

## EFCA Advisory Board meeting BSAC report

23/04/24 09:30-13:00

BSAC represented by: Executive Committee Vice-Chair, Executive secretary

The last Advisory Board meeting was on the 19th October 2023

### 1. Introduction and state of play:

The **EFCA Executive Director** welcomed ACs and MS representatives from the control agencies. She reminded that feedback from ACs was very valuable, starting with the updates and information from the ACs given at each Advisory Board meeting. She also informed participants that EFCA was about to celebrate its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2024-2025. A tour de table was launched where each AC was invited to present its latest updates.

**PELAC** has a new WG on Marine Spatial Planning, works on genetics to know more on fish stocks including mackerel/herring, continues to focus on choke species/LO. PELAC does 10 recommendations per year on average.

**SWWAC** focused on bycatch in the Bay of Biscay and the upcoming JR, and the CFP with a recommendation upcoming. The representative highlighted that the Control Regulation adoption will be important and that communication channels have to be kept open with EFCA.

**NWWAC** signalled work on discards, REM and other recommendations (including social aspects). The representative explained that the EFCA Joint Workshop on monitoring control and compliance in demersal fisheries in the NWWAC raised issues with regards to REM. Work was ongoing on the evaluation of the LO. Finally, the AC Fish Map is still up and running.

**NSAC** presented the past work that included work on technical measures regulation, social aspects including recreational fisheries and generation renewal, EFCA workshop on control and compliance, JR, LO evaluation, ICES STECF requests, and others. The NSAC signalled the organisation of the AC 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in September with streamed CFP conference.

**MAC** advised on Corporate Sustainability Directive and forced labour. Work was also done in relation with agreements with Thailand, STECF Fleet report, Marine Action Plan, energy transition, traceability within Control Regulation -Art 58-, shark protection from a market perspective, and the red sea.

**LDAC** signalled work on advice on ICCAT, letter on protection of EU Observers on board vessels, women in fisheries, EU-NO trade relations, China-EU cooperation, SFPAs. In the upcoming months the AC would focus on RFMO, sharks' conservation and management measures, Control Regulation -incl. IT catch-.

**BSAC** ExCom Vice Chair took the floor to present the BSAC information. He thanked EFCA for the Vessel Ocean Guardian visit to Gdynia in November. He also highlighted that EFCA social media and information is very impressive in the field.

He explained that BSAC worked in the last months on offshore wind developments, EU Marine Action Plan, and other files in relation to STECF and ICES.

With relation to EFCA, BSAC wanted to recall the work on Technical Measures Regulation, and on the Multiannual Plan evaluation by the Commission.

BSAC will continue working on the LO and was eager to organise the scheduled workshop with EFCA and BALTFISH on monitoring and enforcement of the LO following the publication of the EFCA compliance evaluation report for 2019-2021.

Finally, he recalled that the new control regulation with provisions on SSF and recreational fishing is also of interest. REM projects will be followed up and so will the recently announced CFP evaluation.

EFCA's Executive Director thanked the BSAC for the kind words on Communication and social media, she also highlighted the important work with regards to the Offshore Wind. Vessels run on 12 days trips meaning that vessels call to port every 2 weeks on Friday. This allows for visits of the vessels with inspectors from the MS on board the vessels.

She finished by adding that increase in data availability will be a challenge in some areas including recreational fisheries, control regulation can help with this.

**CCRUP** presented some issue with IUU fishing in some overseas territories,

**MEDAC** sent a video to present its topic of interest with regards to EFCA's work including Blue crab, IUU, level playing field in the Mediterranean.

## 2. EFCA's Annual Report 2023

The EFCA Annual report for 2023 was not available yet. It was to be approved the next day during the administrative board meeting.

EFCA implemented 98% of the annual work program in line with budget use.

6 Joint Deployment Plans (JDP) were implemented and assessment reports of the last JDP were published. More than 44 000 inspections had been carried.

Within JDP framework: 29 specific actions and 8 specific campaigns were deployed. They allowed for specific control tools in areas with higher threats.

Generally, the number of inspections decreased slightly both at sea and on land. The number of suspected infringements detected slightly increased.

The types of infringement in the Baltic were for 78% linked to non-compliance with recording and reporting obligations (mostly on the Margin of Tolerance), and for 27% for non-compliance with conservation technical and management measures.

The ratio of suspected infringements **by inspection** in the Baltic is low, around 2%.

Compliance evaluation report of the Baltic Sea was discussed with the Control Expert Group and further work will continue with a scheduled meeting on the topic with BALTFISH and BSAC later in the year.

EFCA also worked on training material with MS, some updates are needed with the new regulation. EFCA also works with the RFMOs, other EU agencies and the coast guards. EFCA launched the EU Coast Guard portal that presents the role of each coast guard agencies. EFCA worked on specific projects: Analysis for the weighing process of fishery

products in the MS and strategy that will conclude in 2024, and 2 international projects in 3<sup>rd</sup> countries and linked with GFCM and ICCAT. Control tools were deployed by EFCA this year: 3 vessels, 1 fixed wing aircraft and light remotely operated aircraft system. EFCA provide a platform for control agencies to have information on vessels at sea (Integrated Maritime Services).

The BSAC Executive Secretary raised a question on the ratio of suspected infringement by inspection and the reason for the low rate in the Baltic (high number of inspections few infringements detected).

EFCA explained that there were few inspections in the Baltic because of the low number of fishing operation linked to the low TACs. All numbers will be available in the Annual Report once it is approved.

### **3. The draft Single Programming document: 2025**

The Single Programming document still had to be adopted by the Administrative Board the next day.

EFCA presented its draft multiannual work programme for 25-29. Budget will increase by 1,66% next year.

The document will be validated by the Administrative Board and will also take into account comments from the Commission.

### **4. Rotation of the Advisory Board representative in the Administrative Board of EFCA**

CCRUP is current representative until March 2025, will be followed by NSAC.

### **5. AOB**

EFCA suggested to continue with 1 presential and 1 online meetings with ACs annually.