governance and sustainable fisheries worldwide provides an important contribution to making **Europe Stronger in the World**. Internationally, our actions contribute to 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.

DG MARE’s external communication actions and overall communication strategy will support DG MARE’s policy objectives. Several external communication campaigns support the objectives of the EU Green Deal: #EUBeachCleanup (fight against marine litter), #TasteTheOcean (sustainable fish consumption), sustainably delicious! (sustainable EU aquaculture), Mission “Restore our Ocean and Waters (biodiversity, fight against pollution,

<sup>(6)</sup> [Strategic plan 2020-2024 – Maritime Affairs and Fisheries | European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#)  
<sup>(7)</sup> [The European Commission’s priorities | European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#)  
<sup>(8)</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/food/farm2fork\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/food/farm2fork_en)  
<sup>(9)</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal/actions-being-taken-eu/eu-biodiversity-strategy-2030\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal/actions-being-taken-eu/eu-biodiversity-strategy-2030_en)  
<sup>(10)</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/clima/eu-action/adaptation-climate-change/eu-adaptation-strategy\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/clima/eu-action/adaptation-climate-change/eu-adaptation-strategy_en)

sustainable maritime sector). In addition, the key policy objectives listed below will be supported by a wide range of communication actions used in combination: infographics explaining each policy on social media, thematic episodes on Euronews, press releases, and articles in the [Maritime Affairs & Fisheries Newsletter](#) (targeted at a more specialised audience). The 2023 European Maritime Day will be our annual flagship event, together with the many “European Maritime Day in My Country” events.

**Below follows an overview of our main deliverables for 2023 contributing to “A European Green Deal” and “A Stronger Europe in the World”:**

**Main actions in 2023 contributing to the Commission’s headline ambition of “A European Green Deal”**

- The **full implementation and enforcement of the Common Fisheries Policy** remains a top priority, as outlined in Commissioner Sinkevičius’ [mission letter](#) <sup>(11)</sup>. We strive to bring and maintain fish stocks to healthy levels in all EU and neighbouring sea basins. This contributes to increasing the fleets’ profitability. The full implementation of the landing obligation is also essential. Better fisheries control and targeted enforcement will help ensuring an EU-level playing field.
- The Commission will publish in early 2023 a policy package consisting of:
  - **Communication on the functioning of the Common Fisheries Policy**. The Communication will cover the main features of the [last reform from 2013](#) <sup>(12)</sup>, such as reaching maximum sustainable yield (the maximum sustainable level of fishing that still allows the stock to replenish), implementation of the landing obligation and regionalised governance. The social dimension, climate change and pollution will also be addressed. We will also **report on the implementation of the Common Market Organisation** framework for fisheries and aquaculture products.
  - a Communication developing a long-term strategy for the **energy transition of the fisheries and aquaculture sector**. The aim is to put in place the structures to enhance cooperation between stakeholders and help removing the current barriers to the uptake of energy-efficient technologies.
  - the **EU Action Plan on protecting and restoring marine ecosystems for sustainable and resilient fisheries**, as announced in the [EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030](#) <sup>(13)</sup>, which aims at exploiting the synergies between fisheries and

---

<sup>(11)</sup> [mission-letter-sinkevicius-2019-2024\\_en.pdf](#) (europa.eu)

<sup>(12)</sup> [REGULATION \(EU\) No 1380/2013 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 11 December 2013 on the Common Fisheries Policy, as amended.](#)

<sup>(13)</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal/actions-being-taken-eu/EU-biodiversity-strategy-2030\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal/actions-being-taken-eu/EU-biodiversity-strategy-2030_en)

environmental policies and takes into account the 2021 [report on the implementation of the Technical Measures Regulation](#) <sup>(14)</sup>.

- The annual **Communication on the Common Fisheries Policy** (June 2023) will report on latest progress towards sustainable fishing and on the balance between fishing capacity and fishing opportunities, while setting out main orientations of the Commission proposals on the fishing opportunities for 2024.
- The **European Maritime and Fisheries Fund** (EMFF) 2014-2020 will continue to support the implementation of fisheries and maritime policies until the end of the programming period in 2023. Together with the Member States we will ensure a smooth programme implementation under the **European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund** (EMFAF) 2021-2027 in full alignment with the Common Fisheries Policy and the European Green Deal.
- We will continue ensuring the implementation of **Mission Ocean and Waters**.
- **Control and enforcement** of the rules is essential for the effectiveness and credibility of the Common Fisheries Policy. An EU-wide level playing field through better fisheries control, including the coordination of Member States' control activities by the **European Fisheries Control Agency**, remains the priority. We aim to conclude the negotiations with the European Parliament and the Council to put in place a better EU fisheries control system, on the basis of the 2018 Commission proposal.
- Almost all of the key fish stocks in the North Sea and the north-east Atlantic are managed bilaterally between the EU and the **United Kingdom** and some trilaterally (EU, Norway and the UK) or multilaterally (EU and **other coastal states** in the north-east Atlantic). The sustainable exploitation of these stocks and the implementation and monitoring of the [EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement](#) <sup>(15)</sup> will remain a key priority for DG MARE in 2023. We will take mitigation measures, whenever necessary.
- The **Recovery Plan for Europe**, as a response to the COVID-19 crisis, aims at boosting the green and digital transitions and making Europe's economy fairer, more resilient and sustainable for future generations. The EU blue economy can contribute to this goal. The Recovery and Resilience Plans of coastal states include many reforms and substantial investments to support the sustainable blue economy, amounting to some EUR 11.8 billion or ca. 1.6% of the total budget of the Recovery and Resilience Facility. Our focus

---

<sup>(14)</sup> [COM\(2021\)583 final and SWD\(2021\)268 final of 23.09.2021](#)

<sup>(15)</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/relations-united-kingdom/eu-uk-trade-and-cooperation-agreement\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/relations-united-kingdom/eu-uk-trade-and-cooperation-agreement_en)

in 2023 will be to enhance these investments delivering on the 2021 Strategy for a **new approach to the sustainable blue economy in the EU** <sup>(16)</sup>.

- To support smaller businesses accessing private capital, the Commission's **BlueInvest** <sup>(17)</sup> platform will provide customised services and access to investors. A budgetary guarantee under **InvestEU** <sup>(18)</sup> topped up through a share from the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund will support investments in a sustainable and innovative blue economy of small, medium-sized enterprises and start-ups.
- Contributing to the Farm to Fork Strategy, in 2023, we will continue to work on **fisheries-specific sustainability indicators** for more transparency of environmental performance of fisheries products across the supply chain. The criteria and indicators will likely be incorporated in the Commission's food sustainability labelling framework under the Farm to Fork Strategy. Under this Strategy, we will also work on the actions set out in the Communication Towards a **Strong and Sustainable EU Algae sector** <sup>(19)</sup>.
- In the context of the implementation of the **Commission Strategic Guidelines on EU aquaculture**, the Commission will adopt **guidance documents** on the regulatory framework and administrative procedures, access to space for marine aquaculture, environmental performance and climate change.
- We will continue to work on an initiative bringing together the public bodies and undertakings involved in **ocean observation**, both at a national and EU level. The aim is to tackle current inefficiencies and meet the new challenge of guiding and monitoring measures to implement the European Green Deal.
- Building on the Commission report on **maritime spatial planning**, enforcement action will also in 2023 focus on Member States' obligation to adopt maritime spatial plans. The Commission will further strive to make maritime spatial planning digital and pan-European, including via EMODnet and projects supported through the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund. We will facilitate the dialogue between EU blue economy communities and stakeholders with the establishment of a **European Blue Forum** for users of the sea.

---

<sup>(16)</sup> [COM\(2021\)240 final of 17.05.2021](#)

<sup>(17)</sup> <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/maritimeforum/en/frontpage/1451>


<sup>(18)</sup> [InvestEU \(europa.eu\)](#)

<sup>(19)</sup> [COM\(2022\)592 final](#) and [SWD\(2022\)361 final](#) of 15.11.2022



## **Main actions in 2023 contributing to the Commission’s headline ambition of “A Stronger Europe in the World”**

In line with the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals, the EU acts as a driving force worldwide for sustainable ocean governance. In 2023, DG MARE will enhance further progress through several actions:

- Most importantly, together with the European External Action Service, we will **update the EU Maritime Security Strategy and its Action Plan** as a key contribution to the implementation of the Strategic Compass, and to address current and future maritime security challenges in a complex geopolitical context. This Joint Communication  <sup>(20)</sup> will be a key deliverable from the 2023 Commission Work Programme. The operational phase of the **Common Information Sharing Environment** will be launched at the end of 2023.
- Implementing the 2022 **update of the International Ocean Governance Communication**, in 2023, the Commission and the High Representative will work with other EU and international institutions and EU Member States on actions for a clean, healthy, productive and resilient ocean that is used sustainably under safe and fair work conditions while ensuring stability and security at sea.
- We will ensure that also in 2023 the EU takes a leading role to conclude the negotiations on a **High Seas Treaty on marine biodiversity (BBNJ)** and reach an ambitious, effective, and fair agreement. Likewise, we will promote EU positions and policies in relevant **multilateral fora** <sup>(21)</sup>. In the Food and Agriculture Organization we will focus on fighting illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and will support the implementation of the Port State Measures Agreement. We aim to mainstream biodiversity and climate change towards sustainable fisheries and aquaculture.
- The **Our Ocean Conference** (Panama, 2-3 March 2023) will be an important opportunity to make commitments and showcase the EU’s engagement in delivering the Sustainable Development Goal 14 on Life below Water.
- The **updated Arctic policy**, including the Agreement to Prevent Unregulated High Seas Fisheries in the Central Arctic Ocean, will be further implemented. We will continue our efforts to reach an agreement at the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources to establish new large-scale **marine protected areas in the waters around Antarctica**.

---

<sup>(20)</sup> Initiatives that are part of the 2023 Commission work programme are marked with the following icon:



<sup>(21)</sup> Such as the United Nations, The Food and Agriculture Organization, Regional Fisheries Bodies, the G7 and the G20.

- The EU will continue to take the lead in **Regional Fisheries Management Organisations** for better science, stronger compliance, science-based conservation measures to sustainably manage the stocks and transpose those measures into EU law.
- The **fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated** fishing will unabatedly be continued in cooperation with third countries. The improvement of the IT system 'CATCH' in support to the catch certification scheme and a legal basis for its compulsory use by stakeholders will bring greater assurances that fishery products imported in the EU stem from legal fishing operations.
- We aim to ensure an efficient management of the **sustainable fisheries partnership agreements** in force, a timely renewal of the agreements that are expiring, and if possible, extend the network of agreements.
- We aim at the finalisation of ambitious **Guidelines for Sustainable Aquaculture** in the context of the **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations**.

The full list of the main outputs planned for 2023 can be found in the Annex (p. 31-53).

### **General objective 1: A European Green Deal** <sup>(22)</sup>

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

##### **Result indicator: Stocks fished at maximum sustainable yield (MSY) levels**

A full implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy - including the landing obligation, multiannual management plans, and effective control and enforcement - remain a top priority in line with Commissioner Sinkevičius' mission letter. It is an important contribution to the European Green Deal, to the Farm to Fork Strategy and the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030. The Commission will **report on the functioning of the Common Fisheries Policy** in early 2023. The Communication will include the main features of the **last reform from 2013** <sup>(23)</sup>, such as the target to achieve maximum sustainable yield, the landing obligation and regionalised governance. It will also address the social as well as the climate dimension and pollution. Together with this Communication, the Commission will publish and start to work with Member States on the implementation of the **EU Action Plan on protecting and restoring marine ecosystems for sustainable and resilient fisheries**.

---

<sup>(22)</sup> [The European Commission's priorities | European Commission \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/the-european-commission-s-priorities)

<sup>(23)</sup> [REGULATION \(EU\) No 1380/2013 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 11 December 2013 on the Common Fisheries Policy, as amended.](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2013/1380/oj)

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

- Bringing fish stocks to and maintaining them at healthy levels;
- Ending the wasteful practice of discards through full implementation of the landing obligation;
- Minimising the negative impact of fishing on the marine environment, including on sensitive species and habitats through appropriate technical measures.

In mid-2023, we will publish the annual Communication on the **state of play of the Common Fisheries Policy and orientations for 2024**, outlining our approach for setting the fishing opportunities for 2024. The stakeholders' feedback and our socio-economic analysis will underpin the Commission's annual proposals setting the total allowable catches, fishing efforts and quotas for the EU sea basins (Atlantic, North Sea, Baltic Sea, Mediterranean and Black Seas) and beyond EU waters. The aim is to maintain or reach maximum sustainable yield (MSY) for MSY-assessed stocks.

We will continue working with the regional groups of Member States on delegated acts specifying rules on the **landing obligation** (discard plans) and will encourage a more frequent and effective use of regionalisation under the Regulation on the Common Fisheries Policy and the Technical Measures Regulation<sup>(24)</sup> to establish regional technical measures for conservation purposes, including to avoid bycatch of sensitive species.

Significant improvements in lowering the fishing pressure in the **north-east Atlantic** were made over the past years and the biomass of many fish stocks continued to increase. Some challenges however remain, especially in the Baltic Sea. The Commission will continue to work with scientific bodies for better scientific advice and thus, better stock management. For stocks shared with third countries, the Commission will, on behalf of the Union, engage in consultations to set fishing opportunities in line with long-term management strategies or, in the absence of such strategies, the maximum sustainable yield advice.

Conservation efforts need to be continued in the **Mediterranean and Black Seas** to achieve sustainable fisheries. 2023 will be the fourth year that the [multiannual plan for demersal stock in the western Mediterranean](#)<sup>(25)</sup> is fully implemented. The plan aims to achieve maximum sustainable yield at the latest by 2025. To this end, the annual effort reduction for the stocks covered by the multi-annual plans and other management decisions are to be included in the relevant fishing opportunities regulation, which will also implement measures adopted by the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) in 2023 and, for the Black Sea, the catch limits and quotas for turbot and sprat.

---

<sup>(24)</sup> [Regulation \(EU\) 2019/1241, as amended.](#)

<sup>(25)</sup> [Multiannual plans \(europa.eu\)](#)

We will undertake actions to deliver on the ambitious [GFCM 2030 Strategy](#) <sup>(26)</sup>. Specific actions will address today's challenges and facilitate a green transition, support the coastal communities and preserve food security based on solidarity between all Mediterranean countries. We will work with the co-legislators to ensure adoption of the Commission's [proposal](#) to transpose into EU law the recommendations adopted by the GFCM in 2018 and 2019 <sup>(27)</sup>.

Promoting sustainable fish consumption will remain a top priority in our communication. Building on the first two seasons, DG MARE will launch the third season of the [Taste the Ocean](#) campaign. Celebrity chefs from all over Europe will share their recipes and encourage consumers to consume sustainable fish and seafood. We pass the message that we should be mindful of what we eat, so that we can keep on enjoying the treasures from our seas, rivers and lakes also in the future. Besides social media actions, the campaign will also involve local and national press and the Commission's Representations.

The relevant performance table can be found in the Annex (pages 31-33).

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

Our work in 2023 towards [sustainable fisheries](#) in the different EU sea basins also contributes to [boosting the economic performance](#) of the EU fishing fleets. The [2022 Annual Economic Report on the EU fishing fleet](#) <sup>(28)</sup> (re-)confirms a correlation between the sustainable exploitation and management of fisheries and the [economic returns and overall profitability in fisheries](#). However, the difficult economic environment hit the fishery sector hard, and its dependency on fossil fuels is compromising its resilience and profitability. In a Communication, we will develop a long-term strategy for the [energy transition of the fisheries and aquaculture sector](#). The aim is to put in place the structures to enhance cooperation between stakeholders and help removing the current barriers to the uptake of energy-efficient technologies.

The relevant performance table can be found in the Annex (page 33).

### **Result indicators on aquaculture**

The 2021 [Strategic guidelines for a more sustainable and competitive EU aquaculture for 2021-2030](#) <sup>(29)</sup> promote [better environmental performance](#) of EU aquaculture, a diversification towards an aquaculture with a lower carbon footprint and lower impact on the environment, as well as organic aquaculture and algae farming. DG MARE will continue

---

<sup>(26)</sup> [GFCM 2030 Strategy | General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean \(GFCM\)](#)

<sup>(27)</sup> [COM\(2021\)434 final of 30.07.2021](#)

<sup>(28)</sup> <https://stecf.jrc.ec.europa.eu/reports/economic>

<sup>(29)</sup> [COM\(2021\)236 final of 12.05.2021](#)

implementing the actions announced in the Strategic Guidelines notably by adopting a number of Commission guidelines on the regulatory framework and administrative procedures, access to marine space, environmental performance and climate change. The **EU Aquaculture online platform** will be completed in 2023. This platform will provide a one-stop-shop on knowledge, good practices and tools to support the sustainable development of aquaculture in the EU.

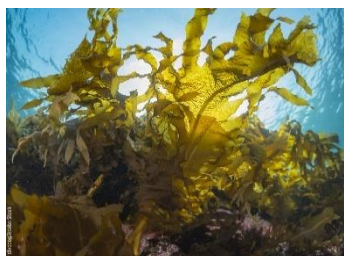


Figure 1: [https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2021-08/AdobeStock\\_223941961-seaweed.jpg](https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2021-08/AdobeStock_223941961-seaweed.jpg)

In 2023, DG MARE will start implementing the **EU Algae Initiative** <sup>(30)</sup>, one of the deliverables under the Farm to Fork Strategy, with the objective to increase sustainable algae production, ensure safe consumption and boost the innovative use of algae in the EU, notably by integrating algae sector knowledge in the aquaculture assistance mechanism, and launching an awareness campaign with an “EU Algae Day”.

Following preparatory work in 2022, DG MARE will provide Member States with a communication toolbox for an EU-wide **communication campaign on aquaculture**. The campaign will inform citizens about the benefits of EU aquaculture as a healthy reliable and sustainable food source that also helps creating jobs in coastal and rural communities.

The relevant performance table can be found in the Annex (pages 34-35).

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


An effective **fisheries control system in the Member States** is key to the success of the Common Fisheries Policy. We will continue stepping up our efforts to better apply, implement and enforce the fisheries rules. This effort will be supported by the European Fisheries Control Agency’s contribution, notably in terms of operational coordination of Member States’ inspection activities.

We will follow up on the recommendations from the European Court of Auditors’ [Special Report 20/2022 “EU action to combat illegal fishing: Control systems in place but weakened by uneven checks and sanctions by Member States”](#) <sup>(31)</sup>. Among others, this requires an active monitoring of the implementation of the control action plans, as well as performing audits and verifications of the Member States’ fisheries control systems and, as necessary, establishing new control action plans. This also requires a swift and consistent follow-up of open EU-Pilots and infringements regarding Member States’ fisheries control systems and as necessary, the opening of new cases.

---

<sup>(30)</sup> [COM\(2022\)592 final](#) and [SWD\(2022\)361 final](#) of 15.11.2022

<sup>(31)</sup> Special report 20/2022 - <https://www.eca.europa.eu/en/Pages/DocItem.aspx?did=61941>

The Commission adopted a [proposal to review the EU fisheries control system](#)  <sup>(32)</sup> in May 2018. As a priority, we will continue working closely with the co-legislators with a view to finalising the negotiations in the first half of 2023. If agreed by the co-legislators, the Regulation would modernise fisheries controls, ensure a better quality and sharing of fisheries data, reduce the administrative burden, and strengthen and further harmonise the enforcement provisions. It would support the implementation of the landing obligation and the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing by introducing the necessary legal basis for the use of IT tools in the catch certification scheme.

The relevant performance table can be found in the Annex (pages 35-36).

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

The **European Maritime and Fisheries Fund** (EMFF) for 2014-2020 and the **European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund** (EMFAF) for 2021-2027 are the main financing instruments to support the full implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy, the Union's maritime policy, the EU Blue Economy Strategy and the Union's international commitments in the field of ocean governance. Throughout 2023, we will encourage Member States to accelerate the use of the EU funds, including their dedicated support to cater for the impact of the crisis stemming from the **Russian invasion of Ukraine**.

Financial support goes to fishers for the transition towards more sustainable fisheries with a smaller carbon and environmental footprint, and for building resilient coastal communities. Member States benefit from financial aid for data collection and fisheries control, both essential to ensure sustainable fisheries. In 2023, DG MARE will encourage Member States to start implementing their programmes as adopted by the Commission in 2022. Member States have strongly committed to **climate and biodiversity** related actions in their programmes to deliver on the expected contribution of 30% of the EMFAF 2021-2027 budget towards EU climate objectives, and to dedicate around 50% of expenditure to biodiversity, making a strong contribution to the biodiversity spending targets.

DG MARE will align with the **European Commission corporate communication**, by applying appropriate visual identity and engaging even more in the INFORM EU network of Member States' managing authorities. Showcasing successful EU-funded projects will remain a key priority of DG MARE's newsletter, social media, and televised magazine [OCEAN](#). Produced in cooperation with Euronews, the 12 new episodes of OCEAN in 2023 will explore the themes of pollution and marine life, including policies and projects designed

---

<sup>(32)</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).

to protect our seas, the blue economy, sustainable fishing, aquaculture, climate change, ocean energy and more. There will also be a new season of the OCEAN CALLS podcast dedicated to the future of the oceans (available on euronews.com and on all the main podcast platforms). Each of the 8 episodes features passionate scientists and other celebrities.

The relevant performance table can be found in the Annex (page 37).

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

### **Result indicator: Size of the EU blue economy**

Contributing to the European Green Deal, the Commission Communication on a **new approach for a sustainable blue economy in the EU** <sup>(33)</sup> (May 2021) focuses on the EU blue economy and economic recovery. Our priority in 2023 will be the continued implementation of this strategy. As part of this, we will keep working closely with DG REGIO to develop a **Smart Specialisation Platform for the Blue Economy**, with the aim to have the platform fully operational in 2023, to allow for a continuous and structured support to EU blue economy stakeholders.

To help smaller businesses, the Commission's **BlueInvest** <sup>(34)</sup> platform will continue to provide customised investment readiness support, visibility and access to investors. As a novelty and in cooperation with the European Investment Fund, it will also provide strategic market intelligence and targeted capacity building support for asset managers that are keen to diversify portfolios in the sustainable blue economy. The **BlueInvest Day** in March will be promoted with an attractive package of onsite and online communication products, disseminated via DG MARE's principal social media channels and be put in the wider context of the contribution of the blue economy to the EU green and digital transition.

We will support the implementation of the **Ministerial declaration of the Union for the Mediterranean on sustainable blue economy** <sup>(35)</sup> (February 2021), the revised Atlantic Action Plan, the WestMED Initiative and the Common Maritime Agenda for the Black Sea through a dedicated Assistance Mechanism and by funding flagship calls promoting cooperation on sustainable blue economy topics at regional/sea basin level. <sup>(36)</sup> We will follow the work under the Adriatic and Ionian (EUSAIR) and Baltic Macro-regional strategies and we will support, in cooperation with DG REGIO, the work related to maritime affairs and blue economy. We will continue to support outermost regions to adopt and implement their

---

<sup>(33)</sup> [COM\(2021\)240 final of 17.05.2021](#)

<sup>(34)</sup> <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/maritimeforum/en/frontpage/1451>

<sup>(35)</sup> [Declaration-UfM-Blue-Economy-EN-1.pdf \(ufmsecretariat.org\)](#)

<sup>(36)</sup> [WestMED Initiative at a glance - WestMED \(westmed-initiative.eu\)](#)

blue economy strategies in the context of the implementation of the new EU Strategy on Outermost Regions.

As the EU's sustainable blue economy expands, it is using its maritime space for more and more activities, notably offshore renewable energy. With support from the newly selected assistance mechanism for maritime spatial planning, we will kick off the **Blue Forum of users of the sea** to coordinate the dialogue between different users of the sea. The forum will develop synergies between activities and reconcile competing uses of the sea.

The Commission will continue monitoring Member States' actions in the context of the ongoing infringements regarding their failure to timely adopt a maritime spatial plan under the **Maritime Spatial Planning Directive** <sup>(37)</sup>, and will adopt reasoned opinions as appropriate. The Commission will further support Member States to develop maritime spatial plans and make maritime spatial planning more digital by uploading their plans in **EMODnet** <sup>(38)</sup> and more pan-European through EMFAF cross-border projects. In 2023, and coinciding with the advent of 2023 European Year of Skills, a third round of the Call for Blue Careers will be launched to boost digital and green skills in various sectors of the blue economy.

The **European Maritime Day** (24-25 May in Brest, France) will remain at the centre for stakeholder engagement and communication on the blue economy and will be accompanied by an ambitious package of press and digital material, underscoring the contribution of sea borne activities – from energy production to aquaculture – to the EU's green and digital recovery. The EU-wide campaign **European Maritime Day In My Country** will support the local events in coastal communities throughout the EU.

The relevant performance table can be found in the Annex (pages 38-39).

**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**

The initiative on **ocean observation** brings together the different communities – fisheries, environment, navigation, research and licensing – that are engaged in ocean observation to make available more reliable marine data to meet the challenges of the European Green Deal. Although this action is not directly related to the **European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet)** <sup>(39)</sup>, in the long term it will benefit from the available marine data in Europe.

---

<sup>(37)</sup> [Directive 2014/89/EU establishing a framework for maritime spatial planning](#)

<sup>(38)</sup> <https://emodnet.ec.europa.eu/en/human-activities>

<sup>(39)</sup> [European Marine Observation and Data Network \(EMODnet\)](#)



The Commission launched the Mission [“Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030”](#) <sup>(40)</sup> in 2021 under the Horizon Europe research programme. The budget for 2021-2023 is EUR 344 million with additional efforts from Member States, regions and international partners. The “lighthouse” projects initiated in 2022 aim to demonstrate practical solutions for meeting the European Green Deal objectives of decarbonisation, biodiversity and pollution. DG MARE will contribute to monitoring the projects and to the development of the Mission work programmes. We will promote Mission Ocean through the networks under the sea basin strategies and raise commitments of the regional stakeholders for the lighthouses.

The relevant performance table can be found in the Annex (pages 39-40).

**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**

The Commission has already taken unprecedented action to reduce the quantity of plastic reaching our seas and ocean, notably through [Directive \(EU\) 2019/904](#) <sup>(41)</sup>, which targets the 10 single-use plastic products most often found on Europe's beaches and seas, as well as **lost or abandoned fishing gear containing plastic** and obliges the **producers** of fishing gear to ensure its safe disposal, collection and treatment.

We will continue to collect **data on marine litter on beaches** through the European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet) in order to meet requirements of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and the Zero Pollution Action Plan. This Plan includes 2030 targets to reduce plastic litter at sea (by 50%) and microplastics released into the environment (by 30%).

DG MARE has stepped up efforts in [ocean literacy](#), and its [EU4Ocean coalition](#) <sup>(42)</sup> will be sustained further for the next 3 years. It unites ocean literacy efforts in the EU for the youth to better understand how humankind and the ocean impact on each other.

DG MARE will organise another edition of the **#EUBeachCleanup** campaign, together with the European External Action Service and the United Nations, with the support of the Smurfs. The aim is to raise awareness about the problem of marine litter. We encourage everyone to organise or take part in a clean-up event, on the coastline or mainland as a very large quantity of marine litter originates from land sources. The campaign's main events will take place on World Coastal Cleanup Day (16 September 2023).

The relevant performance table can be found in the Annex (page 40).

---

<sup>(40)</sup> [Restore Our Ocean and Waters by 2030 - Communication on Missions](#)

<sup>(41)</sup> [EUR-Lex - 32019L0904 - EN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](#)

<sup>(42)</sup> [Learn more about the EU4Ocean Platform | Maritime Forum \(europa.eu\)](#)

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

DG MARE and the European External Action Service will update in 2023 the [EU Maritime Security Strategy and its Action Plan](#) <sup>(43)</sup>, based on a joint assessment and a public consultation. In 2023, DG MARE will improve further the different building blocks of the [Common Information Sharing Environment](#) <sup>(44)</sup> in order to start the operational phase by the end of 2023.

The presence of **unexploded munitions** in EU sea basins and the possible release of chemical agents they often contain is a significant risk to the environment and the development of the sustainable blue economy. Old munitions threaten the construction of offshore renewable energy sites, can put fishing vessels and their crew in danger, or accidentally released chemicals can contaminate aquaculture sites. In 2023, DG MARE will start a pilot case for the Baltic Sea contributing to the clean-up efforts in this sea basin. To that end, in close cooperation with the Council of the Baltic Sea States and HELCOM, we will work on a list of priorities and actions to tackle this issue. Best practices and actions will then be replicated in other sea basins.

The relevant performance table can be found in the Annex (pages 40-41).

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



Figure 2: [https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2021-08/AdobeStock\\_13799717-windmills-fishing-ship.jpg](https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2021-08/AdobeStock_13799717-windmills-fishing-ship.jpg)

In 2023, we will work further on the implementation of the [EU Strategy on Offshore Renewable Energy](#) <sup>(45)</sup>. Following the setting-up of a Community of Practice in the North Sea and the Baltic Sea in 2022, we will focus on expanding such practices to the Mediterranean and the

Atlantic. This will complement the **Blue Forum of users of the sea**. Three new projects facilitating the further implementation of **Maritime Spatial Planning** in the EU will focus on the specific role of regions, as well as on nature and biodiversity protection. See also the section above: Result indicator ‘Size of the EU blue economy’.

The relevant performance table can be found in the Annex (page 41).

---

<sup>(43)</sup> [Maritime security strategy \(europa.eu\)](#)

<sup>(44)</sup> [Common information sharing environment \(CISE\) \(europa.eu\)](#)

<sup>(45)</sup> [COM\(2020\)741 final of 19.11.2020](#)

## **General objective 4: A Stronger Europe in the World** <sup>(46)</sup>

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

The EU, represented by the Commission, is committed to leading the way on international ocean governance by playing a prominent role in all relevant fora. In 2023, our main deliverables will be the following:

- Implementing the 2022 Joint Communication on **International Ocean Governance** <sup>(47)</sup> and confirm the EU as a driving force in the implementation of global commitments set out in the **2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development Goals** <sup>(48)</sup>.
- We strive to conclude the negotiations of a High Seas Treaty on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction (**BBNJ**) with an ambitious agreement, which is also an objective of the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030.
- Ensuring participation and EU contributions in the **UN processes and agencies**, in particular: the Food and Agriculture Organisation Committee on Fisheries and related processes, the UN General Assembly resolutions on Oceans and the Law of the Sea and on Sustainable Fisheries, and the UN Fish Stocks Agreement Review Conference.
- Continuing to promote the Commission's policy on deep sea mining, based on the precautionary principle, as per the Joint Communication on International Ocean Governance, notably in the Council.
- Delivering on the **EU Arctic Policy** as set out in the Joint Communication - **A stronger EU engagement for a greener, peaceful and prosperous Arctic** <sup>(49)</sup> (2021).



Figure 4: <https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2022-07/saami-lifestyle.jpg>

The EU will continue to develop sustainable relationships with its partners in the region (such as Iceland, Norway, the United Kingdom, Greenland and the Faroe Islands), including on fisheries, to organise the EU Arctic Forum and Indigenous People's Dialogue, and to support the implementation of the Agreement to Prevent Unregulated High Seas Fisheries in the Central Arctic Ocean.

- Enhancing cooperation with **African partners** to encourage better ocean governance, sustainable fisheries and a sustainable blue economy. DG MARE will continue its work through an EU-Africa Ocean strategic group and prepare a second edition of BlueInvest outside the EU.

---

<sup>(46)</sup> General objective 4 from [The European Commission's priorities | European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#)

<sup>(47)</sup> [International ocean governance \(europa.eu\)](#)

<sup>(48)</sup> [The Sustainable Development Agenda – United Nations Sustainable Development](#)

<sup>(49)</sup> [JOIN\(2021\)27 final of 13.10.2021](#)

**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**

**Regional Fisheries Management Organisations** <sup>(50)</sup> continue to be the key vectors for the joint management of straddling and highly migratory fish stocks under the United Nations Law of the Sea. Their good performance is essential to ensure sustainable fisheries worldwide by:

- promoting science and science-based conservation and sustainable management of the stocks and the ecosystems under their purview;
- better compliance with rules and regular performance reviews;
- a stronger fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, and
- a better performance of these organisations in line with the external objectives of the Common Fisheries Policy, the International Ocean Governance Communication, and the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030.

The relevant performance table can be found in the Annex (pages 42-43).

**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**

The EU, represented by the Commission, plays an active role in 16 Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs), and two Regional Fisheries Bodies without decision making power. The **transposition of binding conservation and control measures** adopted by these organisations into EU law ensures legal certainty and compliance within the EU.

In 2023, we expect the co-legislators to adopt three Regulations regarding the following amendments to regulations on the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT): on the multiannual management plan for bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean, on the catch documentation programme for bluefin tuna and on the ICCAT management, conservation and control measures.

In addition to that, in 2023 we expect the following legislative work to be completed:

- The co-legislators to adopt three regulations transposing control, conservation and management measures (Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, Commission for the Conservation of Southern bluefin tuna);
- The Council to adopt two decisions relating to the ratification by Poland of the amendment to the Bering Sea Convention, subject to consent by the Parliament;

---

<sup>(50)</sup> [Regional fisheries management organisations \(RFMOs\) \(europa.eu\)](https://europa.eu)

- The Commission to adopt four regulation proposals (Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement, South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation, and an amendment to Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation regulation together with a delegated act).

Strategic compliance and enforcement action in RFMOs will tackle overfishing, illegal trade and on the efficiency of the systems put in place by Member States to control the activities of their fishing fleet in non-EU waters and of their farms for bluefin tuna.

The relevant performance table can be found in the Annex (pages 44-45).

**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**

The EU has a zero-tolerance policy towards illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, which has strong detrimental effects on stocks, profitability of law-abiding operators, viability of coastal communities, and undermines conservation efforts.

The **carding system** – established by the [IUU Regulation](#) <sup>(51)</sup> – can promote necessary reforms in third countries to ensure that adequate fisheries control legislation and tools are developed at national level, and fishers are incentivised not to engage in IUU fishing activities. Using a system of green, yellow and red cards, the EU warns third countries 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, which were officially warned of the need to take action against IUU fishing (yellow card; two countries have been warned twice). Only a few countries have not carried out the necessary reforms. As a result, fishery products caught by the vessels of these countries cannot be imported into the EU (red card and listing). DG MARE will pursue close cooperation and dialogue to foster the necessary reforms in all third countries that are currently subject to the carding system.

The relevant performance table can be found in the Annex (pages 45-46).

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

One of the key elements of the [IUU Regulation](#) <sup>(52)</sup> is the **catch certification scheme**. The scheme requires that all imports into the EU of fishery products are accompanied by a catch certificate that is validated by the flag State of the catching vessels. Member States

---

<sup>(51)</sup> [EUR-Lex - 02008R1005-20110309 - EN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](#)

<sup>(52)</sup> See previous footnote.

must apply the scheme and the controls and verifications on imports of fishery products. Up to now, the competent authorities of 93 third countries have been notified to the EU for the validation of catch certificates.

The European Court of Auditors' [Special Report 20/2022 "EU action to combat illegal fishing: Control systems in place but weakened by uneven checks and sanctions by Member States"](#) <sup>(53)</sup> concluded that control systems in place to combat illegal fishing are partially effective. The catch certification scheme improved traceability and reinforced the control of imports but shows significant differences in the scope and quality of checks and verifications by Member States which undermine the effectiveness of the system and lead to a risk of operators exploiting the weakest link to import illegally caught fish into the EU.

One of the causes is that the control system is paper based. An IT system **CATCH** <sup>(54)</sup> is being developed to digitalise the submission and treatment of the catch certificates. CATCH is operational since May 2019 but not used by Member States yet as still voluntary. The Commission will, as part of the ongoing revision of the fisheries control system, encourage co-legislators to adopt rules for the compulsory use of CATCH at EU level.

The relevant performance table can be found in the Annex (page 46).

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

**Sustainable fisheries partnership agreements** (SFPAs) give access for the EU long distance fleet to fishing zones in third country waters. They provide support to those third countries for better fisheries governance and ensure a sustainable development of their local fishing sector. Currently, [13 protocols to SFPAs](#) <sup>(55)</sup> with third countries are in force:

- 9 tuna agreements with: Cabo Verde, Ivory Coast, Sao Tomé e Príncipe, Gabon, Cook Islands, Seychelles, Mauritius, Senegal and The Gambia (with a hake component for the last two), and
- 4 mixed agreements with: Greenland, Morocco, Mauritania and Guinea-Bissau.

In 2023, the Commission will give priority to the implementation of the existing fisheries agreements, to monitoring the fisheries activities of the EU vessels, to an adequate programming and application of the sectoral support under the agreements. We will also prepare negotiation mandates for those protocols that will expire in 2023 or in the first half of 2024 (Morocco, Cabo Verde or Guinea Bissau). Furthermore, the Commission will put forward legislative proposals for concluding a new SFPA with Madagascar and with Kiribati.

The relevant performance table can be found in the Annex (pages 46-47).

---

<sup>(53)</sup> Special report 20/2022 - <https://www.eca.europa.eu/en/Pages/DocItem.aspx?did=61941>

<sup>(54)</sup> [CATCH \(europa.eu\)](#)

<sup>(55)</sup> [Sustainable fisheries partnership agreements \(SFPAs\) \(europa.eu\)](#)

## **PART 2. Modernising the administration: main outputs for 2023**

The internal control framework<sup>(56)</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 on an ongoing basis throughout the year and be subject to a specific annual assessment covering all internal control principles.

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

In 2023, we will continue implementing the local HR Strategy<sup>(57)</sup> and an Equality Workplan<sup>(58)</sup>. For the HR Strategy, we will focus on: better managing our workload, in particular by exploring more flexible resources allocation and possibilities to introduce more specialisation among the administrative support staff. We will also tackle weaker areas of MARE's work-life balance policy<sup>(59)</sup>; more support for internal mobility; strengthening onboarding of newcomers. Implementation of our local Equality Workplan will focus on all aspects of equality, diversity and inclusion. We will do this with the support of MARE's Staff Engagement, Equality, Diversity & Inclusion working group, and will focus on awareness raising for our staff, at management level, by empowering staff and through internal communication work.

DG MARE has met and exceeded its targets for first female appointments to Middle management. In 2023, we will continue contributing to wider Commission targets of achieving gender balance through first female appointments. In order to tackle the observed geographical imbalances, we will focus on the management pipeline, also supporting women from the under-represented nationalities through the Female Talent Development Programme. In order to improve the representation of underrepresented Member States in our broader AD population for any procedure leading to offer a contract, at least one candidate holding the nationality of one of the under-represented Member States will be interviewed.

To fill in the gap of specialist knowledge and skills, we will start recruiting officials from the new list of administrators in the field of maritime affairs and fisheries (EPSO/AD/397/21).

---

<sup>(56)</sup> [Communication C\(2017\)2373 - Revision of the Internal Control Framework](#)

<sup>(57)</sup> <https://myintracomm.ec.europa.eu/dg/mare/Staff/Documents/Strategy/MARE-HR-strategy.docx>

<sup>(58)</sup> <https://myintracomm.ec.europa.eu/dg/mare/NewsPortal/Pages/DG-MARE-Equality-WorkPlan-for-2021-2024-Adopted.aspx>

<sup>(59)</sup> A specific question on the extent to which the policy is being implemented in MARE was included in the Staff Survey just for MARE staff.

We will continue to regularly launch satisfaction surveys to facilitate internal communication and feedback. It will be further strengthened through the MARE Staff Engagement Diversity and Inclusion group, and the Greening DG MARE team.

The relevant performance table can be found in the Annex (page 48).

## **B. Sound financial management**

- **Shared management** (+/- 75% of the budget):

For the 2014-2020 programming period, DG MARE has developed a Single Audit Strategy in conjunction with DG REGIO and DG EMPL, which has recently been updated to consider the additional risks in view of the upcoming closure. Similarly, the three DGs, together with DG HOME, have drawn up a Single Audit Strategy for the programming period 2021-2027. These strategies provide for compliance audit assignments, which focus on assessing the legality and regularity of expenditure declared to the Commission. These, together with other targeted audit assignments focussing on specific horizontal themes or risks, will continue to form the main audit work in 2023.

In February/March 2023, DG MARE expects to receive substantial assurance packages, relating to 27 operational programmes, which will be the subject of thorough desk reviews and will be complemented by targeted audits, based on a risk assessment. DG MARE's related audit plan includes 26 audits in 2023.

The risk related to the expenditure declared to DG MARE in the accounting year 2020/2021 is considered limited since most of the national authorities appear to have been able to carry out their respective controls to a sufficient level, despite the pandemic situation. In addition, DG MARE has reached an adequate level of assurance through its own audits. Since the beginning of 2022, national controls and audits as well as audits carried out by DG MARE have resumed as normal including visits on the spot, when necessary.

DG MARE therefore 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 certified in the annual accounts. In addition, the retention of 10% from each of the interim payments made by the Commission will further protect the EU budget year on year. The audit work in 2023 will mainly target at increasing the overall audit coverage and following-up on open issues and risks identified, with a view to preparing for the upcoming closure exercise (2025).

While DG MARE expects to receive as of 2023 expenditure declarations also for the new programming period 2021-2027, this will have an effect on the assurance building process only as of 2024 with the receipt of the first related assurance packages.



- **(In)direct management** (+/- 25% of the budget):

DG MARE delegates a substantial part of its directly managed budget to the new Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency, including the implementation of the pilot projects proposed by the European Parliament. For the remaining (non-delegated) part, DG MARE ensures 100% ex ante verification of all payment above EUR 5 000. Payment transactions below EUR 5 000 are checked on a sample basis and 100% of the grants, procurement procedures and contribution agreements to pillar-assessed entities are also verified ex-ante before the award decisions are issued.

In 2023, DG MARE will continue the use a simplified form of grants for the operating grants to the Advisory Councils in the form of lumps sums to gain on the cost of control.

Following the use of eProcurement, the framework procurement contracts are also expected to onboard the Public Procurement Management Tool. As part of maintaining a strong internal control system, the usual quarterly meetings with the Director-General of DG MARE will be maintained as well as the periodical meetings with the MARE Budget Correspondents.

With SUMMA becoming the Commission's corporate financial system as of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024, a significant part of the financial resources in 2023 will be devoted to training and technical configurations in preparation of SUMMA's go-live.

The relevant performance table can be found in the Annex (page 48).

### **C. Fraud risk management**

The Joint Anti-Fraud Strategy of DG REGIO, DG EMPL and DG 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 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 implemented both at administrative and at institutional level. The main actions for 2023 will continue focussing on further developing cooperation with key partners such as OLAF and EPPO based on established exchange on information and practices. The joint action plan of the updated Joint Anti-Fraud Strategy included several actions for the three DGs, for one of which DG MARE was in the lead – Development of a new checklist for Key Requirement 7 agreed by the three DGs. This checklist was drafted by DG MARE and used during 7 related thematic audits carried out by October 2022 and additional 5 are planned for 2023.

The relevant performance table can be found in the Annex (page 49).

## **D. Digital transformation and information management**

### **o Digital transformation**

The main initiatives for DG MARE's digital transformation will focus on the objectives of the New Digital Strategy:

- Objective #1 FOSTER A DIGITAL CULTURE:
  - o Reinforcing specific IT knowledge, notably on Cloud-based technologies.
- Objective #2 DIGITAL-READY POLICY MAKING:
  - o Helping policymakers detect digital possibilities in the framework of the amendment of the Fisheries Control, IUU and EFCA regulations.
- Objective #3 DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION:
  - o Progressing with the innovative Ocean Store project as a first step to migrate our portfolio of systems to the Cloud.
  - o Contributing to the AI@EC action plan and launching a study to identify potential cases for AI in DG MARE.
  - o Progressing with the decommissioning of legacy applications.
- Objective #4 SEAMLESS DIGITAL LANDSCAPE:
  - o Launching the Data Collection Framework project, the system aims at improving efficiency of exchanges with Member States on reporting obligations. Applying the Dual Pillar approach. The project team is represented in the Regulatory Reporting community and will also explore referencing the solution in the Joinup portal.
  - o Launching the Aquaculture project to develop the EU Aquaculture Assistance Mechanism website. Applying the Dual Pillar approach.
- Objective #5 - GREEN, RESILIENT AND SECURE INFRASTRUCTURE:
  - o Progressing with the IT Modernisation Plan of our applications portfolio.

### **o Information and IT security rules**

Globally in the Industry and administration, and even more given the current political context, IT Security has become increasingly relevant. We will continue re-enforcing the security aspects in DG MARE. Key actions planned for 2023 are aligned with Corporate IT Security Objectives and they include:

- Objective #1 UPDATED IT SECURITY PLANS:
  - o Systems will have an updated plan, reflecting risks, mitigations in place and a plan for the residual risks. This objective includes producing plans for new systems, such as the Ocean Store, and updating plans for those which already exist. The objective will be tracked with KPI on information systems updated at least every two years, with a target of 90%, in line with corporate objectives.
  - o DG MARE aims to keep the good performance shown in the last two years.
- Objective #2 COMPLIANCE WITH PRIORITY CONTROLS:
  - o Corporate standards and Legal Basis are translated into security controls. Systems must implement controls identified as a priority, to improve Cybersecurity position

to an acceptable level. The objective will be tracked with KPI on compliance with priority controls.

- Objective #3 COMPLIANCE OF EU LOGIN / MFA:
  - Authentication is reported consistently as one of the main vectors of cyberattack. Whilst it is not a guarantee of not having attacks, adoption of EU Login ensures that controls related to authentication are in place.
  - Multi-Factor Authentication (e.g. in-app confirmation, SMS One-Time Password) reduces significantly more the risk of unauthorised use of the account by malicious actors. Hence systems dealing with Sensitive Non-Classified data must implement also Multi-Factor Authentication. The objective will be tracked with KPI on information systems using EU Login (and MFA for systems dealing with SNC data).
- Objective #4 UPDATED CORPORATE REPOSITORIES:
  - Maintain GOVIS2 data required for the IT Security Reporting and the Governance Risk and Compliance (GRC) tool up to date.
- Objective #5 IT SECURITY TRAINING:
  - In collaboration with the Cyberaware team, we plan to deliver a refresher for system owners and improve Cybersecurity training for the IT team. The objective will be tracked with KPI on staff who have followed IT Security training.

MARE plans to re-enforce the IT Risk capacity, uplifting the technical IT Security team, working with DIGIT.S, exploring the consumption of Services available in the Service Catalogue. MARE will work with the Cyberaware team to provide information sessions. For externalised information systems, MARE will include the IT Security standards in the call for tenders. Exposure and remediation of IT vulnerabilities will be managed with external providers and reported. Objectives #1 to #4 will be applicable to externalised information systems. MARE will consider, in collaboration with DIGIT, impact on workload of the upcoming Cybersecurity Regulation and foreseeable subsequent guidelines.

- **Data management**

Data-driven decision-making is key for DG MARE and for the correct implementation of its policies. In order to take informed decisions efficiently, it is useful to have a strong data management. A strong and coherent Data Management Strategy is essential for the implementation of data-driven policy initiatives, enforcement and a more coordinated data management as laid down in DG MARE's Digital Strategy 2021-2025. End of 2022, building on the corporate data strategy, DG MARE endorsed its Data Management Strategy accordingly.

In 2023, DG MARE will focus on the further establishment of data quality rules, notably for fisheries management and control. Specific actions are the further finalisation of the Integrated Fisheries Data Management (IFDM) programme, supporting the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy and the EU Fisheries Control both within the EU as with third parties, by:

- Rolling out the UN FLUX standard for all EU Member States and relevant third parties and, where relevant, enforce the legal obligations accordingly;
- Further integration of relevant data domains in the Ocean Store;
- Together with the Member States, revisit the VALID guidelines, thereby ensuring that fisheries control data is properly validated and crosschecked in accordance with the standards in place;
- Enhancing partnership with the European Fisheries Control Agency notably on data sharing;
- Finalising data visualisation services in DG MARE and improve awareness for data users in DG MARE.

#### ○ **Data protection**

With regard to the **protection of personal data**, DG MARE's work in 2023 will continue to focus on ensuring compliance with the data protection rules, in particular by:

- Keeping an updated and complete inventory of all data processing operations in the Data Protection Record Register;
- Ensuring that appropriate information is provided to the data subjects concerned through concise and intelligible privacy statements;
- Ensuring that data subject requests are properly documented and dealt with in the time frame as stipulated by Article 14(3) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725;
- Continued assessment of compliance with general principles in particular as regards lawfulness, data minimisation and storage limitation;
- Ensuring consultation of the European Data Protection Supervisor on proposals for a legislative act, of recommendations or of proposals to the Council pursuant to Article 218 TFEU falling under the remit of DG MARE (e.g. in relation to Regional Fisheries Management Organisations and Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements and related Protocols), where there is an impact on the protection of individuals' rights and freedoms with regard to the processing of personal data;
- Ensuring that external processors used by DG MARE are applying the high standards set out in the Internal Data Protection Regulation, including by ensuring that EU/EEA based processors are preferred, whenever possible.

#### ○ **Records management**

For 2023, DG MARE will continue to implement the Record management policy of the Commission, now focused on records management and archives. Our priorities in 2023, among others, in line with the priorities set out by the SG, will be:

- To promote the recently implemented Sensitive Personal Data flag, as well as to raise awareness about data protection with the correct use of security markings on a need-to-know basis;

- To establish the correct use of the recently implemented Qualified Electronic Signature, as well as to contribute to the improvement of the dedicated procedures, by providing feedback and input to the SG and DIGIT;
- To contribute to the Hermes-Ares-Nomcom (HAN) remodelling that is scheduled by the SG for 2023, by sending ideas and feedback;
- To continue with our contribution to the Digital Preservation Strategy, by assisting business owners of local systems in the assessment of their record preservation needs;
- To assist business owners in deciding which, and at what stage, documents on collaborative sites should be registered, as part of the single integrated framework for collaboration;
- To continue our effort to better organise the paper archives of the DG and to reduce their size, in close collaboration with the units;
- To update the newcomers' training on the subject, in order to better serve the needs of the users, and to open it to any colleagues who would like to attend.

The relevant performance table can be found in the Annex (page 50).

## **E. Sound environmental management**

In 2023, we will review our local Greening Strategy <sup>(60)</sup>, including local priority actions and targets, in light of two corporate developments:

- The Commission Communication on Greening <sup>(61)</sup>, adopted in 2022, and
- The outcomes of the corporate 2021 EMAS environmental awareness staff survey, whose results, including at DG-level, were made available in 2022.

Based on the results of the EMAS survey, the focus in 2023 will be on raising greater awareness around the following areas: reducing the impact of our public procurement, digital footprint and reducing our energy use. Reflection is also likely to focus on how best to live up to the corporate pledge to reduce missions and move more of our events and conferences online, without reducing our impact and outreach. As part of implementation of the COBRACE regulation, we will also reduce parking space in the building J-99 by closing one of the floors of our garage, in mid-2023, thereby further incentivising colleagues to switch to a more sustainable mode of commuting.

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, the greenhouse gas reduction required worldwide to meet the objective of the Paris Agreement is of a magnitude of 7.6% per year <sup>(62)</sup>. At our level, therefore, we set a target to reduce the

---

<sup>(60)</sup> [strategy-to-reduce-dg-mare-s-carbon-footprint.pdf \(europa.eu\)](#)

<sup>(61)</sup> [Communication to the Commission - Greening the Commission C\(2022\) 2230](#)

<sup>(62)</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.

carbon footprint of DG MARE by 8% per year as of 2020. The target for 2023 is a reduction of 28% compared to the baseline, the year 2019. 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 relevant performance table can be found in the Annex (page 51-53).

#### **F. Initiatives to improve economy and efficiency of financial and non-financial activities**

- DG MARE will explore more flexible use of resources through launching a project-based call for temporary shifts to address new emerging political priorities.
- DG MARE will explore possibilities to introduce more specialisation among the administrative support staff which would allow for more efficiency gains and would help to reduce workload.
- DG MARE will continue with the successful online debriefings from the senior management meetings which serve for more efficient and timely internal communication in the house and bring senior managers closer to staff.
- DG MARE will map existing framework contracts which could be used by MARE colleagues to outsource more of their work.
- DG MARE will continue to promote the use of TEAMS for collaboration across the DG.

In 2023, DG MARE will continue with the financing decisions covering its work programmes on direct and indirect management for periods longer than one year to significantly save on administrative effort and leave more time available to reflect on and launch amendments of these programmes, as necessary.

## ANNEX: Performance tables

### Part 1. Delivering on the Commission’s priorities: main outputs for 2023

This annex includes under each specific objective the main outputs planned for 2023, namely: new policy initiatives (legislative and non-legislative), initiatives linked to regulatory simplification and burden reduction, main evaluations and all fitness checks <sup>(63)</sup>, public consultations, enforcement actions, external communication actions and other important outputs.

#### A. General objective 1: A European Green Deal <sup>(64)</sup>

<b>General objective 1: A European Green Deal</b>		
<b>Specific objective 1: More sustainable and competitive fisheries and aquaculture by 2024</b>		
<i>Related to spending programmes: European Maritime and Fisheries Fund for 2014-2020 and European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund for 2021-2027</i>		
<b>Result indicator: Stocks fished at maximum sustainable yield (MSY) levels</b>		
<b>Main outputs in 2023:</b>		
<b>New policy initiatives</b>		
Output	Indicator	Target
Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on the <b>EU Action Plan on protecting and restoring marine ecosystems for sustainable and resilient fisheries</b>	Adoption by the Commission	Q1 2023
Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on the <b>functioning of the Common Fisheries Policy</b>	Adoption by the Commission	Q1 2023
Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on the Implementation of Regulation (EU) No 1379/2013 on the <b>Common Market Organisation</b>	Adoption by the Commission	Q1 2023
Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council “Towards more sustainable fishing in the EU: <b>state of play and orientations for 2024</b> ”	Adoption by the Commission	Q2 2023
Proposals for Council Regulations fixing <b>for 2024 the fishing opportunities</b> in:	Adoption by the Commission	
• the Baltic Sea		August 2023
• the Mediterranean and Black Seas		Q4 2023

<sup>(63)</sup> The [Interinstitutional Database of EU studies](#) contains the full list of ongoing evaluations and related studies.

<sup>(64)</sup> [The European Commission’s priorities | European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#)

Output	Indicator	Target
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Union waters and, for Union fishing vessels, in certain non-Union waters</li> </ul>		Q4 2023
Proposals for Council Regulations <b>amending</b> Regulation (EU) XX/XX as regards certain <b>fishing opportunities for 2023</b> :	Adoption by the Commission	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1st amendment</li> </ul>		Q1 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2nd amendment</li> </ul>		Q2 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3rd amendment</li> </ul>		Q3 2023
Commission Delegated Regulations <b>establishing new discard plans</b> for:	Adoption by the Commission	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• certain demersal fisheries in the Adriatic and south-eastern Mediterranean Sea</li> </ul>		Q4 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• certain small pelagics in the Mediterranean Sea</li> </ul>		Q3 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• certain fisheries in Western waters for 2024-2026</li> </ul>		Q3 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• certain fisheries in North Sea 2024-2026</li> </ul>		Q3 2023
Commission Delegated Regulations <b>amending discard plans</b> for certain demersal stocks in the western Mediterranean Sea	Adoption by the Commission	Q4 2023 <sup>equid</sup>
Commission Delegated Regulation <b>establishing technical measures</b> for:	Adoption by the Commission	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• directed fisheries in the North Sea</li> </ul>		Q1 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• directed fisheries in the South Western Waters</li> </ul>		Q1 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• directed fisheries in the North Western Waters</li> </ul>		Q 1 2023
Commission Delegated Regulation <b>amending technical measures</b> for protecting harbour porpoise	Adoption by the Commission	Q2 2023
Commission Implementing Regulation laying down the detail rules and the specifications provided by Article 24 of Regulation (EU) No 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	Adoption by the Commission	Q2 2023
Commission Delegated Regulations amending fisheries <b>conservation measures</b> in:	Adoption by the Commission	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• certain marine protected areas of the Skagerrak (DK)</li> </ul>		Q2 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• certain marine protected areas of the Baltic Sea (DE)</li> </ul>		Q1 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• certain marine protected areas of the Kattegat (SE)</li> </ul>		Q2 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• certain marine protected areas of the Baltic Sea (SE)</li> </ul>		Q2 2023
Commission Delegated Regulation amending Delegated Regulation (EU) 2017/118 as regards conservation measures in the Dutch Exclusive Economic Zone	Adoption by the Commission	Q4 2023
(possibly) Commission Implementing Regulation amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/1614 (deep-sea fishing areas and list of vulnerable marine ecosystems)	Adoption by the Commission	Q2 2023



<b>Evaluations and fitness checks</b>		
Output	Indicator	Target
Evaluation of Council Regulation (EC) No 734/2008 on the protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems	Publication of the stand-alone Staff Working Document	Q4 2023
<b>External communication actions</b>		
Output	Indicator	Target
3 <sup>rd</sup> “Taste the Ocean” campaign promoting sustainable fish and seafood among consumers	Number of impressions on social media	15 million
Briefings for journalists on the Common Fisheries Policy	Number of journalists participating (physical and online)	20
Seminar on Fisheries Science	Number of participants (physical presence and online)	100
<b>Other important outputs</b>		
Output	Indicator	Target
Commission Implementing Decision(s) revising the work plan of [Member State] for data collection in the fisheries and aquaculture sector for 2024 (2024-2027)	Adoption by the Commission (delegated to DG)	Q4 2023

<b>General objective 1: A European Green Deal</b>		
<b>Specific objective 1: More sustainable and competitive fisheries and aquaculture by 2024</b>		
<i>Related to spending programmes: European Maritime and Fisheries Fund for 2014-2020 and European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund for 2021-2027</i>		
<b>Result indicator: Profitability of the EU fishing fleet</b>		
<b>Main outputs in 2023:</b>		
<b>New policy initiatives</b>		
Output	Indicator	Target
Communication on the energy transition of the fisheries and aquaculture sector	Adoption by the Commission	Q1 2023
<b>Other important outputs</b>		
Output	Indicator	Target
2023 Report on the balance between fleet capacity and fishing opportunities (STECF)	Report published	December 2023
2023 Annual Economic Report on the EU fishing fleet (STECF)	Report published	November 2023
2023 Annual Economic Report on processing (STECF)	Report published	Q4 2023
2023 Report on Social data in the EU fisheries sector (STECF)	Report published	December 2023
EU Fleet Portal and Licence Web site on Europa web site	Launch of the site	Q1 2023

**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 Fund for 2014-2020 and  
European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund for 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 2023:**

**Initiatives linked to regulatory simplification and burden reduction**

Output	Indicator	Target
Proposal on the review of the marketing standards framework - see above <sup>(65)</sup>	Adoption by the Commission	Q3/4 2023 (tbc)

**External communication actions**

Output	Indicator	Target
Aquaculture campaign	Number of Member States using the toolbox developed by DG MARE	17
“EU Algae Day” in April-June 2023, launching the EU algae initiative and awareness-raising actions and innovative solutions for regenerative aquaculture	• Number of participants (physical presence) to the official event	• Up to 90
	• Number of general public visitors	• Up to 400
	• Number of virtual participants	• 200
European Algae stakeholder Forum (EU4Algae)	Number of stakeholders joining the platform	500
Communication campaign(s) to promote the variety of applications and benefits of algae-based products	Reach	200 000

**Other important outputs**

Output	Indicator	Target
Guidance documents on EU aquaculture :	Stand-alone Commission Staff Working Document published	
• Guidance on access to marine space for EU aquaculture		Q2 2023
• Guidance on administrative procedures for EU aquaculture		Q2 2023
• Guidance on climate adaptation of EU aquaculture		Q4 2023

<sup>(65)</sup> This proposal is linked to regulatory simplification and burden reduction regarding the revision of the current marketing standards but it will add burden as regards the new element on sustainability information.

Output	Indicator	Target
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Guidance document on environmental performance of EU aquaculture</li> </ul>		Q4 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Guidance on good husbandry practices in EU aquaculture</li> </ul>		Q4 2023
Study on consumer behaviour and preference of the perceptions of algae-based products	Study launched	Q4 2023
Project on “Regenerative ocean farming in the Baltic Sea Region” as part of “Regional flagships projects supporting sustainable blue economy in EU sea basins”	Project consortium selected and project kicked off	Q2 2023
2023 EU Fish Market report and monthly EUMOFA highlights	Report published	December 2023

**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 Fund for 2014-2020 and  
European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund for 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 2023:**

**Enforcement actions**

Output	Indicator	Target
Commission Implementing Decisions establishing an action plan to address shortcomings in the fisheries control system of Member States	Adoption by the Commission	Q4 2023
Control of the implementation of the landing obligation	Number of infringement cases opened, moved or closed	2023
Control of catch registration and weighing systems	Number of infringement cases opened moved or closed	2023

**Other important outputs**

Output	Indicator	Target
 Proposal on the revision of the Fisheries Control System (REFIT initiative) (COM(2018)368 final; 2018/0193(COD) of 30/05/2018)	Adoption by the co-legislators	Q3 2023
Control expenditure under the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EMFF Regulation (EU) No 508/2014 (shared management) and Regulation (EC) No 861/2006</li> <li>EMFAF Regulation (EU) 2021/1139</li> </ul>	Payments	2023
Commission Implementing Decisions in accordance with Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009:	Adoption by the Commission	

Output	Indicator	Target
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• approving sampling plans and control plans for the weighing of fishery products</li> </ul>		Q4 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• approving common control programmes for the weighing of fishery products</li> </ul>		Q4 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• revoking the approval of a sampling plan, control plan or common control plan for the weighing of fisheries products</li> </ul>		Q4 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• granting an exemption from the obligation to submit the sales note for fisheries products landed (PLAN/2022/1725) (D4)</li> </ul>		Q4 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• granting an exemption from the obligation of prior notification by masters of Union fishing vessels of arrival time at port and information to provide</li> </ul>		Q4 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• establishing the list of Union inspectors who may carry out inspections</li> </ul>		Q4 2023
Commission Opinion on draft Single Programming Document 2024-2028 of EFCA	Adoption by the Commission	Q2 2023
Commission Implementing Decision establishing specific control and inspection programmes amending Commission Implementing Decision 2018/1986 (SCIPs)	Adoption by the Commission	Q2 2023
Commission Implementing Regulation adding to the 2023 fishing quotas certain quantities withheld in the year 2022 pursuant to Article 4(2) of Council Regulation (EC) No 847/96	Adoption by the Commission	Q2 2023
Commission Implementing Regulation operating deductions from fishing quotas available for certain stocks in 2023 on account of overfishing (same stocks) in the previous years	Adoption by the Commission	Q3 2023
Commission Implementing Regulation operating deductions from fishing quotas available for certain stocks in 2023 on account of overfishing of other stocks in the previous years	Adoption by the Commission	Q4 2023
Commission Regulation establishing fishing stops when quota are deemed to be exhausted	Adoption by the Commission	(continuous in 2023)
Commission Decision authorising certain vessels flying the flag of the United Kingdom to fish in the exclusive economic zones adjacent to the European territories of certain Member States and in the territorial sea adjacent to Ireland	Adoption by the Commission	Q1 2023
Roll-out of FLUX UN/CEFACT in the EU for all domains	Number of Member States exchanging in the EU	Increase the number of Member States exchanging in the EU by for logbooks and sales notes substantially.
Further Roll-out of data domains in the Ocean Store	New data domains operational in Ocean Store	Q2 2023: Ocean Store operational for aggregated catch reporting

**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 Fund for 2014-2020 and  
European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund for 2021-2027*

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

**Main outputs in 2023:**

**Enforcement actions**

Output	Indicator	Target
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	2023
Commission Implementing Decisions on the suspension of the interim payments under the EMFF	Adoption by the Commission	2023

**External communication actions**

Output	Indicator	Target
Televised magazine OCEAN, Season 5	Average number of views per month (as measured by Euronews – quarterly reports)	2 million
Regular publication of success stories showcasing EU/EMFF and EMFAF-funded projects	Average page views per success story	250

**Other important outputs**

Output	Indicator	Target
Commission Implementing Decision for the adoption of Slovakia's EMFAF 2021-2027 programmes	Adoption by the Commission	Q1 2023
Commission Implementing Decisions on the modification of Member States' EMFAF 2021-2027 programmes (except Luxemburg)	Adoption by the Commission	2023
Commission Implementing Decisions for modification of Member States' EMFF 2014-2020 programmes (except Luxemburg)	Adoption by the Commission	2023

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

**Specific objective 1: A sustainable blue economy generating sustainable economic development, jobs and prosperity by 2024**

*Related to spending programmes:  
European Maritime and Fisheries Fund for 2014-2020 and  
European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund for 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 in the established sectors**

**Main outputs in 2023:**

**External communication actions**

Output	Indicator	Target
European Maritime Day 2023	Number of participants	1200-1400
	Number of attendees at EMD 'My Country events'	35000
Maritime Affairs & Fisheries Newsletter	Number of subscriptions to the monthly publication	15000
Maritime Forum	Number of active communities posting material	> 10

**Other important outputs**

Output	Indicator	Target
Blue Indicators IT Tool	- Inclusion in the Blue Economy Observatory website - Update of contents per sector and dashboards agreed with JRC and DIGIT	Expected to be merged with the Blue Economy Observatory, with a single entry (Q1-Q2 2023)
EU Blue Economy Observatory and the EU Blue Economy reporting	Delivery of the Work Programme Publication of different papers and analysis hosted in the Blue Economy Observatory website	2023-2024
Mission Ocean and waters	Adoption of the work programme 2023 and launch of calls Number of projects funded	Q1-Q4 2023
Mission Ocean and waters	Number of actions submitted under the Mission Charter	By end 2023 – at least 150 submissions
BlueInvest 2023	Satisfaction of participants in the SME investment readiness scheme	80%
Sea basin strategies	Number of stakeholders meetings	one per semester for each sea basin strategy

Output	Indicator	Target
Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)	Grant allocation	Q2 2023
Maritime Forum upgrade	Migration to EWPP-extended platform (with Drupal9 technology)	Q4 2022 - Q1 2023
Smart Specialisation strategies thematic platform	Platform set up finalised	Q4 2023
Smart Specialisation strategies capacity building actions	3 brokerage events and 1 brokerage capitalisation event implemented	Q2-Q4 2023
Blue Med Partnership implementation	Number of initiatives funded	Q1-Q4 2023

**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 Fund for 2014-2020 and  
European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund for 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 2023:**

**New policy initiatives**

Output	Indicator	Target
Initiative on Ocean Observation	Initiative adopted by the Commission	2023

**Evaluations and fitness checks**

Output	Indicator	Target
Evaluation of EMODnet	Staff Working Document published	Q2 2023

**Other important outputs**

Output	Indicator	Target
EMODnet:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upgrade of EMODnet so that all data and data products are available through one portal</li> </ul>	Shutdown of previous thematic portals	Q1 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EMODnet Hackathon for marine data: one virtual event in Q1-Q2 2023 to stress test the new EMODnet Portal</li> </ul>	Number of participants to the event	200 participants
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EMODnet for Business: 2 events in Spring/Autumn 2023</li> </ul>	Number of participants to the events	70 participants to each event
	% of companies as Associated partners	20%

Output	Indicator	Target
Maintenance of 3 EU4Ocean communities	Sum of registered members of EU4Ocean platform, Blue Schools and Youth4Ocean Forum	Over 500
Co-creation and collaboration events with European teachers and students for ocean literacy using the European Atlas of the Seas	Number of events	Minimum 2 events
Improved skills in the EU blue economy:	Number of large-scale skills partnerships under the Pact for Skills	4 by Q4 2023
“Blue careers” projects	Publication of call	Q4 2022
Study on skill gaps in the EU blue economy	Publication of tender	1 tender published by Q2 2023
Flagship calls on Blue Economy	Publication of flagship calls	Q3 2023

**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 Fund for 2014-2020 and  
European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund for 2021-2027*

**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 2023:**

**External communication actions**

Output	Indicator	Target
#EUBeachCleanup campaign, led by DG MARE (E2)	Number of attendees at events organised worldwide	15000

**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 Fund for 2014-2020 and  
European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund for 2021-2027*

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

**Main outputs in 2023:**

**New policy initiatives**

Output	Indicator	Target
 Joint Communication on the update of the EU maritime security strategy	Adoption by the Commission	Q1 2023



<b>Other important outputs</b>		
Output	Indicator	Target
European Coast Guard Functions Forum (ECGFF)	Grant allocation	Q2-Q3 2023
Mediterranean Coast Guard Functions Forum (MCGFF)	Grant allocation	Q4 2023
CISE incident alerting service	2-3 new services (grant allocated in 2022)	Q3 2024
Creation of new CISE nodes	Number of CISE nodes	15 new nodes in 2023 (total: 12 nodes on 31/12/2022)

**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 Fund for 2014-2020 and  
European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund for 2021-2027*

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

**Main outputs in 2023:**

**Enforcement actions**

Output	Indicator	Target
Adoption of national Maritime Spatial Plans	Number of infringement cases moved or closed	2023

**Other important outputs**

Output	Indicator	Target
Supporting development of sustainable blue economy under the sea basin strategies and in the outermost regions: assistance mechanism	Common technical assistance mechanism set up	1 common technical assistance mechanism
Supporting cross-border projects on maritime spatial planning in European sea basins	Projects kicked off	3 projects in 2023
Setting up a Community of Practice on Maritime Spatial Planning in the Mediterranean	Community of Practice established	Q4 2023

**B. General objective 4: A Stronger Europe in the World <sup>(66)</sup>**

<p><b>General objective 4: A Stronger Europe in the World</b></p> <p><b>Specific objective 3: More sustainable fisheries worldwide and improved international ocean governance by 2024</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Related to spending programme: Regional Fisheries Management Organisations</i></p>		
<p><b>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</b></p>		
<p><b>Main outputs in 2023:</b></p>		
<p><b>Other important outputs</b></p>		
Output	Indicator	Target
Marine Regions Forum: 2nd conference and preparatory meetings co-hosted with partners in the Western Indian Ocean region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Event takes place</li> <li>- Participants represent of the relevant partners</li> </ul>	Q3 2023
BBNJ <sup>(67)</sup>	EU takes a leading role at the resumed 5 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the Intergovernmental Conference and inter-sessionally	2023
	Further develop the High Ambition Coalition	Additional countries join the coalition in 2023.
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 counties' legal, technical and operational capacities to implement the Agreement	55 in 2023
Our Ocean Conference 2023 – EU commitments	EU commitments adopted by the Commission and endorsed by the Council	Around 10 EU commitments
Implementation of the Updated EU Arctic policy ( <a href="#">JOIN(2021)27 final</a> )		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progress towards key actions identified in the Joint Communication</li> </ul>	Coordination with and support to all relevant DGs in charge of implementing key actions (e.g. Horizon Europe, Interreg).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Two Inter-service Group coordination meetings per year;</li> <li>- Follow-up overview document updated twice a year.</li> </ul>

<sup>(66)</sup> [The European Commission's priorities | European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#)

<sup>(67)</sup> [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
	Commission represented in key Arctic events, giving due visibility to the Joint Communication and the role of the Commission.	Participation of DG MARE in the following annual conferences: Arctic Futures Symposium, Arctic Frontiers, Arctic Circle Assembly.
	Mainstreaming of Arctic matters	Arctic matters are highlighted in relevant MARE processes, such as the High-Level Dialogues (at minimum, US, Canada, Japan, China).
	Awarding or implementing a Service Call (Policy and Regional support) and a Call for Grants (Youth), as part of the FPI support to the Joint Communication.	A call for tenders (service) and a call for proposals (grants) evaluated or under implementation.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Progress in implementation of the Agreement to prevent Unregulated High Seas Fisheries in the Central Arctic Ocean</li> </ul>	Rules of Procedure for the Conference of the Parties and the scientific committee agreed by all Parties	Participation in relevant meetings.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EU Arctic Forum and Indigenous Peoples' Dialogue - Conference in Nuuk, Greenland on 8-9 February 2023</li> </ul>	Number of participants	200 to 250 in person plus 250 online
EU-Africa Strategic Group for policy cooperation and dialogue on international ocean governance	Group established	2023
Africa Blue Invest event	Number of participants	150 on-site and 150 online
Joint Implementation of Ocean Partnerships with China	Three High level dialogues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ocean affairs</li> <li>- Fisheries and Law of the Sea</li> <li>- Polar affairs</li> </ul>	Q3-Q4 2023

**General objective 4: A Stronger Europe in the World**

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

*Related to spending programme:  
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 2023:**

**New policy initiatives**

Output	Indicator	Target
<b>Transposition of RFMO <sup>(68)</sup> rules into EU law – proposals for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council:</b>	<b>Adoption by the European Parliament and the Council</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>establishing a multiannual management plan for <b>bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean</b> (transposition of rules from the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), COM(2019)619 final)</li> </ul>		Q3 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>establishing an <b>electronic catch documentation programme for bluefin tuna</b> (ICCAT transposition) (COM(2020)670 final)</li> </ul>		Q3 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>laying down conservation and management measures for the <b>Conservation of the Southern Bluefin Tuna</b> (CCSBT) (COM(2021)424 final)</li> </ul>		Q1 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>amending <b>ICCAT Regulation 2017/2107</b> and the <b>Bluefin tuna proposal</b> (COM(2022)171 final)</li> </ul>		2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proposal for a Council decision Authorising Poland to ratify the amendment to the <b>Bering Sea Convention</b> (COM(2022)263 final)</li> </ul>		Q1 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>on certain provisions for fishing in the GFCM (<b>General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean</b>) Agreement area (recast) (COM(2021)434 final)</li> </ul>		Q2 2023
<b>Transposition of RFMO rules into EU law – proposals for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council:</b>	<b>Adoption by the Commission</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>introduction of the electronic reporting system in the <b>North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission</b> (NEAFC)</li> </ul>		Q2 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>South-East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO)</li> </ul>		Q1 2023

<sup>(68)</sup> [Regional fisheries management organisations \(RFMOs\) \(europa.eu\)](https://european-council.europa.eu/media/en/press-communications/infographic/infographic_rfmo_en.pdf)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Amendment <b>Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation</b> (NAFO)</li> </ul>		Q1 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Amendment <b>General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean</b> (GFCM) - (recast)</li> </ul>		Q4 2023
<b>Transposition of RFMO rules into EU law – Commission Delegated Regulations:</b>	<b>Adoption by the Commission</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>amending certain annexes of Regulation (EU) 2017/2107 (ICCAT)</li> </ul>		Q1 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>amending Union law on conservation and enforcement measures from the <b>Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation</b> (NAFO)</li> </ul>		Q1 2023

### Enforcement actions

Output	Indicator	Target
Appropriate control system of Member States in relation to Bluefin Tuna farming	Number of infringement cases opened, moved or closed	2023

### External communication actions

Output	Indicator	Target
Prepare and launch a new podcast series in cooperation with Euronews (broader coverage than only RFMOs)	Average number of listeners per episode	5 000

## General objective 4: 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 Fund for 2014-2020 and  
European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund for 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 2023:

#### 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	2023
Revocations of pre-identifications		2023
Commission Decisions on identification of a third country as a non-cooperating third country in fighting IUU fishing		2023
Revocations of identifications		2023

Output	Indicator	Target
Proposals for Council Implementing Decisions amending Implementing Decision 2014/170/EU, establishing a list of non-cooperating third countries in fighting illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing		2023

**General objective 4: 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 Fund for 2014-2020 and  
European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund for 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 2023:**

**Other important outputs**

Output	Indicator	Target
CATCH developed in line with legal basis for its compulsory use	List of modifications in CATCH environment following adoption of the legal basis for its compulsory use (Proposal on the revision of the Fisheries Control System)	2023
Modernisation of the IUU catch certification system (CATCH 1.0) as part of DG SANTE TRACES system	List of improved functionalities in CATCH environment	2023

**General objective 4: A Stronger Europe in the World**

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

*Related to spending programme(s):  
Sustainable fisheries partnership agreements*

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

**Main outputs in 2023:**

**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 with the following third countries</b> <sup>(69)</sup> :	Adoption by the Commission	

<sup>(69)</sup> SFPAs and their associated protocols enter into force after concluding negotiations with the third country concerned.

Angola – mandate		Q2 2023
Cabo Verde – mandate and proposals		Q3 2023
Côte d’Ivoire – mandate		Q2 2023
Equatorial Guinea – mandate and proposals		Q2 2023
Guinea – mandate / proposals		Q2 2023 / Q3 2023
Guinea-Bissau – mandate and proposals		Q4 2023
Kenya - proposals		Q 4 2023
Kiribati - proposals:		Q2 2023
Liberia – proposals		Q4 2023
Madagascar – proposals		Q1 2023
Morocco mandate (new SFPAs) and proposals		Mandate: Q2 2023 Proposals: TBC
Mozambique - proposals:		Q 4 2023
São Tomé e Príncipe – mandate and proposals		Q4 2023

### Evaluations and fitness checks

Output	Indicator	Target
Evaluations on SFPAs/Protocols:	Staff Working Document published together with the negotiation mandate	
• Evaluation - Angola		Q2 2023
• Evaluation - Cabo Verde		Q3 2023
• Evaluation - Côte d’Ivoire		Q2 2023
• Evaluation - Equatorial Guinea		Q2 2023
• Evaluation - Guinea		Q2 2023
• Evaluation - Guinea-Bissau		Q4 2023
• Evaluation - Morocco		Q2 2023
• Evaluation - São Tomé e Príncipe	Q4 2023	
Evaluation of the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements	Staff Working Document published	Q1 2023

### Other important outputs

Output	Indicator	Target
Commission Decisions regarding credits for the implementation of SFPAs (financing decisions)	Adoption by the Commission	2023

## Part 2. Modernising the administration: main outputs for 2023

### A. Human resource management

The table below includes the main outputs planned for 2023 relating to human resource management (for the narrative, please refer to pages 23-24).

<b>Objective:</b> 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.		
<b>Main outputs in 2023:</b>		
Output	Indicator	Target
Enhanced careers of our staff	Colleagues invest 5 days per year in their personal development (trainings, coaching, job shadowing, etc)	At least 50% of MARE staff
Listen to staff's feedback	Satisfaction surveys launched regularly	1 in 2023
MARE contributes to gender balance at all management levels	1 woman out of 2 first appointments in middle management	50% women in middle management

### B. Sound financial management

The table below includes the main outputs planned for 2023 relating to sound financial management (for the narrative, please refer to pages 24-25).

<b>Objective:</b> 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.		
<b>Main outputs in 2023:</b>		
Output	Indicator	Target
Effective controls: Legal and regular transactions	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



## C. Fraud risk management

The table below includes the main outputs planned for 2023 relating to fraud risk management (for the narrative, please refer to page 25).

**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>(70)</sup> aimed at the prevention, detection and correction <sup>(71)</sup> of fraud.

### Main outputs in 2023:

Output	Indicator	Target
Raising awareness regarding OLAF-related procedures and update of the anti-fraud training offer to ensure that Commission staff remains vigilant to fraud	Information sessions organised about OLAF-related procedures	At least 1 information session in 2023
Support to Member States in their anti-fraud efforts	Continuous support, as applicable	Discuss fraud related matters with Member States during the annual control meetings and/or other suitable occasions
Regular meetings with counterparts from OLAF policy and investigative units	Number of meetings per year	At least 4 meetings in 2023

<sup>(70)</sup> Communication from the Commission ‘Commission Anti-Fraud Strategy: enhanced action to protect the EU budget’, COM(2019) 196 of 29 April 2019 – ‘the CAFS Communication’ – and the accompanying action plan, SWD(2019) 170 – ‘the CAFS Action Plan’.

<sup>(71)</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

The table below includes the main outputs planned for 2023 relating to digital transformation and information management (for the narrative, please refer to pages 26-29).

<b>Objective:</b> 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		
<b>Main outputs in 2023:</b>		
Output	Indicator	Target
Implementation of the corporate principles for data governance for DG MARE's key data assets	Percentage of implementation of the corporate principles for data governance for DG MARE's key data assets	60%
Initiatives supporting business transformation	Number of initiatives launched supporting business digital transformation	4: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effort Catch Reporting</li> <li>• Migration of one business system to cloud</li> <li>• EU Aquaculture Assistance Mechanism website</li> <li>• Data Collection Framework</li> </ul>
A more secure, green and resilient infrastructure.	% of systems with an IT Security Plan	90%
Enhancing digital culture by promoting cybersecurity and IT specific trainings	% of target group (system owners/ business managers and IT experts) having followed cybersecurity or specific IT training.	60%
List of key actions on information management and data protection: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keeping updated records and specific privacy statements for each processing operation of personal data</li> <li>• Documenting and proper handling of data subject requests</li> <li>• Awareness raising on the rules and principles of personal data protection</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Informing data subjects in line with Article 15 and 16 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 when personal data is collected or further processed</li> <li>• Guidance available for MARE staff</li> <li>• Events organised, trainings and individual guidance provided by the Data Protection Coordinator</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full compliance with Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 every time personal data are processed</li> <li>• Controllers and MARE staff fully informed about rules on the protection of personal data</li> </ul>

## E. Sound environmental management

The table below includes the main outputs planned for 2023 relating to sound environmental management (for the narrative, please refer to pages 29-30).

<p><b>Objective:</b> DG MARE takes account of its environmental impact in its actions and actively promotes measures to reduce the related day-to-day impact of the administration and its work, with the support their respective EMAS Correspondents/EMAS Site Coordinators.</p>		
<p><b>Main outputs in 2023:</b></p>		
<p><b>I. More efficient use of resources (energy, water, paper):</b></p>		
Output	Indicator	Target (2019 as baseline, as appropriate)
<p><b>Priority action to support the Greening the Commission Communication and action plan</b></p>		
<p>Participation in corporate energy saving actions, by closing down DG's buildings during the Christmas and New Year's holiday period, and through optimisation of the temperature in its building.</p>	<p>Number of DG/service's buildings participating in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• end of year energy saving action</li> <li>• summer energy saving action</li> <li>• optimisation of comfort hours and/or comfort temperature</li> </ul>	<p>DG MARE's main building (J99) will participate in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the end of year energy saving action</li> <li>• the optimisation of comfort hours and/or comfort temperature</li> </ul>
<p><b>Other recommended actions</b></p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff awareness actions to <b>reduce energy use</b> in the framework of EMAS corporate campaigns and/or awareness actions about DG/service's total energy consumption in collaboration with OIB/OIL <sup>(72)</sup> where appropriate.</li> <li>• Staff awareness actions to <b>reduce water use</b> (for example ensuring that staff use the technical services hotline <sup>(73)</sup> to report leaks) in the framework of EMAS corporate campaigns and/or awareness raising actions about DG/service's water consumption in collaboration with OIB/OIL where appropriate.</li> </ul>	<p>Number of actions related to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Energy consumption</li> <li>• Water consumption</li> </ul>	<p>One action related to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Energy consumption</li> </ul>
	<p>Number or % of staff informed/participated related to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Energy consumption</li> <li>• Water consumption</li> <li>• Paperless working methods</li> </ul>	<p>100 % of staff informed related to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Energy consumption</li> </ul>

<sup>(72)</sup> See OIB – Environmental Building Performances for Brussels and OIL- Environmental Building Profiles for Luxembourg.

<sup>(73)</sup> For example, for Brussels: Email: OIB-55555@ec.europa.eu and Tel: 55555 and for Luxembourg: Email: OIL-DISPATCHING-CENTRAL@ec.europa.eu and Tel: 32220.

Output	Indicator	Target (2019 as baseline, as appropriate)
<b>Priority action to support the Greening the Commission Communication and action plan</b>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Energy consumption per DG/service building (MWh/person per year)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce energy consumption (28%) <sup>(74)</sup></li> </ul>
<b>II. Reducing CO<sub>2</sub>, equivalent CO<sub>2</sub> and other atmospheric emissions</b>		
Output	Indicator	Target (2019 as baseline)
<b>Priority action to support the Greening the Commission Communication and action plan</b>		
Analysis of DG/service's missions trends / patterns (based on corporate EC-staff's and experts' professional trips (missions <sup>(75)</sup> ), optimise and gradually reduce CO <sub>2</sub> emissions (e.g. by reducing the number of participants in the same mission, promoting more sustainable travelling options, promoting videoconferencing/ virtual events as an alternative).	Signed the EC DG/service Travel Pledge	Yes
	CO <sub>2</sub> (t) emissions from DG's missions	Reduce by 28%
	CO <sub>2</sub> (t) emissions from DG's expert meetings	Reduce by 28%
<b>Other recommended actions</b>		
Staff awareness actions on reducing GHG emissions (such as actions on sustainable commuting during EU Mobility week and VeloWalk corporate events) and/or raise staff awareness on sustainable commuting in collaboration with OIB or OIL (e.g. availability of bike parking facilities, lockers and showers, promote the reduction of parking spaces' use amongst staff).	Number or % of staff informed about Velomai	100 % of staff informed
Staff awareness actions on digital pollution and gradual change of behaviours avoiding heavy emails, encouraging the use of ICT platforms, avoiding unnecessary storage of data.	Number of events organised	1 event organised
<b>III. Reducing and management of waste</b>		
Output	Indicator	Target (2019 as baseline)
<b>Other recommended actions</b>		
Staff awareness actions about waste reduction and sorting in the framework of EMAS corporate campaigns and/or staff awareness actions about DG/service's waste generation in collaboration with OIB/OIL where appropriate (for example, promote and label the waste sorting schemes in place).	% reduction in waste generated in J99	Reduce waste generation (28%)
<b>IV. Promoting green public procurement (GPP)</b>		
Output	Indicator	Target (2019 as baseline)
<b>Priority action in line with the Greening the Commission Communication and action plan</b>		

<sup>(74)</sup> Overall reduction of energy consumption for DG/service (all buildings) from 2019 to 2023 (%).

<sup>(75)</sup> Data provided by PMO/MiPs.

Output	Indicator	Target (2019 as baseline)
Gradual introduction of GPP criteria in contracts and starting to monitor the process.	Number of actions to promote contracts with "green" provisions	1 action to promote green public procurement

-----