

EFCA work in international fisheries and fight against IUU fishing

Dr. Susan Steele

30/11/21

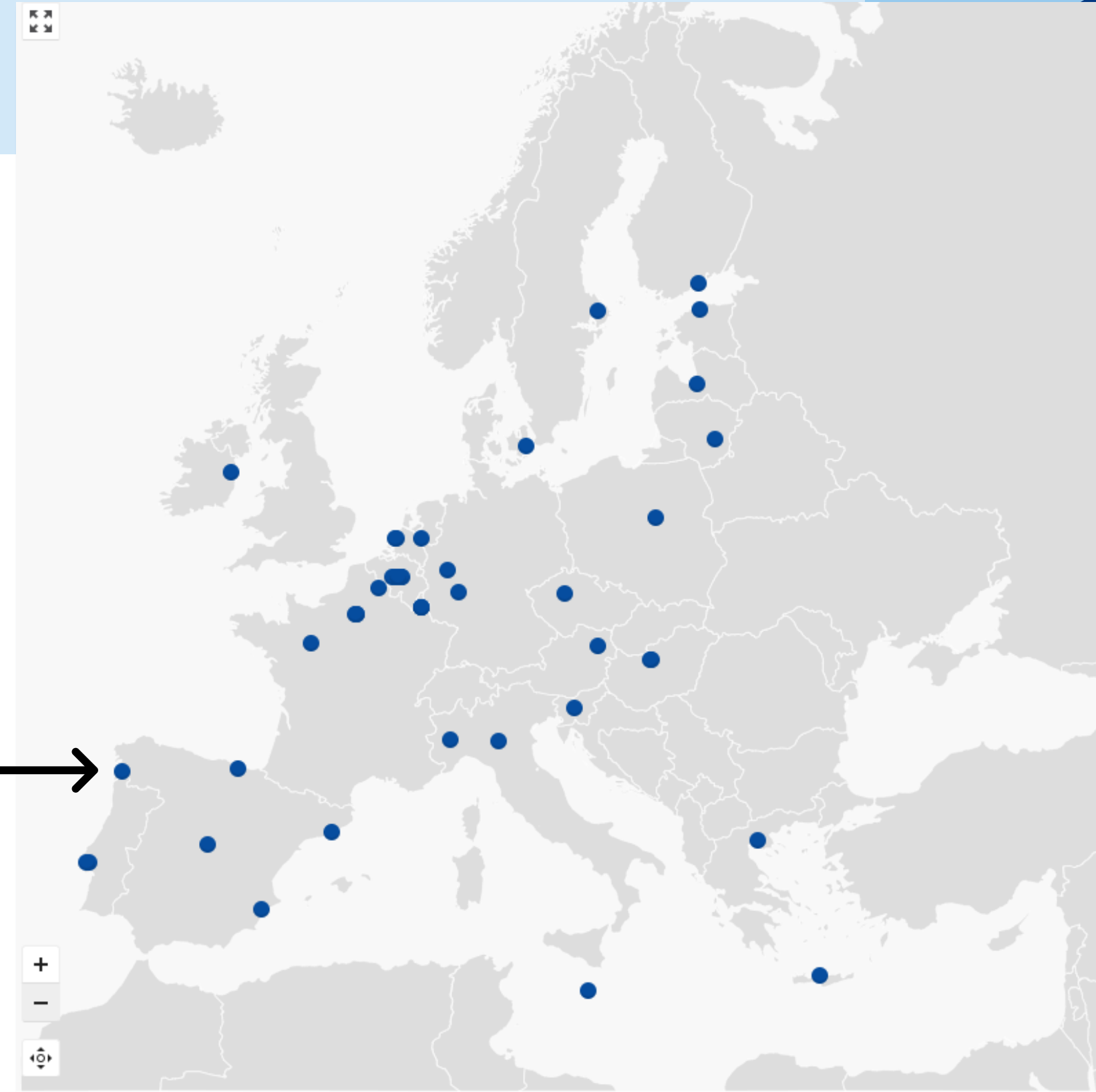
LDAC Executive Committee



EU Agencies



EFCA



[EU Agencies network
https://euagencies.eu/](https://euagencies.eu/)



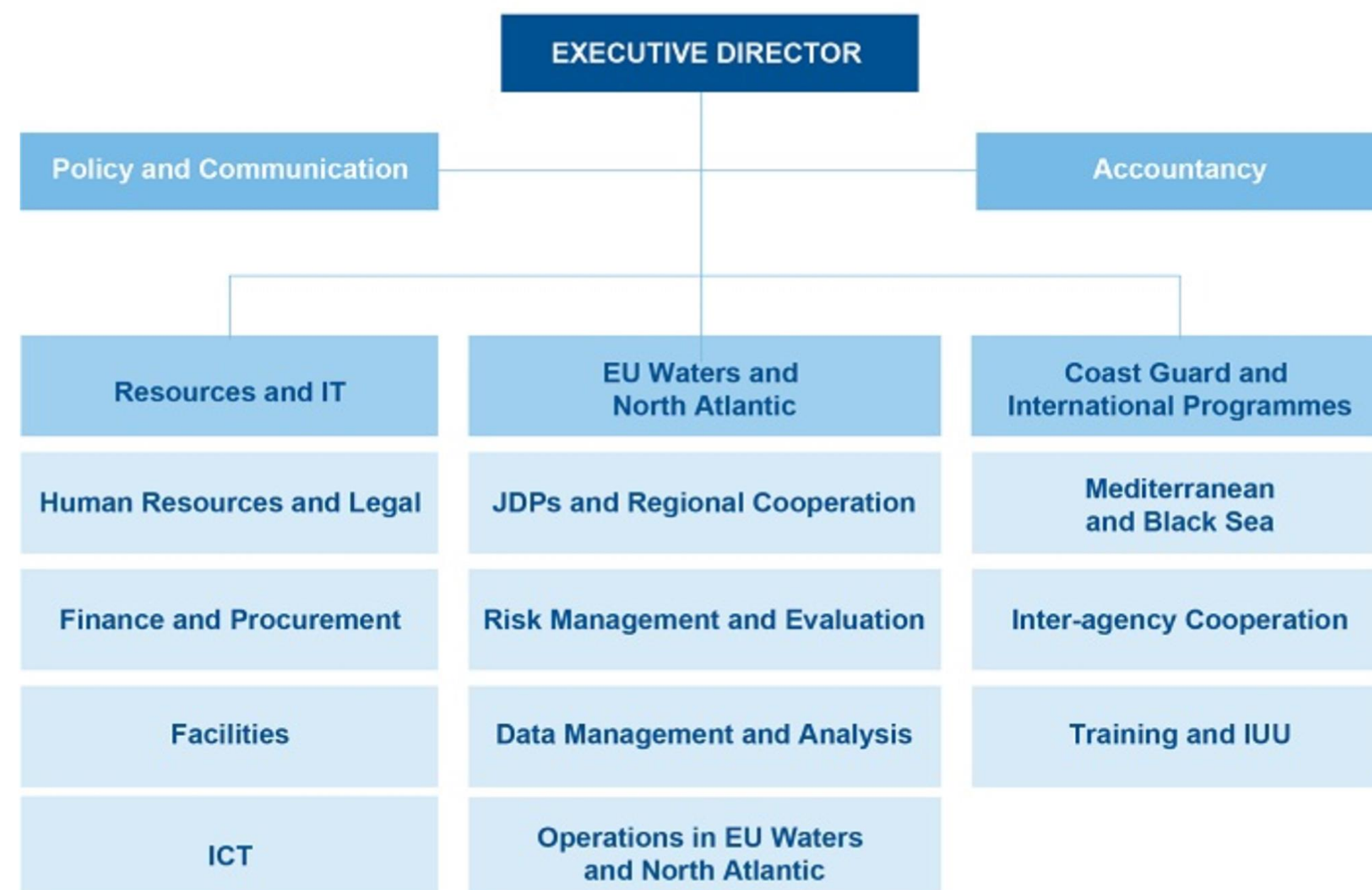


Basic facts

- Legal basis: Regulation (EU) 2019/473 on the European Agency for Fisheries Control
- Headquarters: Vigo (Spain), relocated in 1 July 2008
- Operational from 1 January 2007

EFCA Organisation

Organisational chart



EFCA Administrative Board:

**1 member each MS +
6 members Commission
ACs 1 observer**

EFCA Advisory Board:

1 member of each Advisory Council



Promote the **highest common standards** for control, inspection and surveillance under the CFP



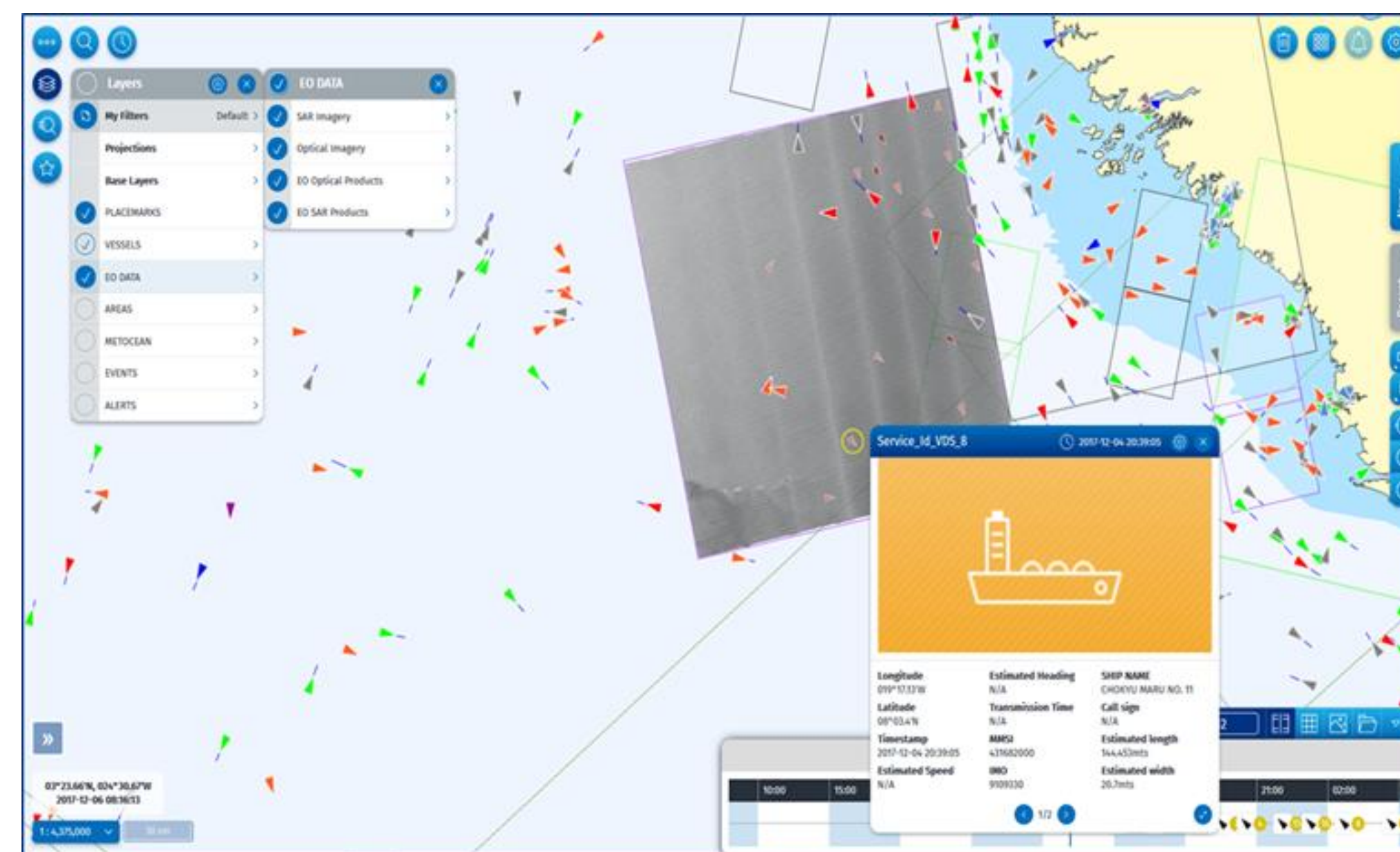
Organises operational coordination of fisheries control and inspection activities by the Member States **and assists** them to cooperate so as to comply with the rules of the CFP

General objectives

Compliance

Level playing field

Cost-efficiency



Multiannual objectives	Areas of intervention
1. Enhanced coordination of fisheries monitoring control and surveillance	Operational Coordination
2. Promote compliance through an effective and harmonised application of Union inspection procedures	Assistance to Cooperation
3. Assist the EU in its international dimension in accordance with article 30 CFP Regulation	International Dimension
4. Provide operational support to national authorities in Coast Guard functions	EU cooperation on Coast Guard

How EFCA is empowered to work in the international dimension?

EFCA SINGLE PROGRAMMING DOCUMENT (SPD) 2022-2026

ANNEX XII: STRATEGY FOR COOPERATION WITH THIRD COUNTRIES AND/OR INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS



European Fisheries Control Agency Multiannual International Relations Strategy 2022-2026

1. Background

This multiannual strategy builds on the Commission Communication C(2020)2297 on the strengthening of the governance of Union Bodies under Article 70 of the Financial Regulation, as well as the new working arrangements between the European Commission (the Commission) and the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA)¹, approved by EFCA Administrative Board on 14 October 2020, pursuant to Articles 3(1) and 4 of the EFCA Founding Regulation².

EFCA's tasks relating to the international obligations of the European Union (EU) encompass activities related with Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs), the fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing (IUU), Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements (SFPAs) and, in general, with Third Countries partners.

Such tasks are in line with the principles of the external dimension of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and aim at promoting beyond EU waters the same principles and standards as those applicable under Union law in the area of the CFP, thus ensuring a level playing field for EU operators vis-à-vis Third Country operators. The contribution of EFCA to the external dimension of the CFP is in some cases inextricably linked with the negotiations and implementation of management and control measures proposed by the Union in various bilateral or multilateral fora.

This document presents a multiannual strategy for the period 2022-2026 on all potential areas of work for EFCA's intervention and collaboration with the EU Member States (MS) and the Commission that the latter considers as priority to ensure the success of the external dimension of the CFP. The specific implementation of the suggested actions is discussed and agreed between DG MARE and EFCA on a case-by-case basis, by taking into consideration EFCA's workload, availability of resources and other priorities, as well as working conditions and possible sanitary restrictions, including linked to the Covid-19 pandemic and any similar circumstances that might occur during the period covered by this multiannual strategy.

The multiannual strategy should not be seen as a limitative one as other types of international activities might be explored if specific needs arise. The EFCA Administrative Board would be fully informed of such developments.

2. Interventions in the framework of Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) and control working groups (WGs) and fora with Third Countries partners

¹ Annex 2020/04/187061, 24.02.2020

² Regulation (EU) 2018/4 of the European Parliament and the Council of 19 March 2019

Commission européenne/European Commission, 1049 Brussels/Briksel, BE 1049 Luxembourg, Tel. +32 22961111

Based on :

- CFP Basic Regulation (Article 30)
- EFCA Founding Regulation
- EFCA's remit for IUU and RFMOs in other EU specific legislation

And following :

- the Working Arrangements on EFCA's international activities between the European Commission and EFCA

And on specific request of the European Commission (DG Mare) :

- EFCA assists the Union to cooperate with third countries and international organisations dealing with fisheries including RFMOs, to strengthen operational coordination and compliance.

Working arrangements between DG MARE and EFCA
as regards EFCA’s international activities

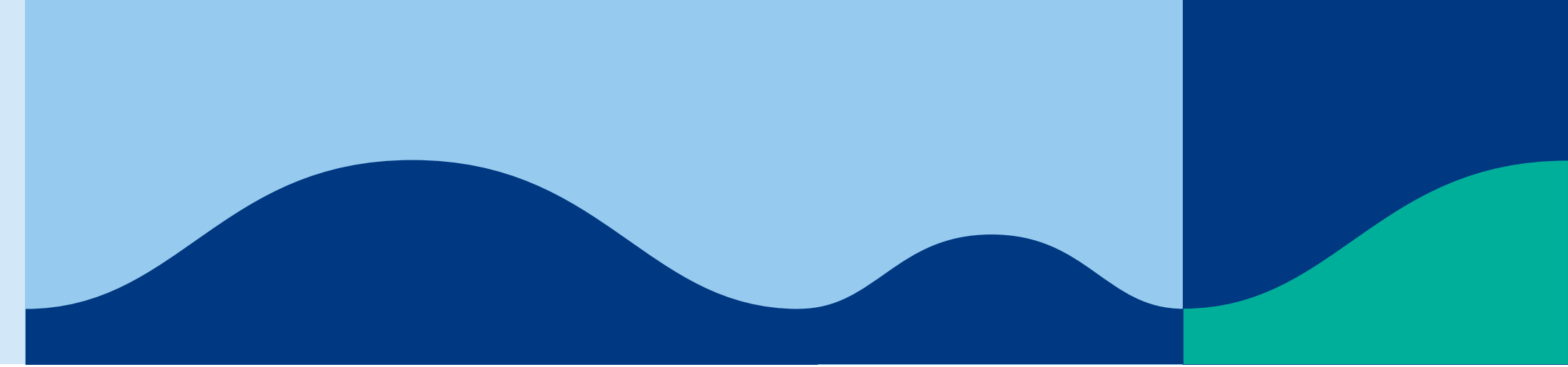


- **A Multiannual International Relations Strategy"** should be set up between EFCA and DG MARE
- This Multiannual International Relations Strategy will be incorporated in the EFCA SPD which is adopted by the EFCA’s Administrative Board.
- This provides the basis to organise and foresee EFCA work in international dimension

Procedure for the definition the strategy

Year N	Circa 8 months before the AB October meeting (End of February)	DG Mare circulates to EFCA a proposal for a Multiannual International Relations Strategy for years N+1/N+5
	Circa 6 months before the AB October meeting (end of April)	EFCA and DG MARE discuss and finalise a Multiannual International Relations Strategy for years N+1/N+5
	Circa 2 months before the AB October meeting (end of August)	The EFCA prepares a draft SPD for year N+1/N+5, taking into account the COM opinion issued in July year N and including the draft Multiannual International Relations Strategy
	3 weeks before the AB October meeting	The EFCA circulates to EFCA AB members the SPD for years N+1/N+5 including the Multiannual International Relations Strategy to the AB.
	AB October Meeting	The AB adopts 2 ‘SPD’: <ul style="list-style-type: none">•the SPD N+1/N+5 including the Multiannual International Relations Strategy, and•the draft SPD N+2/N+6⁴

Annex XII SPD 2022-2026: Strategy for cooperation with Third Countries and/or international organisations



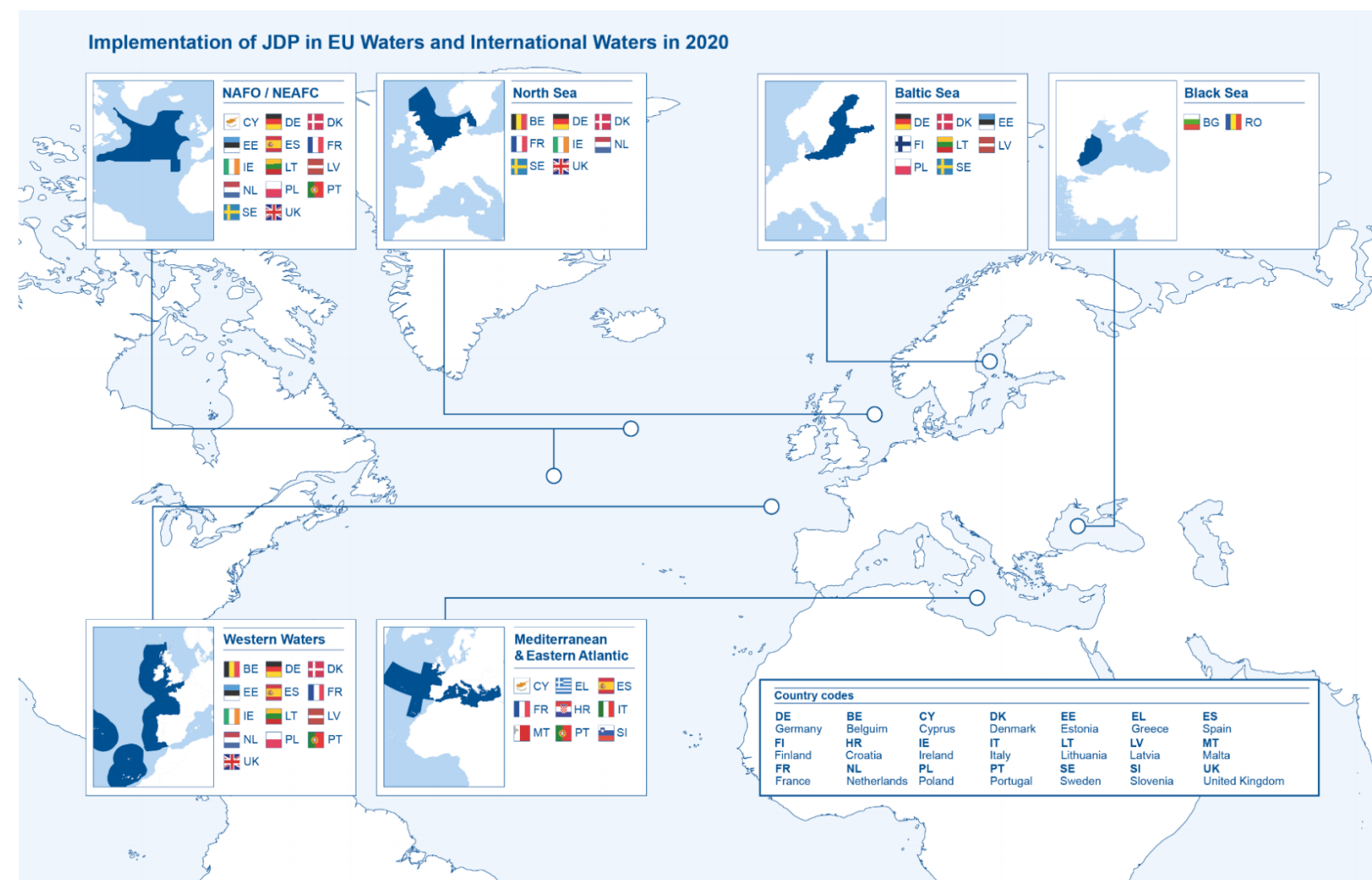
Stability of tasks in respect of 2021

Areas of intervention:

- Support to RFMOs and control WG and fora with Third Countries
- Operational activities for implementation of GFCM Recommendations
- Capacity building in the framework of SFPAs
- Fight IUU at international level
- Other actions: Projects

Areas of intervention:

Support to RFMOs and control WG and fora with Third Countries: Operational activities



EFCA implements the EU contribution to the International Control schemes of NAFO, NEAFC, ICCAT and GFCM through 2 JDPs in cooperation with EU MS, including through deployment of EFCA chartered means

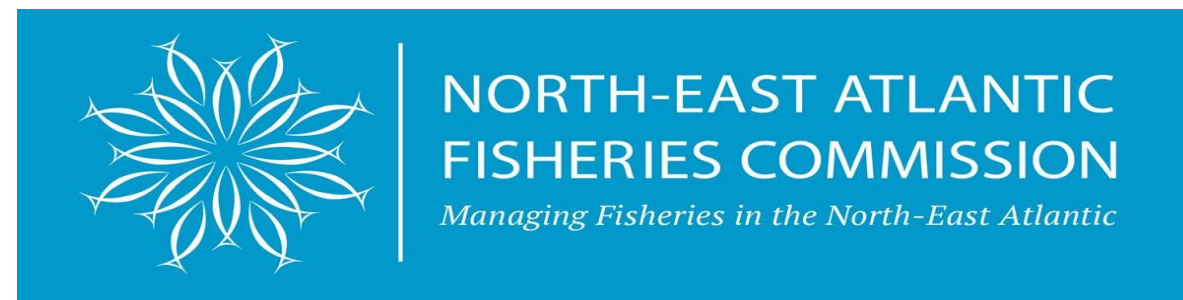
It includes:

- Dedicated workshops for risk management
- Exchange of inspectors
- Implementation of pilot projects
- Seminar for inspectors



Areas of intervention:

Support to RFMOs and control WG and fora with Third Countries: Support to EU Delegation



Support to the EU Delegation in meetings of ICCAT, GFCM, NAFO and NEAFC in

- Plenary meetings
- Dedicated Control Committees: CoC, STACFAD, PECMAC, PWC...
- Technical support for preparation of proposals

Includes Chairmanships of Committees in ICCAT as:

- PWC
- WG Capacity building
- WG Electronic Monitoring systems
- eBCD WG

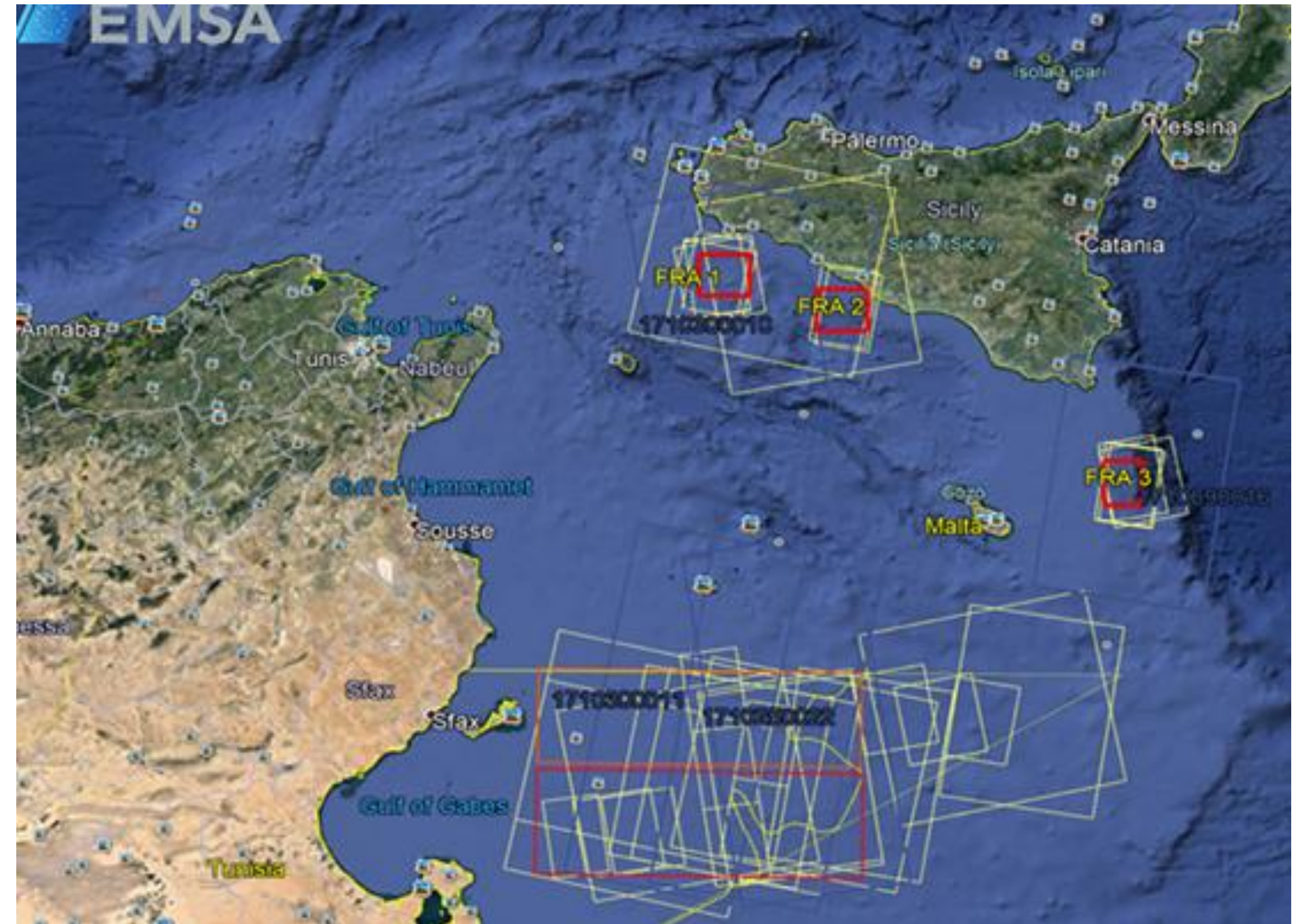
Areas of intervention: Operational activities for the implementation of GFCM recommendations

EFCA support the implementation of the measures adopted under the GFCM in the following areas:

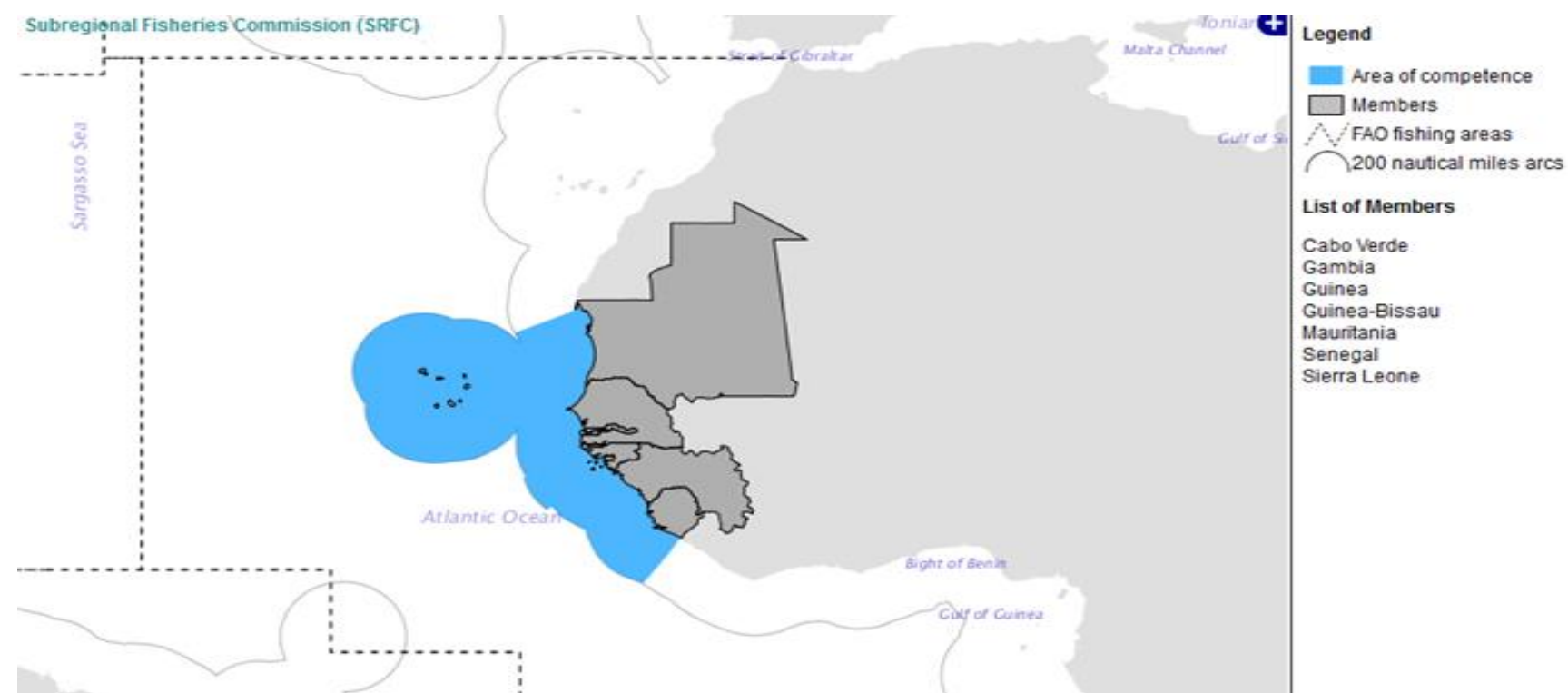
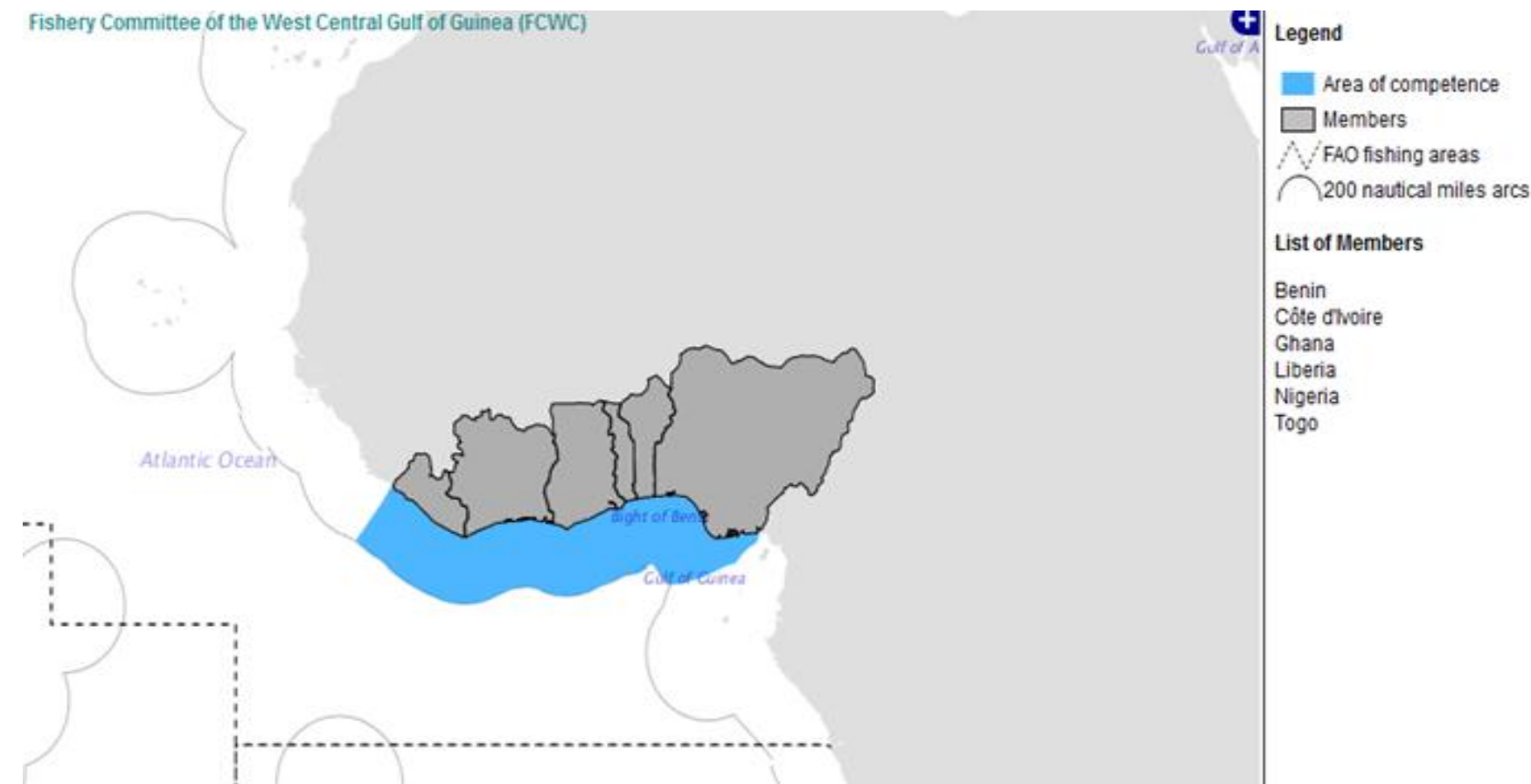
- Strait of Sicily
- Black Sea
- Ionian and Levant Seas
- Adriatic Sea

It includes:

- JDP implementation
- Dedicated workshops
- Exchange of inspectors
- Support to pilot projects



Areas of intervention: Capacity building in the framework of Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements (SFPAs)



EFCA support in Third Countries covered by SFPAs and included as beneficiary in EFCA dedicated projects:

- West Africa: PESCAO (until 2023)
- South Indian Ocean: ECOFISH (on-going discussions)

Activities:

- Assistance in joint control operations
- Capacity building
- Risk management



Areas of intervention: Support to the fight against IUU fishing at international level

EFCA support the EU in the fight against IUU fishing and the implementation of the IUU Regulation

Main activities :

- Implementation of Catch Certificate: Catch project, methodologies of control
- Capacity building at international level + specific projects
- Analysis of information on IUU activities
- Analysis of catch certificates and interaction with Third Countries
- Contribution to PSMA

ANNEX II
European Community Catch Certificate and Re-export Certificate

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY CATCH CERTIFICATE									
Document number				Validating authority					
1. Name		Address				Tel. Fax			
2. Fishing vessel name		Flag – Home port and registration number				Call sign		IMO/Lloyd's number (if issued)	
Fishing licence No – Valid to				Inmarsat No, Fax No, Telephone No, E-mail address (if issued)					
3. Description of product		Type of processing authorised on board				4. References of applicable conservation and management measures			
Species	Product code	Catch area(s) and dates	Estimated live weight (kg)	Estimated weight to be landed (kg)	Verified weight landed (kg) where appropriate				
5. Name of master of fishing vessel – Signature – Seal:									
6. Declaration of transhipment at sea Name of master of fishing vessel				Signature and date		Transhipment date/area/position		Estimated weight (kg)	
Master of receiving vessel		Signature		Vessel name		Call sign		IMO/Lloyds number (if issued)	
7. Transhipment authorisation within a port area									
Name	Authority	Signature	Address	Tel.	Port of landing	Date of landing	Seal (stamp)		
8. Name and address of exporter		Signature			Date			Seal	
9. Flag State authority validation:									
Name/title		Signature			Date		Seal (stamp)		

Some figures of EFCA external dimension

Area	Results
JDPs implemented	2 (MED, NAFO- NEAFC)
RFMOS in which EFCA is involved	4 (NAFO, NEAFC, ICCAT, GFCM)
Countries to which EFCA cooperates	9 in Med, 4 North Atlantic, 13 West Africa
Missions/review of CC	5 per year
Training of Third Countries experts (2019)	91 trained officials
Operation of EFCA chartered means in RFMOs (2019)	160 days
Third Countries inspectors in EFCA means (2019)	9 exchanges

What is next?

EFCA new projects in the international dimension

Dedicated projects:

- Provide additional funds/ressources
- Permit to extend EFCA activities in the international dimension
- Contributes to level playing field and cooperation policy
- Very positive experience so far!

PESCAO

- Legal support for review of legislation
- Support to two joint control operation of the SRFC
- Training provided on IUU Regulation and FMC operators
- Support to set up FCWC FMC

Other International Projects (starting from 2022)

- **e-fishmed, Virtual Regional Academy for Mediterranean:** contribution agreement being finalised with DG MARE before end of 2021
- **Support to fisheries control in Algeria:** contribution agreement being finalised with DEU Alger before end of 2021
- **ECOFISH/Indian Ocean:** Ongoing discussion for a service contract

New areas of activities??

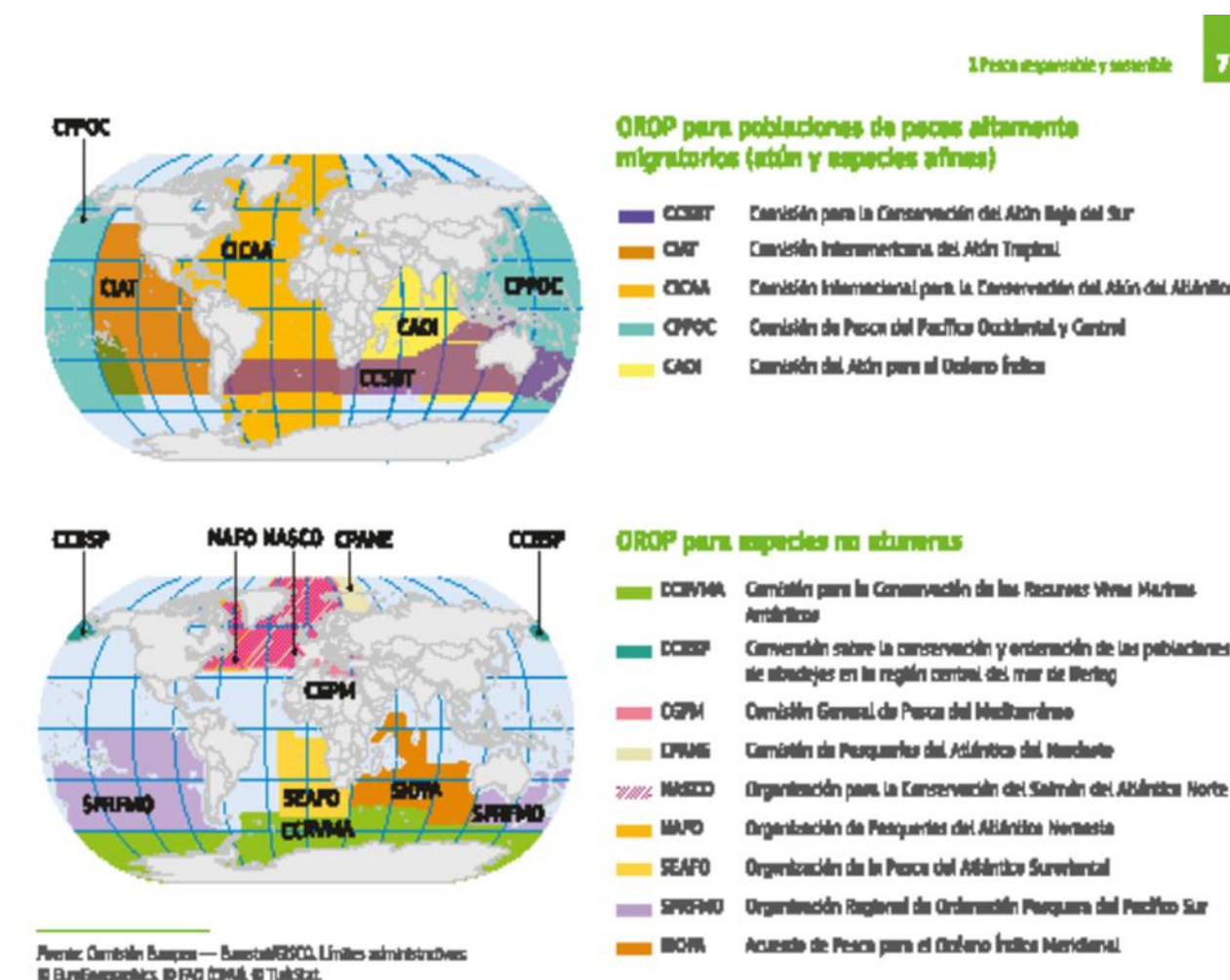
- Control Regulation
- New mandate to be received from Commission
- New mandate to be received from the legislator
(for example activities in additional RFMOs)



This may require additional resources

Conclusions

- The EFCA objectives can not be fully achieved if EFCA action is limited to the EU.
- International dimension is an important part of the work of EFCA, and permit to extend the EU cooperation in control
- It contributes to promote a culture of compliance and a level playing field for all the stakeholders
- EFCA is being active supporting the EU in the RFMOS and their bilateral relations with good results
- The dialogue with LDAC is very important in this context
- EFCA is ready to be further engaged in this policy



THANK YOU!
efca@efca.europa.eu
<http://www.efca.europa.eu>