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ANNEX

**ANNEX**

**to the**

**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION**

**on the financing of the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund and the  
adoption of the work programme for 2021**

## ANNEX

### 1. INTRODUCTION

This work programme contains the actions to be financed and the budget breakdown for year 2021 as follows:

- (a) for grants (implemented under direct management) (point 2),
- (b) for procurement (implemented under direct management) (point 3),
- (c) for actions implemented under indirect management (point 4),
- (d) for financial instruments: blending under the InvestEU (point 5),
- (e) for other actions or expenditure (point 6).

### 2. GRANTS

The global budgetary envelope reserved for grants in 2021 is EUR 21 826 500.

#### **Priority 1 - Fostering sustainable fisheries the restoration and conservation of aquatic biological resources**

##### **2.1. Scientific advice and data collection**

###### *2.1.1. Advisory deliverables provided by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)*

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

The International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)
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Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195 (f) of the Financial Regulation.

Article 26 of the CFP sets out the consultation with scientific bodies. The advisory deliverables provided by ICES are science-based products to support the implementation of policies adopted by the Union and its Member States with respect to management of activities that affect marine ecosystems.
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The advisory deliverables shall be pertinent to relevant policy developments and the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy, such as: the MSY objective and related ranges, regionalisation, the Union multi-annual plans or a fleet-based approach to mixed-fisheries or multi-species management, the Eel regulation (Council Regulation No. 1100/2007) and the related national eel management plans, the Maritime Policy, and concerning the data and marine research needs to support these policies.
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ICES is a particular organisation which can provide independent and highly specialized scientific advice with best international quality procedures for research-based advisory deliverables on human activities affecting and affected by marine ecosystems in the North Atlantic, including adjacent seas such as the Baltic Sea and North Sea. It has technical
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competencies required and is highly specialised in understanding the marine ecosystems having administrative powers to generate state-of-the-art advice.

The grant agreement with the ICES expires on 30 June 2021 and there is the need for continuity of the advisory deliverables without interruption. Should the basic act not be in force by that date, exceptionally costs incurred as from 1 July 2021 will be considered eligible and may be declared even if the related activities have been implemented prior to a signature of the grant agreement.

#### Implementation

This action will be implemented by DG MARE.

#### Indicative amount

EUR 2 000 000

#### Cofinancing rate

Maximum 85%

## 2.2. Advisory Councils

### 2.2.1. Advisory Councils (ACs)

#### Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

The Advisory Councils established in accordance with Article 43 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195 (d) of the Financial Regulation.

The main function of the ACs is to advise the European Commission and the Member States on the management of fisheries and the socio-economic and conservation aspects of fisheries and aquaculture by submitting recommendations, suggestions or opinions.

They also inform the Commission and the Member States of problems in a specific area and propose solutions to solve those problems. Finally, they contribute to the collection and analysis of data in close cooperation with scientists.

Advisory Councils are established in accordance with Art. 43 of the CFP Regulation 1380/2013 in order to submit recommendations to the Commission and Member States on CFP related matters. Art. 40 of the EMFAF stipulates that the EMFAF is to support their operational costs and that they may apply for Union support as a body pursuing an aim of general European interest.

There are two general objectives:

- To promote a balanced representation of all stakeholders: the industry (fishing, aquaculture, processing and marketing sectors) on the one hand and other interest groups (such as environmental and consumer organisations in the other hand) on the

other. The aim is to have all stakeholders' voices heard;

- To contribute to the achievement of the CFP objectives and facilitate the implementation of the CFP and of the IMP.
- The specific objectives are as follows:
- To play a role and represent stakeholders' voices in the regionalized CFP. This is why they have to be consulted by Member States when preparing joint recommendations on conservation measures;
- To warn the Commission and Member States of specific problems in a specific area;
- To contribute to the supply and analysis of data for the development of conservation measures in specific areas.

ACs have the main function of submitting recommendations and suggestions to the Commission and Member States on the management of fisheries and the socio-economic and conservation aspects of fisheries and aquaculture. They inform the Commission and Member States of problems in a specific area and propose solutions to solve problems. Finally, they contribute to the collection and analysis of data in close cooperation with scientists.

The expected results are as follows:

- Improved management of the Common Fisheries Policy by involving active and interested stakeholders in the fisheries and aquaculture issues covered by the ACs in policy-making and implementation.
- Relevant advice to the Commission on management issues relating to the fisheries and aquaculture covered by the ACs.
- Improved dialogue between the various parties affected by the Common Fisheries Policy.

The financial years of the individual Advisory Councils start at different times during the year, with financing required as of the beginning of the calendar year in some cases. For grant applications under this action exceptionally costs incurred as from 1 January 2021 are eligible and may be declared even if the related activities have been implemented prior to application submission.

#### Implementation

This action will be implemented by DG MARE.

#### Indicative amount

EUR 3 800 000

#### Cofinancing rate

Maximum 90 %

### 2.3. Voluntary contributions to international organisations

Legal basis:

Regulation 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 on the Common Fisheries Policy, amending Council Regulations (EC) No 1954/2003 and (EC) No 1224/2009 and repealing Council Regulations (EC) No 2371/2002 and (EC) No 639/2004 and Council Decision 2004/585/EC.

IATTC-Council Decision 2006/539/EC of 22 May 2006 on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Community, of the Convention for the Strengthening of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission established by the 1949 Convention between the United States of America and the Republic of Costa Rica (OJ L 224, 16.8.2006, p. 22).

ICCAT-Accession of the Community to the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (OJ L 162, 18.6.1986, p. 33).

NAFO-Council Regulation (EEC) No 3179/78 of 28 December 1978 concerning the conclusion by the European Economic Community of the Convention on Future Multilateral Cooperation in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries (OJ L 378, 30.12.1978, p. 1).

NASCO-Council Decision 82/886/EEC of 13 December 1982 concerning the conclusion of the Convention for the Conservation of Salmon in the North Atlantic Ocean (OJ L 378, 31.12.1982, p. 24).

SIOFA-Council Decision 2008/780/EC of 29 September 2008 on the signing, on behalf of the European Community, of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (OJ L 268,9.10.2008, p. 27).

SPRFMO-Council Decision of 3 October 2011 on the approval , on behalf of the European Union, of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fishery Resources in the South Pacific Ocean (2012/130/EU), (OJ L 67,6.3.2012, p.1).

WCPFC-Accession of the Community to the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (OJ L 32, 4.2.2005, p.1).

### 2.3.1. *Support to Management Strategy Evaluation for tropical tunas in the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)*

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) - RFMO

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195 (c) of the Financial Regulation

Article 28 of the CFP establishes that the Union is to actively support and contribute to the development of scientific knowledge and advice in RFMOs.

The action is expected to support scientific analysis and management in IATTC by further developing and implementing a Management Strategy Evaluation for tropical tunas and assessing the efficiency of electronic remote monitoring tools in long-liners, thereby contributing to achieving the objectives of the IATTC and the Union CFP.

Implementation

This action will be implemented by CINEA and the implementation will become effective subject to and from the moment of adoption of the Regulation on the European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund

Indicative amount

EUR 530 000

Cofinancing rate

Maximum 80%

### 2.3.2. *Annual meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)*

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) - RFMO

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195 (c) of the Financial Regulation

The effective functioning of RFMOs is a priority for the EU. The EU has a leading and pivotal role in ICCAT, which is the most strategic RFMO for the EU as a whole and for several EU Member States that are active in ICCAT fisheries.

The main objective is to support ICCAT in the organisation of its 2021 Annual Meeting.

In line with this role, the EU has the intention to table in 2021 several proposals for conservation, management and enforcement measures which will be discussed during the annual meeting with a view to improve the state of stocks under the provision of ICCAT.

Implementation

This action will be implemented by CINEA and the implementation will become effective subject to and from the moment of adoption of the Regulation on the European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund

Indicative amount

EUR 600 000

Cofinancing rate

Maximum 80%

### 2.3.3. *ICCAT - Capacity development/Meeting participation fund*

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) - RFMO

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195 (c) of the Financial Regulation

The effective functioning of RFMOs is a priority for the EU. The EU has a leading and pivotal

role in ICCAT, which is the most strategic RFMO for the EU as a whole and for several EU Member States with significant active fleets in the ICCAT Convention.

The main objective is to support participation by developing CPCs to the work of ICCAT, and in particular attendance to meetings.

The grant will contribute to the ICCAT meeting participation fund for developing ICCAT Contracting Parties. These activities are essential to allow for a meaningful participation of developing countries in ICCAT activities and to help them implement ICCAT rules.

#### Implementation

This action will be implemented by CINEA and the implementation will become effective subject to and from the moment of adoption of the Regulation on the European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund

#### Indicative amount

EUR 300 000

#### Cofinancing rate

Maximum 80%

#### 2.3.4. *Intersessional meetings of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)*

##### Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) - RFMO

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195 (c) of the Financial Regulation

The effective functioning of RFMOs is a priority for the EU. The EU has a leading and pivotal role in ICCAT, which is the most strategic RFMO for the EU as a whole and for several EU Member States that are active in ICCAT fisheries.

The main objective is to support ICCAT in the organisation of its 2021 intersessional meetings.

In line with its leading role, the EU has the intention to table in 2021 several proposals for conservation, management and enforcement measures which will be discussed during the annual meeting with a view to improve the state of stocks under the provision of ICCAT.

#### Implementation

This action will be implemented by CINEA and the implementation will become effective subject to and from the moment of adoption of the Regulation on the European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund

#### Indicative amount

EUR 100 000

Cofinancing rate

Maximum 80%

2.3.5. *Development and capacity building within the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) ONLINE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM*

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) - RFMO

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195 (c) of the Financial Regulation

The effective functioning of RFMOs is a priority for the EU. The EU has a leading and pivotal role in ICCAT, which is the most strategic RFMO for the EU as a whole and for several EU Member States with significant active fleets in the ICCAT Convention.

The main objective is to support the development of, and capacity building in relation to, the ICCAT Online Management System.

Facilitate the reporting process in ICCAT and subsequently the compliance process. This will contribute to improving the organisation performance, while reducing the administrative burden on CPCs and on the ICCAT Secretariat. Support the development of an online management system for reporting obligations in ICCAT. Contribute to the finalisation of this task in ICCAT, building on the work of the specific working group created for this purpose. Contribute to the capacity building process to ensure the effective use of the IOMS by all ICCAT members, and ultimately that ICCAT is able to collect all relevant information.

Implementation

This action will be implemented by CINEA and the implementation will become effective subject to and from the moment of adoption of the Regulation on the European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund

Indicative amount

EUR 100 000

Cofinancing rate

Maximum 80%

2.3.6. *Strengthening the scientific basis for decision-making in the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)*

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) - RFMO

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195 (c) of the Financial Regulation



The effective functioning of RFMOs is a priority for the EU. The EU has a leading and pivotal role in ICCAT, which is the most strategic RFMO for the EU as a whole and for several EU Member States with significant active fleets in the ICCAT Convention. In line with Article 28 (2) of the CFP "the Union is to actively support and contribute to the development of scientific knowledge and advice".

The main objective is to support ICCAT Scientific Committee in the provision of scientific advice to inform the decision making process of the ICCAT Commission in 2021 and thereafter.

In line with this role, the EU has the intention to table in 2021 several proposals for conservation, management and enforcement measures which will be discussed during the annual meeting with a view to improve the state of stocks under the provision of ICCAT.

ICCAT is the sole organisation with the competence to undertake the actions required for the research programme and management of tunas and tuna-like fishes in the Atlantic. The sound management of these fishes requires best available science.

#### Implementation

This action will be implemented by CINEA and the implementation will become effective subject to and from the moment of adoption of the Regulation on the European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund

#### Indicative amount

EUR 1 650 000

#### Cofinancing rate

Maximum 80%

#### 2.3.7. *Ecosystem Based Approach to Fisheries Management (EAF) in Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (NAFO)*

##### Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (NAFO) - RFMO

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195 (c) of the Financial Regulation

Support the implementation of an Ecosystem Based Approach to Fisheries Management (EAF) in NAFO area. Article 2 of the basic regulation (CFP), in its objective 3 calls for the implementation of an ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management.

Expected results and main tasks to be carried out:

- Provide a comprehensive overview and analysis on how multispecies assessment would fit into the scientific and decision making processes within NAFO.
- Scoping new management systems developed from multispecies assessment principles.

The ultimate goal is to obtain a multispecies management tool to achieve higher long-term

stability assuring fishery resources sustainability.

#### Implementation

This action will be implemented by CINEA and the implementation will become effective subject to and from the moment of adoption of the Regulation on the European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund.

#### Indicative amount

EUR 150 000

#### Cofinancing rate

Maximum 80%

### 2.3.8. *NEREIDA: Research in support of the re-assessment of NAFO bottom fisheries in 2022 (NAFO)*

#### Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (NAFO) - RFMO

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195 (c) of the Financial Regulation

Article 2 of the basic regulation (CFP), in its objective 3 calls for the implementation of an ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management.

This action will support NAFO in relation to the protection of Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs).

It is expected that the results of this action will have a direct influence on the management measures adopted in NAFO to protect VMEs in accordance with published NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures (CEM).

#### Implementation

This action will be implemented by CINEA and the implementation will become effective subject to and from the moment of adoption of the Regulation on the European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund

#### Indicative amount

EUR 100,000

#### Cofinancing rate

Maximum 80%

### 2.3.9. *Performance Review of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation organisation (NASCO)*

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

North Atlantic Salmon Conservation organisation (NASCO) - RFMO

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195 (c) of the Financial Regulation

Article 28 of the CFP provides that the Union is to promote periodical independent performance reviews and appropriate remedial actions;

This action will support NASCO action in relation to the implementation of the next Performance Review recommendations in a number of fields ranging from governance, to science and compliance.

It will support NASCO to increase its performance and achieve the objectives foreseen in its Convention and in the EU CFP.

Implementation

This action will be implemented by CINEA and the implementation will become effective subject to and from the moment of adoption of the Regulation on the European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund

Indicative amount

EUR 60 000

Cofinancing rate

Maximum 80%

### 2.3.10. *Strengthening the Scientific basis for decision-making (SIOFA)*

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) - RFMO

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195 (c) of the Financial Regulation

In line with article 29 of the CFP this grant will support the development of scientific knowledge and advice to contribute in providing the scientific basis to ensure that SIOFA decisions are based on robust scientific advice.

The EU voluntary contribution will support scientific work aiming at improving the understanding of the conservation status of key SIOFA species (including through the development of methodologies for for assessing data poor stocks) and contribute in underpinning robust scientific advice for the management of the exploited stocks.

Emphasis should be put on developing a research and management plan for toothfish in Del Cano, as well as, for accelerating the development of management advice for orange roughy

and alfoncino. In addition to that, it will also support scientific work for the mitigation of by catch species for all relevant gears.

#### Implementation

This action will be implemented by CINEA and the implementation will become effective subject to and from the moment of adoption of the Regulation on the European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund.

#### Indicative amount

EUR 100 000

#### Cofinancing rate

Maximum 80%

### 2.3.11. *Support to Management Strategy Evaluation for Jack mackerel in the South Pacific Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO)*

#### Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

South Pacific Regional Fisheries Organisation (SPRFMO) - RFMO

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195 (c) of the Financial Regulation

Article 28 of the CFP provides that the Union actively support and contribute to the development of scientific knowledge and advice in RFMOs.

This action will support SPRFMO in continuing work towards a Management Strategy Evaluation for Jack mackerel.

The action is expected to support scientific analysis and management in SPRFMO by further developing and implementing a Management Strategy Evaluation for jack mackerel, thereby contributing to achieving the objectives of the SPRFMO Convention and the EU CFP.

#### Implementation

This action will be implemented by CINEA and the implementation will become effective subject to and from the moment of adoption of the Regulation on the European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund.

#### Indicative amount

EUR 60 000

#### Cofinancing rate

Maximum 80%

### 2.3.12. *Strengthening the Scientific basis for decision-making (WCPFC)*

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) - RFMO

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195 (c) of the Financial Regulation

In line with article 29 of the CFP this grant will support the development of scientific knowledge and advice to contribute in providing the scientific basis to ensure that WCPFC decisions are based on robust scientific advice.

The EU voluntary contribution will support scientific work aiming at progressing the objectives of the WCPFC Shark research plan.

The work will include stock assessments for key shark species, biological studies, mitigation etc. It will also contribute to supporting scientific work that would be relevant for improving the stock assessments of WCPFC tropical tuna stocks.

Implementation

This action will be implemented by CINEA and the implementation will become effective subject to and from the moment of adoption of the Regulation on the European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund

Indicative amount

EUR 300 000

Cofinancing rate

Maximum 80%

## **Priority 3 - Enabling a sustainable blue economy in coastal, island and inland areas and fostering the development of fishing and aquaculture communities**

### **2.4. (Maritime policy and sustainable blue economy)**

#### *2.4.1. Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) projects*

Type of applicants targeted by the call for proposals

Public authorities

Description of the activities to be funded under the call for proposals.

The objective of the action is to facilitate the implementation of Maritime Spatial Planning in the EU, including through the effective application of Directive 2014/89/EU establishing a framework for MSP.

This will involve funding projects to develop innovative responses to tackle specific challenges that EU Members States might encounter when putting into effect, monitoring and/or revising

their maritime spatial plans, including the objective to achieve good environmental status as set out in Directive 2008/56/EC.

Many of these challenges are common to coastal Member States. There is thus a shared interest in developing innovative responses that can apply within a sea basin and/or across sea basins. This means that projects should bring together participants from different Member States, located in a sea basin, or from different seabasins.

The grants will support cross-border MSP cooperation projects in Member States, in the North Sea, the Baltic Sea, the Atlantic, the Mediterranean Sea, or the Black Sea.

Projects will build on prior experience from existing and past MSP projects. Support to third countries may be included where cross-border MSP cooperation requires third country involvement in a given sea basin, or sea basins and link with activities undertaken under Regional Sea Conventions.

The Commission will take into account geographical diversity in selecting those proposals for funding from amongst those that have reached the quality threshold.

#### Implementation

This action will be implemented by CINEA and the implementation will become effective subject to and from the moment of adoption of the Regulation on the European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund

#### Indicative amount

EUR 3 900 000

#### Cofinancing rate

Maximum 80%

#### 2.4.2. *Flagship projects promoting a sustainable blue economy through regional maritime cooperation in the Atlantic, the Black Sea and the Western Mediterranean*

##### Type of applicants targeted by the call for proposals

- Non-profit organisations (private or public);
- Public authorities (national, regional, local);
- International organisations;
- Universities;
- Educational institutions;
- Research centres;
- Profit making entities;
- Natural persons.

##### Description of the activities to be funded under the call for proposals.

In support of the European Green Deal, the European Commission is developing a new approach to the sustainable blue economy. Sea basins strategies are key frameworks for the transition to a sustainable blue economy by promoting regional cooperation.

## Atlantic

In July 2020, the European Commission adopted a revised action plan to support the Atlantic Maritime Strategy – the Atlantic Action plan 2.0. It identifies the following 4 priority areas for cooperation between the 4 participating Member States (France, Ireland, Portugal and Spain):

- Atlantic ports as gateways and hubs for blue economy;
- Blue skills and ocean literacy;
- Marine Renewable Energy;
- Coastal resilience and healthy ocean.

The European Green Deal emphasises the essential role of marine renewable energy for the transition to a climate-neutral economy and for meeting the reduction by 55% of carbon emissions. The Commission will adopt soon a strategy for the development of offshore renewable energy in the Union. The EU Atlantic area is the leader in and testbed for the development of novel marine renewables, especially ocean energy and floating offshore wind. Regional cooperation under the Revised Atlantic Action plan 2.0 should further contribute to unlocking the full potential of marine renewable energy.

## Black Sea

In 2019, the Common maritime agenda (CMA) for the Black sea was adopted by Romania, Bulgaria, Moldova, Ukraine, Russia, Georgia and Turkey. The Commission played an active role in securing this agreement, that is a major breakthrough. The CMA sets the following 3 goals and a number of priority areas for regional cooperation:

- Healthy marine and coastal ecosystems;
- A competitive, innovative and sustainable blue economy for the Black sea;
- Fostering Investment in the Black Sea blue economy;

Over the last few months, CMA member countries have debated on the impact of the Covid-19 crisis on the blue economy in the Black sea. The sustainable blue economy will contribute to green recovery in the region by supporting emerging sectors and greening traditional ones. In this line, it is important to foster entrepreneurial environment and innovative start-ups in traditional and emerging blue economy sectors in the region, as off shore renewable energies, by incentivizing the uptake of innovation and digitalisation as enablers of green transition.

## Western Mediterranean

The Initiative for the sustainable development of the blue economy in the Western Mediterranean (WestMed) was launched in 2017 to support cooperation between 5 EU Member States (Portugal, Spain, France, Italy and Malta) and 5 non-EU countries (Mauritania, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Libya). This initiative sets the following 3 goals:

- A safer and more secure maritime space
- A smart and resilient blue economy
- A better governance of the sea

The Ufm Ministerial Declaration on Sustainable Blue Economy adopted in February 2021, reinforced the cooperation of Mediterranean Countries for new joint actions to speed up

recovery of the blue economy sectors in the Mediterranean as well as to ensure its long-term sustainability.

The marine and coastal tourism sector is the most important blue economy sector in the Mediterranean both in terms of GVA and jobs. COVID-19 crisis severely impacted this sector with indirect negative effects on other blue economy sector. This is highlighting the need to strengthen resilience of the tourism sector, as protected coastal and marine ecosystems enhance the attractiveness of the coastal and insular areas.

The objective of the action is to champion the implementation of sea basin strategies and promote regional cooperation in the Atlantic, in the Black sea and in the Western Mediterranean.

More specifically, selected projects will support:

- the development of innovative Marine Renewable Energies combining nature conservation and/or restoration in the Atlantic ;
- competitive, innovative and sustainable blue economy in the Black sea by promoting SMEs and start-ups blue investments, incentivizing the uptake of innovation and digitalisation enabling also green transition;;
- smart, diversifies, sustainable and resilient coastal and marine tourism in the Western Mediterranean and by reducing carbon emissions from the tourism activities.

The action aims at supporting at least one project in each of the targeted sea basins covered by the action, provided that for each sea basin at least one proposal reaches a sufficient quality score following the evaluation of the award criteria.

#### Implementation

This action will be implemented by CINEA and the implementation will become effective subject to and from the moment of adoption of the Regulation on the European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund

#### Indicative amount

EUR 3 875 000

#### Cofinancing rate

Maximum 80%

### **PRIORITY 4 - Strengthening international ocean governance and enabling safe, secure, clean and sustainably managed seas and oceans**

#### **2.5. Maritime security and surveillance**



### 2.5.1. Support to ECGFF

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

National Authorities in charge of the European Coast Guard Functions Forum
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Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195 (c) of the Financial Regulation.

<p>The European Coast Guard Functions Forum (ECGFF) is a cooperation setting of around 30 national coastguard authorities from EU Member States (MS) and associated Schengen countries, performing Coast Guard Functions (CGF). The forum is chaired each year by a host country agreed by the MS' participating coast guard authorities.</p> <p>Cooperation between national authorities performing CGF is critical for ensuring safe, secure and clean European seas and oceans. Such cooperation is therefore an important element of the European Maritime Security Strategy Action Plan (EUMSS-AP).</p> <p>One of the objectives of this action is to support the ECGFF annual conference , as well as workshops organised by the forum (e.g. the Cyber-Security Workshop), in order to enhance sectorial and cross-sectorial cooperation between national authorities performing Coast Guard Functions, the exchange of best practices and to promote dialogue at international, regional and national level. The support to the ECGFF also aims to develop specific cooperation mechanism addressing challenges such as cyber and hybrid threats.</p> <p>This action will facilitate a complementarity with the EU inter- agency cooperation on coast guard functions, based on the revised EU legislation regulating the activities of the three EU maritime Agencies: EMSA, EFCA and Frontex.</p> <p>The ECGFF takes place on an annual basis, involving a rotating presidency held by a Member State. It is essential to ensure continuity in the work of the ECGFF without interruption and to maintain the cooperation momentum amongst the participating countries. Therefore, for grant application under this action exceptionally costs incurred as from 1 January 2021 are eligible and may be declared even if the related activities have been implemented prior to application submission.</p>
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Implementation

This action will be implemented by CINEA and the implementation will become effective subject to and from the moment of adoption of the Regulation on the European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund.
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Indicative amount

EUR 146 000
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Co-financing rate

Maximum 80%
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### 2.5.2. Support to MedCGFF

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

National Authorities in charge of the Med Coast Guard Functions Forum,

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195 (c) of the Financial Regulation.

Cooperation between national authorities in charge of Coast Guard functions is critical to enhance the safety, security and environmental protection of the Mediterranean sea basin. In 2009, the Mediterranean Coast Guard Functions Forum (MCGFF) was created to bring together the public authorities carrying out coast guard functions in Member States and in third countries bordering the Mediterranean Sea. Since then, annual sessions of this forum have taken place. Such cooperation also contributes to the implementation of the European Maritime Security Strategy Action Plan (EUMSS-AP) and of sea basin/macro-regional strategies such as the WestMED Initiative and EUSAIR.

The main objective of this action is to support the organisation of the MCGFF annual high-level conference promoting cooperation and enhanced dialogue on CGF at regional and sub regional level.

The support to the MCGFF should enable national authorities in charge of coast guard functions across the Mediterranean basin, including the third countries, to develop mutual knowledge, share experiences and best practices, as well as to identify areas for further cooperation.

The ECGFF takes place on an annual basis, involving a rotating presidency held by a Member State. It is essential to ensure continuity in the work of the MedCGFF without interruption and to maintain the cooperation momentum amongst the participating countries. Therefore, for grant application under this action exceptionally costs incurred as from 1 January 2021 are eligible and may be declared even if the related activities have been implemented prior to application submission.

#### Implementation

This action will be implemented by CINEA and the implementation will become effective subject to and from the moment of adoption of the Regulation on the European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund.

#### Indicative amount

EUR 88 000

#### Co-financing rate

Maximum 80%

#### 2.5.3. Action for a CISE incident alerting system

#### Type of applicants targeted by the call for proposals

Public authorities (national, regional, local)

## Description of the activities to be funded under the call for proposals.

The transitional phase of the Common Information sharing environment (CISE) is currently underway. The establishment of a pre-operational “incident alerting service” in the CISE network, where information regarding incidents on board vessels or any type of maritime asset can be exchanged, could bring a greater added value to the entire CISE project and attract interest from current and future participants. For example, an outbreak of a disease on board a vessel could be reported through the CISE network, enabling for example port authorities to take the necessary steps to quarantine the vessel and its crew.

The establishment of a “pre-operational service”, such as an incident alerting system, in the CISE network requires addressing not only technical aspects (e.g. service configuration in the node and/or the development of the software capabilities), but also operational aspects, as defining the procedure for the personnel involved in the management of the service, providing and consuming the information exchanged. This exercise will help streamline services in a pre-operational mode during the Transitional Phase, which will subsequently benefit the Operational Phase of CISE. Establishing a pre-operational service will also need the contribution of the CISE stakeholders (CSG members, Node Owners, Node Administrators), to gather experience in drafting the procedure at national level, to handle the information exchanged through CISE; define the KPI needed to implement reliable services; and test the network. This project will involve Member States (MS), which will be part of the cooperation agreement between authorities participating in the Transitional phase of CISE. It will also take into account the lessons learnt in the current COVID-19 crisis as regards incident alerts.

In CISE the type of services that can be established in pre-operational phase are defined in the CISE Data and Service model. The CISE Stakeholder Group agreed that at least these two services will be established in a pre-operational phase: incident and risk. The “incident alerting service” will be used by the personnel in charge to disseminate or consume information about incidents occurring on board vessels or any other type of maritime asset (including e.g. COVID-19 cases). The “risk service” will contribute to harmonize the interpretation of the risks by the different authorities involved in CISE. These services are meant to be complementary to initiatives in place in the MS or at the Union level (i.e. the notification service implemented within the maritime single window reporting system - SafeSeaNet) for two main reasons: CISE reaches a wider variety of Public Authorities compared to sectorial networks (CISE is a cross sectoral initiative), and CISE can be used to exchange sensitive/classified information. CISE connects Public Authorities (PA) belonging to 7 different sectors: maritime security and safety, defence, law enforcement, fisheries, customs, marine environment and border control.

Sharing services (i.e. incident and risk) information in CISE will contribute to:

- Sending and receiving information between Public Authorities in the Union that are not connected to existing sectorial platforms, networks or communities;
- Simplifying the procedure in place in MS to distribute information among different Public Authorities (some MS are using CISE as a platform to share/distribute information among different legacy systems owned by different PA within the country);
- Addressing sensitive or classified information (i.e. list of passengers, crew list, etc.).

These services will be implemented in three stages. In the 1st stage the service will be operated on the basis of the tools already implemented, in the 2nd stage the service will be connected to the MS legacy systems (automatizing the information sharing), and the 3rd stage will address

also the exchange of sensitive/classified information. It is important to mention that while the 2nd stage of this service could be planned during the Transitional Phase of CISE, the 3rd stage will be addressed when CISE will have moved to the Operational Phase. With this initiative, DG MARE is contributing to the costs that MS will incur through an implementation project for these stages of the service.

**Main Objectives:**

- Service configuration in the node and/or the development of the software capabilities);
- Defining the procedure for the personnel involved in the management of the service, providing and consuming the information exchanged;
- Gather contributions of CISE stakeholders (CSG members, Node Owners, Node Administrators) on drafting national procedures for handling the information exchanged through CISE;
- Define the KPI needed to implement reliable services;
- Test the function of the network.

**Implementation**

This action will be implemented by CINEA and the implementation will become effective subject to and from the moment of adoption of the Regulation on the European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund.

**Indicative amount**

EUR 2 437 500

**Co-financing rate**

Maximum 85%

**2.6. International Ocean Governance**

*2.6.1. Support to the fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing*

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

INTERPOL Global Fisheries Enforcement (GFIE)

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195 (f) of the Financial Regulation

The Commission applies a ‘zero-tolerance’ approach towards IUU fishing. Fight against IUU fishing is an identified priority under the European Green Deal.

Promote international cooperation to fight IUU fishing. INTERPOL to assist member countries in addressing transnational crimes associated with the fisheries sector and offer case-specific investigative support through specialized teams of experts. Gathering more information on

IUU fishing activities and providing countries with the necessary skills for investigation and law enforcement. Overall, this would help to better address cases of IUU fishing when they are linked to crimes and ensure appropriate enforcement actions.

Operational support will be provided by INTERPOL to assist member countries with a view to addressing transnational crimes associated with the fisheries sector. In this context, Interpol will offer case-specific investigative support services through specialized teams of experts (e.g. criminal intelligence analysis, forensics, coordination etc.). The case-focused investigative support to member countries will be provided through the deployment on the spot of Investigative Support Teams (ISTs), mainly in the cases of Highest Risk Vessels (HRVs) with a transnational nature. The project is to ensure that gaps and deficiencies will be identified during operational support on investigated cases and work will be carried out with national authorities on the spot to overcome such deficiencies. INTERPOL will also ensure capacity building to law enforcement officers to address crimes connected to the fisheries sector.

#### Implementation

This action will be implemented by CINEA and the implementation will become effective subject to and from the moment of adoption of the Regulation on the European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund.

#### Indicative amount

EUR 350 000

#### Cofinancing rate

Maximum 80%

#### 2.6.2. *Support to awareness raising about the Saami*

##### Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

The Saami Council

##### Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195 (f) of the Financial Regulation

The Union's Arctic policy emphasises the importance of engaging with Arctic indigenous peoples and local communities to ensure that their views and rights are respected and promoted in the ongoing development of the Union policies affecting the Arctic, including the Union's maritime and fisheries policies. The Saami people are the indigenous peoples living in the European Arctic. Their homeland (Sápmi) extends across parts of Finland, Sweden, Norway and Russia. For centuries, alongside reindeer husbandry, the Saami have been fishing along the coasts, lakes, and rivers and have been using the coastline and major rivers as their trade routes.

The objective of this action is to promote dialogue and cooperation with the Saami people in order to foster a more integrated maritime and coastal governance. Specifically, the action will aim to increase the visibility and raise awareness of the challenges facing the Saami as a result of the rapidly changing Arctic environment and to enable policy makers to take into account

Saami perspectives regarding marine and coastal affairs. To this end, the action is expected to:

- essentially follow on from previous work grant and actions identified therein;
- make available information about the Saami and their way of life, including through events;
- present Saami perspectives and experiences, in particular on issues and policies of interest to them or affecting them;
- increase awareness of Saami rights, traditional livelihoods (e.g. fisheries), knowledge, culture and language;
- enhance dialogue and exchange of information and best practices with other stakeholders in the European Arctic and beyond (including other indigenous peoples and communities).

This action will complement the annual Arctic Indigenous Peoples Dialogue organised by the Commission. Within the holistic approach which characterises the Union's Arctic policy, this action may also cover traditional land-based Saami livelihoods and related issues.

#### Implementation

This action will be implemented by CINEA and the implementation will become effective subject to and from the moment of adoption of the Regulation on the European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund.

#### Indicative amount

EUR 80 000

#### Cofinancing rate

80%

### 2.6.3. Sustainable Seabed Knowledge Initiative (SsKi) / one thousand species' identification

#### Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

International Seabed Authority (ISA)

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195 (f) of the Financial Regulation

According to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS, Article 143) the International Seabed Authority is mandated to promote and encourage the conduct of marine scientific research in the Area.

Given the objective of the European Green Deal to become the first climate neutral continent, the European Union has the priority to lead globally on the conservation and protection of our environment, including seas and oceans. Improving knowledge of seabed ecosystems in the Area is the necessary step to establish a solid baseline for the protection of these ecosystems.

This Biodiversity mapping project in the Area seeks to fill the gaps in knowledge of seabed ecosystems, their connectivity and the interrelation between endemism of species and

conglomeration of seabed minerals.

SsKi has an audacious, but achievable goal of describing and characterizing one thousand new species from our oceans. These new data on the building blocks of biodiversity - from regions targeted for seabed mining – will enable the creation of new maps of life on the ocean floor to understand the importance and resilience of deep-sea life to anthropogenic change. As such, the initiative is fully consistent with the EU Biodiversity Strategy.

#### Implementation

This action will be implemented by CINEA and the implementation will become effective subject to and from the moment of adoption of the Regulation on the European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund.

#### Indicative amount

EUR 500 000

#### Cofinancing rate

Maximum 50%

### Horizontal actions covering all priorities

#### 2.7. Communication

##### 2.7.1. *Raising awareness on the maritime and fisheries policies*

#### Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

A new multiannual framework agreement is expected to be available at Commission level at the beginning of 2021. A grant agreement will be signed with the beneficiary in 2021.

The action will underpin notably three overall political priorities pursued under the Commission’s maritime and fisheries policies, namely sustainable use of natural resources, the creation of jobs and growth, and reinforcing the role of the Union as a global actor.

Launched in early-2019 and continued in 2020, the “Ocean” series has already been a success and demonstrated its potential in terms of quality and reach. A continuation of the series in 2021 will contribute to further raising the profile of ocean-related topics, and the related Union policies, through showcasing concrete examples of the Union-funded actions, interviews with key players and powerful visuals from maritime settings.

A televised series of magazines - in combination with multiplatform digital dissemination - enables the Commission to reach large and new audiences across the Union and beyond. The action also contributes to increasing the Commission’s outreach in a broader sense by helping to organically grow existing social media followership.

#### Implementation

This action will be implemented by DG MARE

Indicative amount

EUR 600 000

Cofinancing rate

Maximum 95 %

### 3. PROCUREMENT

The global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement contracts in 2021 is EUR 34 589 185.

#### **Priority 1 - Fostering sustainable fisheries and the restoration and conservation of aquatic biological resources**

##### **3.1. Scientific advice and data collection**

###### *3.1.1. Scientific Support to the High Seas Fisheries in the Central Arctic Ocean*

General description of the contracts envisaged

This action is aiming at providing scientific support covering studies in the form of specific contracts to be concluded under existing framework contracts or following a call for tenders (studies and services providing scientific support) for the provision of consistent management of fish resources in the Central Arctic Ocean (CAO). This action will help on the development and implementation of the Joint Program of Scientific Research and Monitoring to be defined by the Arctic High Seas Fisheries Meeting.

DG MARE established in May 2017 a panel of experts on Arctic fisheries who identified the following scientific elements where the Union could play a leading role in the Joint Research and Monitoring Plan. These elements include a critical overview and synthesis of available knowledge on fish stocks, a description of the socio-economic drivers for fisheries, green technology, the participation of scientist in Arctic research campaigns and studies, data collection, Arctic fisheries related workshops, scientific experts meetings on fish stocks in the Central Arctic Ocean (FiSCAO) and support to future research programmes. In addition, one of the elements could potentially include local and indigenous knowledge in the Joint Research and Monitoring Plan and provide for the participation of Arctic indigenous people in the work of scientific expert groups.

Scientific support to the CAO is necessary to evaluate, inter alia, the essential fish habitats, the ecological relationships, the migration of fish stocks, the precautionary ecosystem-based approach to fisheries, the identification of target species and ecosystem component species, the need for data collection and data availability, the maximum sustainable yield (MSY), the collaborative research on Arctic fisheries and monitoring, the identification of management frameworks and the related socio-economic considerations, etc.



## Implementation

This action will be implemented by CINEA and the implementation will become effective subject to and from the moment of adoption of the Regulation on the European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund

## Indicative amount

EUR 1 000 000

### 3.1.2. *Studies providing scientific advice for the Mediterranean and the Black Sea*

#### General description of the contracts envisaged

This actions aims at providing scientific advice in support of the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy in the Mediterranean and the Black Seas, including at the international level within the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM).

In particular, regarding:

- the evaluation of technical elements linked to the national and multi-annual management plans or to the different provision of the Mediterranean Regulation and the CFP;
- stock assessments in the Mediterranean and Black Seas;
- the GFCM's mid-term strategy (2017-2020) towards the sustainability of Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries.
- implementation of the Ecosystem Approach via advice for reduction of the environmental impact of fishing gears and/or practices, advice on the elimination of discards, advice on essential fish habitats (necessary to fish for spawning, breeding, feeding or growth to maturity), reduction of unwanted catches, impacts of certain pollutants on the productivity and reproduction fitness of certain exploited species, effects of environmental and anthropogenic factors on the dynamics of marine biological resources, and the impact of marine non-indigenous invasive marine species (NIS) to fisheries;

Scoping studies, aiming at synthesising and analysing scientific material to provide greater clarity about specific research topics.

## Implementation

This action will be implemented by CINEA and the implementation will become effective subject to and from the moment of adoption of the Regulation on the European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund

## Indicative amount

EUR 1 200 000

3.1.3. *Methodological and technical support for the development and maintenance of databases for data collection supporting scientific advice by ICES and JRC*

General description of the contracts envisaged

Contribute to the efficiency and effectiveness of initiatives with IT components funded by the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund by contracting external expertise in the domains of software/enterprise architecture and IT project/operation management.

Implementation

The action will be implemented by DG MARE.

Indicative amount

EUR 53 000

3.1.4. *Studies providing scientific advice in support of the Common Fisheries Policy in EU waters (excluding the Mediterranean and Black Sea)*

General description of the contracts envisaged

Studies providing scientific advice in support of the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) in the Baltic, North Sea and Atlantic Ocean as well as in the Union outermost regions.

In particular, regarding:

- annual advice on development of fish stocks with respect to CFP's objectives complementary to the advice provided by STECF and ICES;
- improved knowledge on fish stocks and ecosystems and fisheries management schemes in place in the Union outermost regions;
- the MSY objective, including forecasts of catches corresponding to  $F_{msy}$ , estimation of stock levels including the historical evolution with respect to  $F_{msy}$ , advice on appropriate capacity to fish at  $F_{msy}$ , and advice on how to protect the more vulnerable species in mixed fisheries so that all stocks are fished at  $F_{msy}$ ;
- implementation of the Ecosystem Approach via advice for reduction of the environmental impact of fishing gears and/or practices, advice on the elimination of discards, advice on essential fish habitats( necessary to fish for spawning, breeding, feeding or growth to maturity), reduction of unwanted catches, impacts of certain pollutants on the productivity and reproduction fitness of certain exploited species, effects of environmental and anthropogenic factors on the dynamics of marine biological resources, and the impact of marine non-indigenous invasive marine species (NIS) to fisheries;
- Multiannual Management Plans, including the improved use of the existing knowledge about ecological interactions and fisheries interactions;
- transversal topics, including further progress in the identification of stock boundaries for certain species, updated identification and description of fisheries and metiers, characterisation of recreational and of artisanal fisheries, and the further fine-tuning of

bio-economic modelling for mixed fisheries.

- Preparatory work for the 2022 assessment of the CFP outcome up to 2021.

#### Implementation

This action will be implemented by CINEA and the implementation will become effective subject to and from the moment of adoption of the Regulation on the European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund.

#### Indicative amount

EUR 1 800 000

### 3.1.5. *Scientific advice for fisheries beyond EU waters*

#### General description of the contracts envisaged

The aim of this action is to provide the European Commission with specific and timely scientific advice for fisheries management or other services needed for the provision of the advice, within the context of the external dimension of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP).

The advice and services are sought to support the implementation of the CFP by applying the precautionary and the ecosystem approach, while ensuring coherence with the Union environmental legislation (e.g. Marine Strategy Framework Directive) and with the Maritime Policy.

#### Implementation

This action will be implemented by CINEA and the implementation will become effective subject to and from the moment of adoption of the Regulation on the European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund.

#### Indicative amount

EUR 1 400 000

## 3.2. **Control and enforcement**

### 3.2.1. *Procurements for meetings related to the fisheries control including the meetings of the of the Expert Groups on Fisheries Control and on Compliance with the obligations under the Union Fisheries Control System*

#### General description of the contracts envisaged

Expenses related to the organisation of meetings on the fisheries control included meetings of the Expert Groups on Fisheries Control and on Compliance with the obligations under the Union fisheries control system (logistical and administrative costs).

#### Implementation

This action will be implemented by DG MARE

Indicative amount

EUR 40 000

### 3.2.2. *Equipment for Fisheries Control related tasks*

General description of the contracts envisaged

Protection/safety equipment and materials required for verification, inspection and audit/fisheries control related tasks. Equipment required for a smooth running of activities linked to the field of control.

Implementation

This action will be implemented by DG MARE

Indicative amount

EUR 15 000

### 3.2.3. *Provision of IT services and supplies*

General description of the contracts envisaged

Development, maintenance, operations and support of IT applications, together with infrastructure services in order to support the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy. Access to databases.

Implementation

DG MARE and co-delegation to DG DIGIT and DG SANTE

Indicative amount

EUR 6 168 177

## **Priority 2 - Fostering sustainable aquaculture activities, and processing and marketing of fisheries and aquaculture products, contributing to food security in the Union**

### **3.3. Market intelligence**

#### *3.3.1. European Market Observatory for fisheries and aquaculture (EUMOFA)*

General description of the contracts envisaged

EUMOFA aims to increase market transparency and efficiency, analyse the Union markets dynamics and support business decisions and policy-making. It also aims at providing practical

support to market actors to better coordinate information between operators and processors. This contract will run and maintain the EUMOFA market intelligence tool on the European Union fisheries and aquaculture sector. The services that will be provided by this contract include data collection, reports, studies and market analysis, dissemination and communication activities and full IT Services (including hosting).

#### Implementation

This action will be implemented by DG MARE

#### Indicative amount

EUR 3 260 600

### 3.3.2. *Information system for commercial designations for fisheries and aquaculture products*

#### General description of the contracts envisaged

Running, maintenance and improvements of the information system for commercial designations for fishery and aquaculture products. It is the only website on which all the lists of commercial designations drawn up by the EU Member States can be accessed and compared. National lists being hardly comparable due to their huge heterogeneity (lengths, pace of update, languages, formats), this system is a valuable source of information for stakeholders as it provides an integrated and cross-cutting view on the species put on the Union market.

#### Implementation

This action will be implemented by DG MARE and partly co-delegated to DG DIGIT

#### Indicative amount

EUR 250 000

### 3.3.3. *Methodological and technical support to the policy units managing IT initiatives*

#### General description of the contracts envisaged

Contribute to the efficiency and effectiveness of initiatives with the IT components funded by the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund by contracting external expertise in the domains of software/enterprise architecture and IT project/operation management.

#### Implementation

This action will be implemented by DG MARE

#### Indicative amount

EUR 43 000

## **Priority 3 - Enabling a sustainable blue economy in coastal, island and inland areas and fostering development of fishing and aquaculture communities**

### 3.4. Maritime policy and sustainable blue economy

#### 3.4.1. Observatory on Blue economy activities

General description of the contracts envisaged

The Blue Economy is evolving rapidly, affecting both traditional and emerging sectors – as well as the surrounding communities. This brings new opportunities for investment and holds huge potential for future development.

One key condition for enabling the expansion of a sustainable Blue economy is the availability of better and timely data, analysis and knowledge about the sea and the use we make of it. The EU Blue Economy Report constitutes a first approach to this aim. However, it has some limitations.

For the established sectors, the Report relies mainly on the Structural Business Statistics (SBS) and tourism surveys. They should be complemented with other sources to enlarge the scope of activities analysed and to identify the size of indirect and induced activities. Moreover, the analysis of emerging sectors in the Report could also be enhanced with a more systematic approach to available data sources. Finally, data are usually reported with more than two-year lag. A more timely information flow would be particularly relevant for some fast evolving or innovative sectors in the EU Blue Economy.

An Observatory on the Blue Economy will enable a more comprehensive and integrated approach to data collection across Member States. Besides SBS and tourism surveys, the observatory would allow to expand the sources DG MARE has access to so that the analysis could be enriched. Among others, complementary sources could include satellite national accounts, balance of payments, reports and financial accounts of companies, surveys on industrial production, household budget surveys, labour force survey, other surveys, statistics from professional associations and federations and so on. This might also include the use of administrative registers or commercial databases.

By combining these various sources, the quality, accuracy and scope of the BE report and the data contained in it will be enhanced. Moreover, it should also provide the frame for in depth market intelligence analysis and evidence for policy makers and business operators.

The setting up of an Observatory on the Blue Economy can fill in those knowledge gaps and should aim at:

- (a) gathering, analysing and disseminating economic knowledge and data for a better understanding of the EU Blue Economy along the value chain and the EU coastal regions;
- (b) expansion of data collection on the EU Blue Economy with a view to fill in the current data gaps, particularly for emerging sectors of the EU Blue Economy;
- (c) data processing (harmonisation) and data analysis;
- (d) regularly surveying of latest trends of the emerging sectors of the EU Blue Economy;
- (e) conducting ad-hoc market, financing and business studies on emerging sectors and high-tech established sectors of the EU Blue Economy;
- (f) potentially, it could also provide input for the Blue Economy Report in the form of data, analysis and drafting of some sections.

This contract follows a feasibility study (CINEA/EMFF/2019/1.3.1.11/SI2.815496-SC05) that is expected to be finalised in 2021 Q1. The feasibility study should provide a recommendation

for the structure and functions of the Blue Economy Observatory as well as its financial requirements.

#### Implementation

This action will be implemented by CINEA and the implementation will become effective subject to and from the moment of adoption of the Regulation on the European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund

#### Indicative amount

EUR 975 000

### 3.4.2. *Blue Economy Indicators*

#### General description of the contracts envisaged

The aim of this action is to obtain the most accurate and up-to-date picture of the blue economy, using existing data from Eurostat and other sources. The action will therefore provide support for the continuation of the on-line IT system, using as input data from SBS input-output tables, labour force surveys, the Data Collection Framework and tourism statistics.

This input is to provide quantitative measurement of the indicators which have been set for the status and trends of the blue economy, for the Union as a whole and at Member State level.

The data will be made available to the public, under certain conditions, as an interactive tool where it will be possible to download charts and files. It will also allow the input of new raw data as they become available. The tool will update data, on an annual basis, and allows for a thorough quality check of the datasets.

#### Implementation

This action will be implemented by co-delegation to DG DIGIT

#### Indicative amount

EUR 112 125

### 3.4.3. *Events and other actions for the promotion and visibility of the Maritime Policy*

#### General description of the contracts envisaged

In order to promote the Maritime Policy (MP), notably towards its stakeholders, a number of events and similar activities are planned to be held during 2021; in some cases, preparation of the event or activity will begin in 2021 for an event or implementation date in 2022.

These events and activities may cover any of the wide range of topics included in the MP, such as (non-exhaustive list) marine knowledge and observation, ocean literacy, maritime security and safety, maritime spatial planning, sea-basin strategies and action plans, ocean governance, arctic policy, marine environmental issues and the blue economy including fisheries and

aquaculture.

The events and similar activities cover a wide spectrum. Examples are: large-scale conferences, policy-related meetings targeting decision-makers and civil society representatives, technical workshops, fora and platforms bringing together representatives of specific sectors, "hackathons" and similar interactive gatherings, participation with side-events or stands at events or fairs organized by third parties; information days to stakeholders to present a new policy or a new call; match-making events to stimulate investment in the blue economy, meetings with non-EU States to forge ocean partnerships. This list is non-exhaustive.

Each event or activity may also include work necessary for its preparation (including of its content) and follow-up (including dissemination of the results).

The events and activities may, depending on the subject matter, include any mix of participants from across the Union, from neighbouring non-EU countries and from the wider world, including international organisations.

An event or activity may be held on the Union territory, or any suitable location outside it if this is necessary for the pursuit of its objectives.

#### Implementation

This action will be implemented by DG MARE or co-delegated to DG SCIC, DGT, DG OP, DG DIGIT or DG COMM.

#### Indicative amount

EUR 995 283

#### 3.4.4. Developing international MSP guidelines and cooperation

##### General description of the contracts envisaged

In 2017 the European Commission and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO signed a **Joint Roadmap to accelerate Maritime/Marine Spatial Planning processes worldwide**<sup>1</sup>. This action aims to continue implementing this partnership.

To help develop international guidance on transboundary maritime spatial planning (MSP), several actions are to take place in 2021:

- **Two international workshops of the International MSP Forum** will be organised in 2021 (postponed from 2020).
- The **third International MSP Conference** will be organised in the second half of 2021.

The workshops will build on the four workshops of the International MSP Forum organised in 2018 and 2019, and on existing initiatives and studies, including any lessons learnt and best practices. They have a double aim: to enhance cross-border cooperation where it already exists and to help initiate it where it is yet to be put in place. The output of these workshops will be used in the development of international guidelines on transboundary MSP. The international guidelines are to be presented during the third International MSP Conference.

#### Implementation

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.mspglobal2030.org/msp-roadmap/>.



This action will be implemented by DG MARE

Indicative amount

EUR 307 000

### 3.4.5. *Contribution to sectoral cooperation on skills in the blue economy*

General description of the contracts envisaged

This action aims to complement the Union initiatives to up- and reskill the blue economy workforce and mobilise additional efforts to complete the understanding of the specific needs of various sectors within the blue economy and inform future activities. It builds on the new Communication “European Skills Agenda for sustainable competitiveness, social fairness and resilience”, as well as previous initiatives such the Blueprints for sectoral cooperation on skills.

It will perform, among other tasks:

- analysis of the current and future gaps and needs for a skilled labour force in the blue economy in order to prevent labour market mismatches.
- analytical foresight of labour market trends in the blue economy.
- assessment of ways to adapt training and education to employment needs related to new technologies, emerging industries and innovative sectors, as well as the traditional sectors.
- recommendations for future policy measures and initiatives.
- consultation of stakeholders, establishment of steering/peer review group, in order to involve notably industries, academia, education and training institutes.

The Commission may envisage one or several contracts to implement this action.

Implementation

This action will be implemented by CINEA and the implementation will become effective subject to and from the moment of adoption of the Regulation on the European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund.

Indicative amount

EUR 1 237 500

### 3.4.6. *Continuation of the EU4Ocean coalition’s work*

General description of the contracts envisaged

This action aims to ensure continuity to the ongoing EU4Ocean coalition, launched in 2020 to boost ocean literacy in Europe. A new contract is envisaged to:

- ensure continuation of the current activities;
- consolidate the work already delivered, ensure legacy of activities, build up cooperation with appropriate international organisations active on ocean literacy;
- increase partner outreach and develop the networks accordingly, including business and industry develop further, update and maintain the relevant website.

## Implementation

This action will be implemented by CINEA and the implementation will become effective subject to and from the moment of adoption of the Regulation on the European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund

## Indicative amount

EUR 1 267 500

### 3.4.7. *Review study on the implementation of the WestMed initiative*

#### General description of the contracts envisaged

This action aims at supporting the implementation and monitoring of the Initiative for the sustainable development of the blue economy in the western Mediterranean (WestMed initiative) launched in 2017 through the conduct of a review study.

## Implementation

This action will be implemented by CINEA and the implementation will become effective subject to and from the moment of adoption of the Regulation on the European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund.

## Amount

EUR 195 000

### 3.4.8. *IT support for the Maritime Forum*

#### General description of the contracts envisaged

Using the multi-site content-management system toolkit, DG DIGIT will:

- Develop and maintain the Maritime Forum in order to allow communication within communities and to stakeholders. The communities include those for Ocean Literacy, Ocean Governance and BlueInvest.
- Develop and maintain a tool for preparing performance indicators for the EMFAF.
- Develop components to improve interactivity, in order to facilitate discussions, exchange information and share content among users.

## Implementation

This action will be co- delegation to DG DIGIT.

## Indicative amount

EUR 300 000

### 3.4.9. Study for reporting obligations for ocean observation

#### General description of the contracts envisaged

An Ocean Observation Initiative might require Member States to report their ocean observation activities in the future. This study will deliver findings and recommendations with regard to this initiative.

#### Implementation

This action will be implemented by CINEA and the implementation will become effective subject to and from the moment of adoption of the Regulation on the European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund.

#### Indicative amount

EUR 292 500

### 3.4.10. Development and maintenance of EMODnet

#### General description of the contracts envisaged

The work planned for the European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet) includes:

- structuring national archives of data so that they all use the same format, standards, nomenclature, baseline and are accessible through internet;
- streamlining the process whereby marine data from whatever source (including the Union-wide, national and regional monitoring programmes, research projects and private companies) is delivered on a voluntary basis for safekeeping to data repositories and following the FAIR principles;
- creating software that allows users to search for data and data products, view them and download them;
- cooperation with appropriate international organisations and partner countries on the above objectives or issues;
- outreach to users in order to better understand their needs and develop the network accordingly, including business and industry;
- Coordination and monitoring of EMODnet (Secretariat);
- development and maintenance of the European Atlas of the Seas.

#### Implementation

This action will be implemented by CINEA and the implementation will become effective subject to and from the moment of adoption of the Regulation on the European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund.

#### Indicative amount

EUR 7 000 000

### 3.4.11. BlueInvest platform

#### General description of the contracts envisaged

Assist in helping small enterprises to put innovative products and services from the blue economy on the market and increase investment in the sustainable blue economy. This will build on the existing work and will include:

- matchmaking between investors and companies through events, pitching and animation of an on-line community;
- improving investor readiness through activities such as coaching or mentoring
- assisting the implementation of the Union support under BlueInvest;
- supporting regional or national efforts to bring new products and services of the blue economy to market.

#### Implementation

This action will be implemented by CINEA and the implementation will become effective subject to and from the moment of adoption of the Regulation on the European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund.

#### Indicative amount

EUR 2 437 500

### 3.4.12. EU Aquaculture Assistance Mechanism

#### General description of the contracts envisaged

This contract aims at facilitating the implementation of the new Strategic Guidelines for the sustainable development of EU aquaculture, to be adopted in early 2021. In particular it aims to:

1. Collect and share knowledge about Aquaculture policy and guidance: the contractor will create and maintain a database of knowledge and practices about Aquaculture that will be shared through an EU Aquaculture Website, see action 3.4.13.
2. Develop Support the development of guidance documents on different aspects of aquaculture policy, provide technical expertise on sustainable aquaculture, support for the organisation of workshops, conferences and the technical meetings of Member States' experts on aquaculture.
3. Support to Member States: provide advice and support to Member States for their work in implementing the guidance developed on the sustainable development of aquaculture, including in the form of trainings and workshops on the guidance documents developed with the Commission.

#### Implementation

This action will be implemented by CINEA and the implementation will become effective subject to and from the moment of adoption of the Regulation on the European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund

Indicative amount

EUR 1 780 000

### 3.4.13. *EU Aquaculture website*

General description of the contracts envisaged

This contract aims to create, and maintain and support the update of the content of an online EU Aquaculture website, including an easily searchable database to share guidance documents, good practices and knowledge about aquaculture in a way that can be of direct use by competent public authorities and industry. The site will be developed in full compliance with the Europa Web Guide rules. The EU Aquaculture website will be part of a broader project under the EMFAF Direct management budget for 2021 aimed at creating an EU Aquaculture Assistance mechanism.

Implementation

This action will be implemented by CINEA and the implementation will become effective subject to and from the moment of adoption of the Regulation on the European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund

Indicative amount

EUR 170 000

### 3.4.14. *Assistance Mechanism for the implementation of Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP)*

General description of the contracts envisaged

This contract aims to facilitate the implementation of Maritime Spatial Planning, and in particular of Directive 2014/89/EU.

To achieve this aim the contractor will carry out tasks in the following areas (non-exhaustive list):

- Collect and share knowledge about MSP: The contractor will update a database of knowledge and practices about MSP.
- Act as a repository, for the collection and the upkeep, of outputs and results (e.g. reports, documents, databases) produced in the context of MSP projects supported by the Union funding instruments such as the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund, INTERREG or Horizon 2020.
- Perform support activities (e.g. secretariat, organisation of meetings) in the framework of an initiative aiming at harmonising information and data used and/or produced for the establishment of maritime spatial plans. In carrying out this task, the contractor will seek synergies with organisations and/or bodies, such as the JRC, EMODNET, or the European Environment Agency, active in this area.
- Set up and maintain a “pool” of experts with an expertise in MSP and MSP implementation. These experts will provide advice to Member States and to the Commission in matters such as the assessment, the monitoring and/or the revision of

maritime spatial plans established in the context of Directive 2014/89/EU.

- Drawing from knowledge and expertise the contractor will be asked to prepare technical documents, training and communication materials, on specific issues related to MSP. These documents are intended to support the implementation of Directive 2014/89/EU as well as clarify links with relevant Union policies.
- Specific support to Member States: the contractor will perform a number of tasks aimed at supporting Member States in implementing Maritime Spatial Planning. These tasks can range from the practical organisation of meetings, workshops and events, to the organisation of training, the dissemination of useful information on the implementation of MSP, including available funding.
- The contractor will support the organisation of workshops and conferences, as well as meetings of the Member State Expert Group (MSEG) on MSP. The contractor will also carry out studies and communication activities; the Assistance Mechanism will take into account any developments undertaken through the predecessor contracts and build upon their results

#### Implementation

This action will be implemented by CINEA and the implementation will become effective subject to and from the moment of adoption of the Regulation on the European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund

#### Indicative amount

EUR 880 000

### **Priority 4 - Strengthening international ocean governance and enabling safe, secure, clean and sustainably managed seas and oceans**

#### **3.5. International Ocean Governance**

##### *3.5.1. OOC Transfer of IT Trackingtool to OOC Advisory Board*

#### General description of the contracts envisaged

Transfer of the newly established Our Ocean Conference (OOC) commitment tracker from the Commission to the future Steering Mechanism of the IT tool, thus ensuring continuity between the OOC annual editions.

The OOC IT tool was designed by the Commission (DG MARE) and launched in 2019, in support of the Our Ocean Conference in Norway. Over the last months, a group of past and future hosts of the OOC decided to establish the steering mechanism of the tool addressing the needs of the future OOC annual editions. The transfer from the Commission to the future host includes licensing the intellectual property under an open source license, and simplifying the code to ease the work of the new owner.

#### Implementation

This action will be implemented in DG MARE.

Indicative amount

EUR 25 000

### **Actions covering multiple priorities**

#### **3.6. Communication**

##### *3.6.1. Public Relations, Information and Communication Measures Relating to the Common Fisheries Policy and the Maritime Policy*

General description of the contracts envisaged

Provision and coordination of information, communication and public relations actions including, *inter alia*:

- publications, information packs, social media activities, maps and other materials, audiovisuals ;
- hiring of stands, publicity for the participation in fairs and exhibitions, publications on a range of topics;
- web development and updating of web-pages, revamping of existing websites;
- translations;
- organisation of conferences, events and seminars or workshops on maritime policy and fisheries and on the EMFAF, such as conferences on regional maritime strategies, coastguard cooperation, maritime spatial planning, marine knowledge and surveillance, conferences on community-led local development in fisheries areas for Fisheries Local Action Groups;
- information about fisheries legislation or Maritime Policy topics in Member States as well as in third countries;
- purchasing of advertising space;
- use of the "Europa IT Platform" for MARE websites,
- use of the "Europa Web Publishing Platform" (EWPP).

Finally, this envelope includes DG MARE's contribution to the "Corporate communication actions in 2021-2023 under the Multinational Financial Framework 2021-2027 C(2020) 9390.

Implementation

DG MARE and co-delegation to DG COMM, DG SCIC, DG OP, DGT and DG DIGIT.

Indicative amount

EUR 1 385 000

## **4. ACTIONS IMPLEMENTED UNDER INDIRECT MANAGEMENT**

The global budgetary envelope reserved for actions implemented under indirect management in 2021 is EUR 17 456 500.

## Priority 1 - Fostering sustainable fisheries and the restoration and conservation of aquatic biological resources

### 4.1. Control and enforcement

#### 4.1.1. *Analysis for the weighing process of fisheries products in the Member States and strategy*

Implementing entity

European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA)

#### Description

The accurate weighing of fishery products is essential for ensuring the registration of all quantities of fishery products landed and for the long term environmental sustainability of fishing activities, which is a key objective of the Common Fisheries Policy. In 2017, the Commission published the results of the evaluation of the Control Regulation after five years of implementation<sup>2</sup>. One of the shortcomings identified in the current Fisheries Control System relates to weighing of fisheries products. The most significant and common deficiencies include a lack of statistical basis to ensure the representativeness of sample sizes for weighing, as required in the relevant Annexes of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 404/2011. The methodologies required to develop these plans in the Implementing Regulation were also identified as a potential problem due to a lack of clarity in how they should be applied.

It is therefore necessary to collect updated information on measures and procedures utilised in Member States regarding the weighing of fishery products, statistically assess the methodologies in place and issue recommendations issued for improvements in the relevant legal framework (Regulation (EU) No 4004/2011).

The following main tasks should be performed:

- Description & analysis of weighing practices of fisheries product,
- Evaluation of existing sampling plans, control plans and common control programmes and relevant methodologies,
- Recommendations and guidelines to ensure efficient and effective weighing of fisheries products.

The estimated duration of the study is 2 years. The results of the study will be necessary for the drafting by COM of new implementing and delegated acts to be adopted under the new Fisheries Control framework.

This study will be essential to draft implementing and delegated acts on weighing for which preparation shall start early 2022 which is why it is important to obtain the first results of the analysis as soon as possible. For the grant application under this action exceptionally costs incurred as from 1 January 2021 are eligible and may be declared even if the related activities have been implemented prior to application submission.

<sup>2</sup> COM(2017) 192 final ‘Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council — April 2017. Implementation and evaluation of Regulation (EC) 1224/2009 establishing a Union control system for ensuring compliance with the Rules of the Common Fisheries Policy, as required under Article 118. REFIT Evaluation of the impact of the fisheries regulation {SWD92017} 134 final}’.



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Indicative amount

EUR 739 000
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## 4.2. Voluntary contributions to international organisations

Legal basis:

Regulation 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 on the Common Fisheries Policy, amending Council Regulations (EC) No 1954/2003 and (EC) No 1224/2009 and repealing Council Regulations (EC) No 2371/2002 and (EC) No 639/2004 and Council Decision 2004/585/EC

FAO-Council Decision of 25 November 1991 on the accession of the European Community to the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO).

### 4.2.1. *Global Record of fishing vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels (FAO)*

Implementing entity

Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO)- International Organisation FAO
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Description

<p>Fighting illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing has been a fundamental part of the Union's action to improve ocean governance over the last ten years, and this Commission has reaffirmed its commitment to fight against IUU fishing with a zero-tolerance approach. In that perspective, encouraging the further development of the Global Record – one of the latest and most advanced tools being developed to fight IUU fishing – is one of the Union priorities.</p> <p>Based on past action, this further development aims to foster international cooperation on IUU by facilitating and promoting globally the sharing of information available regarding the identification of fishing vessels and fishing activity associated with illegal activities.</p>
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Indicative amount

EUR 225 000
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### 4.2.2. *Preparatory action on the way to COFI 34 (FAO)*

Implementing entity

Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO)- International Organisation FAO
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## Description

The Union support aims to strengthen the efficiency and sustainability of fisheries management at global level, considering in particular the importance of fisheries for the Union, that the Union is resolutely committed to multilateralism, and that the FAO COFI is the main body where fisheries issues are discussed and fisheries decisions are made.

The Union objective is to ensure that the FAO COFI's discussions and decisions on a series of fisheries priorities for the Union be based on rigorous, well-grounded and inclusive work. Such priority issues could include the fight against IUU, the study of transshipment, securing small-scale fisheries, the role of fisheries and aquaculture in food systems, the COVID-19 impacts on fisheries and aquaculture, global and regional processes or climate change and other related environmental matters.

The work referred to above, could take the form of studies, consultations, workshops, technical development, etc.

## Indicative amount

EUR 300 000

### 4.2.3. *Support for the global capacity development umbrella programme of FAO on the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA)-(FAO)*

## Implementing entity

Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO)

## Description

The PSMA came into force on 5 June 2016. It aims to prevent, deter and eliminate Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) fishing – a key priority for the Commission which decided to act against IUU according to a zero-tolerance approach – by establishing port state measures around the globe.

The Union has been among the first to ratify the PSMA, which has entered into force in 2016 and counts now 65 parties. It has also always been a strong supporter of its development and implementation, urging other countries to ratify the agreement. In the FAO Committee on Fisheries of July 2018, the Union announced that it would host the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties (now scheduled in May-June 2021 in Brussels), which will also be the first review meeting of the agreement.

As the PSMA is a masterpiece in the Union fight against IUU fishing at global level, it is in the Union interest to continue to promote its ratification and implementation by other countries, in particular through strengthening the capacities of developing countries. This way of acting is in line with the Union position expressed in the FAO Fisheries Committee in relation the call for supporting the global capacity development umbrella programme of FAO on the PSMA and related international instruments to combat IUU fishing. It is also consistent with the orientations of the Ocean Governance Communication (JOIN (2016) 49 final), which still guides the Union action on ocean matters and states that, in association with the High Representative, the Commission will cooperate with third countries, inter alia on capacity-building and partnership with the European Fisheries Control Agency, including for the

implementation of the Port State Measures Agreement.

With this contribution the Union will continue to support this FAO umbrella programme, targeting specifically (a) states that have a Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement or states with which the Union is in the process of negotiating such an Agreement, (b) states that are in dialogue with the European Commission under the EU's IUU Regulation or (c) states with important port activity.

The main tasks will consist in strengthening national policy and legislative frameworks to combat IUU fishing, strengthening monitoring, control and surveillance enforcement institutions and systems, enhancing the capacities to improve flag State performance on IUU fishing and implementing consistent market access measures.

Indicative amount

EUR 500 000

#### 4.2.4. *Globefish project (FAO)*

Implementing entity

Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO)

Description

The Globefish project relies on FAO general budget and private bilateral contributions to carry out its analyses and dissemination of information on a large number of world markets. The Commission is one of the member of Globefish together with other Member States and third countries. DG MARE makes direct use of this to support analyses on some specific species, policies and markets. It is also a source of information used by EUMOFA.

The Globefish project is required with a view to support gathering and providing of data, information and market analysis to interested stakeholders of the fishery and aquaculture trade related sectors. Through this project, the FAO analyses and disseminates information on a large number of world markets.

Indicative amount

EUR 60 000

#### 4.2.5. *Contribution to the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (FAO) to support specific activities of the GFCM and to scientific and institutional cooperation to support responsible fisheries in the Western, Central, and Eastern Mediterranean as well as in the Black Sea*

Implementing entity

FAO - General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM)

Description

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) is the main conduit, notably *via* the implementation of its current (for 2017-2020) and future (for 2021-2025) Strategies, for DG MARE to define multiannual fisheries management plans in the GFCM areas of competence, reinforcing compliance with GFCM recommendations and decisions by GFCM Members and relevant non-Members and supporting the fostering of a sustainable aquaculture in the region.

Improving the governance and the poor state of the stocks in the context of the Mediterranean and Black Sea capture fisheries and fostering aquaculture is a priority.

The main priorities are to support activities on country-level and regional implementation in the framework of the Malta MedFish4Ever Declaration (signed in 2017), the Sofia Ministerial Declaration (signed in 2018) and the Regional plans of action against IUU (2017) and for Small Scale Fisheries (2018). The implementation of the activities and strategy of the GFCM have been planned and decided according to the priorities identified and agreed during the 42<sup>nd</sup> and 43<sup>rd</sup> sessions of the GFCM.

These actions will support the preparation of the recommendations to be submitted to the 44<sup>th</sup> session of the GFCM (to take place in 2021) for which appropriate support will be provided for the organisation of specific meetings, workshops and seminars, as well as the implementation of existing ones.

The actions will also support the implementation of regional activities in the Western, Central and Eastern Mediterranean, as well as in the Black Sea, aimed at developing a common framework for cooperation between coastal states of the Mediterranean and Black Seas to enable the common management of fish stocks in these regions. This will be done through the provision and sharing of scientific work and data with non-EU partner countries, a contribution to the enhancement of their capacity in participating actively in the relevant regional frameworks for sustainable fisheries management and to establish a sound socio-economic and scientific basis to improve fishing resources in these regions and achieve sustainable management of these resources using an ecosystem approach.

Indicative amount

EUR 8 000 000

#### 4.2.6. WECAFC - Strengthening the Scientific basis (FAO)

Implementing entity

Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO).

Description

The general objective of WECAF is to promote the effective conservation, management and development of the living marine resources of the area of competence of the organisation, in accordance with the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, and address common problems of fisheries management and development faced by members of the Commission.

In line with article 29 of the CFP this grant will support the development of scientific knowledge and advice to contribute in providing the scientific basis to ensure that WECAF deliberations are based on robust scientific advice.

The Union voluntary contribution will support scientific work aimed at supporting the WECAFC Working Groups, in line with the Work Programme of the organisation. This should contribute to progressing towards achieving the key objective of the organisation which is to promote the effective conservation, management and development of the living marine resources of the area of competence of the Commission, in accordance with the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, and address common problems of fisheries management faced by members of the WECAFC.

Indicative amount

EUR 150 000

### **Priority 3 - Enabling a sustainable blue economy in coastal, island and inland areas and fostering development of fishing and aquaculture communities**

#### **4.3. Maritime policy and sustainable blue economy**

##### *4.3.1. International engagements on Ocean Literacy (UNESCO)*

Implementing entity

Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC/UNESCO).

UNESCO will ensure work based on prior identified common challenges and proposals for actions at an international level because of its specialisation and prior knowledge on the matter and its authority on issues of ocean literacy.

Description

International collaboration on ocean literacy within the framework of the upcoming Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030), with the view to support efforts to reverse the cycle of decline in ocean health and raise awareness among populations of the invaluable contribution of the ocean to climate and human health and prosperity.

An agreement with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC/UNESCO) will ensure work based on prior identified common challenges and proposals for actions at an international level.

Indicative amount

EUR 1 000 000

### **Priority 4 - Strengthening international ocean governance and enabling safe, secure, clean and sustainably managed seas and oceans**

#### **4.4. Maritime security and surveillance**

#### 4.4.1. *Mediterranean virtual regional training academy on fisheries control and inspection (EFCA)*

##### Implementing entity

European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA)

This action is a follow up of the FIUUFRA initiative coordinated by EFCA in the Western Mediterranean. FIUUFRA promotes cooperation in the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, the implementation of General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GCFM) management measures and looks for synergies with regards to the different coastguard functions, with the ambition to support the fulfilment of point 40 of the MEDFISH4EVER Declaration.

Under the umbrella of the WESTMED initiative (sea basin strategy for the promotion of a sustainable blue economy), EFCA received a proposal back in December 2018 to contribute in a discussion on a possible project to set up a virtual Academy to provide services to fight against IUU fishing in the Mediterranean Sea. This proposal was coming from stakeholders from the third-countries of the initiative (Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Mauritania and Libya) with the support of five MS concerned (Portugal, Spain, France, Italy and Malta).

Further to the FIUUFRA initiative, we are looking forward to a close collaboration and sharing of expertise between northern and southern Mediterranean countries through the creation of a North-South training network – intended as a virtual regional academy of knowledge on fighting IUU fishing across WestMed Countries - with a potential plan to extend the training all around the Mediterranean Sea. During 2021, it is expected to continue and expand the best practices initiated in 2020.

This action is aligned with Goals and Priorities of the West MED Initiative, especially to those of: fisheries and aquaculture; skills development and maritime safety and security.

It is also aligned with the 2nd UfM Ministerial Declaration on Sustainable Blue Economy of 2/2/21, which among others prioritize: (a) education, vocational training and scientific capacity including technology transfer to anticipate transformative technological trends and promote just transitions and (b) the importance of working closely with the private sector to promote innovation and identify and address skills gaps. With the specific grant, we will have the opportunity to implement specific relevant activities for the Mediterranean Countries and coastal communities.

This action will thus contribute to strengthening regional cooperation on blue economy in the broader framework of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and the activities could benefit to interested UfM countries.

Over the last few years, EFCA has developed a unique expertise in terms of capacity building in the field of fisheries - Monitoring, Control and Surveillance – working both, with EU and non-EU Member States, under its mission is to promote the highest common standards for control, inspection and surveillance under the CFP. It has developed curricula and e-learning tools. Consequently, it is the appropriate body to implement this new action.

Indicative amount

EUR 1 000 000

4.4.2. *Implementation of the results of the Coast Guard qualifications Network and the CGF handbook (EFCA)*

Implementing entity

European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA)

This project supports in particular the cooperation with and between the European coastguard function authorities and to provide additional resources to permit the assumption by EFCA of such new responsibilities. It will include:

- Maintenance and updating of the new handbook for the CG functions, which will need to be transposed to an online platform.

The development of a Practical handbook on European cooperation on coast guard functions is included in the common article of the amended founding regulations of EMSA, EFCA and FRONTEX (Regulation (EU)2019/1896 - art° 69, Regulation (EU) 2019/473 - art° 8 and Regulation (EU) 1406/2002 - art° 2), as a task for the Commission. The agencies helped in the preparation of the handbook, which should be issued as Commission recommendation this year. However it became evident that that for such handbook to be operational and useful it will have to be available in an online platform with the possibility to be updated. Such task is much more appropriate for an Agency with the right knowhow rather than the Commission (MARE).

- Generalisation and update of the results of the European Coast Guard Functions Academy Network (ECGFA net) project: SQF, portal and exchange programme between CG national agencies.

Between 2015 and 2019, the Commission financed the ECGFA Net project with the main aim to promote the exchange of knowledge, skills and best practices among the EU national authorities carrying out CGF and the EU's neighbouring countries in the Mediterranean and, consequently, to facilitate the interoperability and cooperation amongst them. The ECGFA Net project was implemented through three phases with an overall budget of about 1 200 000 EUR. The ECGFA Net project, phase III, 2018—31/09/2019, was led by the Finnish Border Guard in collaboration with the Italian Coast Guard and SASEMAR, and co-funded through the grant EASME/EMFF/2018/1.2.1.3./SI2.782278. Now, it is important to integrate the relevant outcome of the project into the existing Agencies' cooperation framework to ensure a proper follow up of the project results.

Under the interagency cooperation on coastguard functions, EFCA is leading on capacity building activities and has the necessary know how to maintain, generalise and update the results of the projects mentioned above. The agency is clearly better placed to implement this rather than the Commission bringing also added value to previously funded work.

Indicative amount

EUR 2 437 500

#### 4.5. International Ocean Governance

##### 4.5.1. Contribution to the FAO “Assistance Fund under Part VII of the UN Agreement on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (UNFSA) – (“the Fund”)

Implementing entity

FAO

Description

The European Union attaches great importance to the promotion at international level of the European approach on marine biological resources as developed in the Common Fisheries Policy<sup>3</sup>, which is based on sustainability, the ecosystem approach, grounded sound scientific advice and the precautionary principle. Further to this objective, as a party to the 1995 United Nations Agreement on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks<sup>4</sup>, the Union should encourage greater participation by developing countries in the UNFSA by making such contributions.

The “Assistance Fund under Part VII of the Agreement” was created in 2003 to assist developing States Parties in the implementation of the Agreement under specific terms of reference<sup>5</sup>.

In line with the purposes of assistance of the Fund<sup>6</sup>, by making a financial contribution to the fund, the Union would support developing countries participation in, among others, meetings and activities of relevant regional and sub-regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, and hence aid in the promotion of the sustainable fisheries management worldwide; and building capacities of developing countries to implement the Agreement In accordance with para 13 of the Terms of References<sup>7</sup> of this Trust Fund the contribution will be made through donor agreement for specific activities which meet any of the purposes of the Fund set forth in paragraph 16. Such donor agreements between a donor, the FAO and the UN/OLA/DOALOS, will set out all activities to be undertaken, as mutually agreed upon by them. Such activities will be implemented by the FAO in collaboration with UN/OLA/DOALOS.

Indicative amount

EUR 1 000 000

<sup>3</sup> Council conclusions on International ocean governance: an agenda for the future of our oceans, 7348/1/17REV 1

<sup>4</sup> Council Decision 98/414/EC of 8 June 1998 on the ratification by the European Community of the Agreement for the implementing of the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the conservation and management of straddling stocks and highly migratory fish stocks (OJ L 189, 3.7.1998, p. 14.).

<sup>5</sup> See paragraph 16 of the Terms of Reference:

[https://www.un.org/Depts/los/convention\\_agreements/fishstocktrustfund/TOR.pdf](https://www.un.org/Depts/los/convention_agreements/fishstocktrustfund/TOR.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> idem

<sup>7</sup> [https://www.un.org/Depts/los/convention\\_agreements/fishstocktrustfund/TOR.pdf](https://www.un.org/Depts/los/convention_agreements/fishstocktrustfund/TOR.pdf)



4.5.2. *Contribution to Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations (DOALOS) Trust Fund for the purpose of supporting the participation of developing countries in the BBNJ negotiations*

Implementing entity

Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations (DOALOS)

Description

The negotiations on the 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 are still ongoing. The BBNJ negotiations are considered to be a priority for the Union and its Member States which seek for a balanced, effective and universal international agreement.

By contributing to the Trust Fund for the purpose of supporting the participation of developing countries in the BBNJ negotiations, the Union will ensure effective and universal participation to the negotiations by developing countries that face financial constraints.

The Union would also gain considerable visibility and credit by supporting this participation through contributing to the fund set up by DOALOS for that purpose.

Indicative amount

EUR 100 000

4.5.3. *Contribution to the Trust Fund of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf for developing States (DOALOS)*

Implementing entity

The Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations.

DOALOS is the administrator of the Voluntary fund to enable the participation of the developing countries members of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf in the work of this Commission by meeting their costs of participation (travel expenses and daily subsistence allowance).

Description

The Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations is the administrator of the Voluntary fund to enable the participation of the developing countries members of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf in the work of this Commission by meeting their costs of participation (travel expenses and daily subsistence allowance).

The Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf is established by UNCLOS

having due regard to the need to ensure equitable geographical representation. In May 1999 (SPLOS/38) the Chairman of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf requested the President of the ninth Meeting of States Parties to propose to the States Parties to consider the issue of financing the participation of members of the Commission from developing countries in the work of the Commission. The Trust Fund was established in 2000.

By making a financial contribution to the Trust Fund, the Union would contribute to developing countries participation in the meetings of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, ensuring equitable geographical representation in that body and showcasing the importance it attaches to effective multilateralism.

Indicative amount

EUR 50 000

#### 4.5.4. Contribution to World Bank PROBLUE Trust Fund

Implementing entity

The World Bank

Description

Engaging with the World Bank with the aim to build capacity towards sustainable blue economies is part of our Union International Ocean Governance (IOG) agenda.

As a follow up of the Union contribution to PROFISH (2018-2020), this action will ensure continuous Union involvement in PROBLUE partnership council, with the objective of supporting International Ocean Governance and facilitating donor coordination.

The expected results are greater coordination, coherence and complementarity at global level between the WB portfolio and the Union programmes. This could be achieved through active participation of the Commission in PROBLUE, notably to the Partnership Council meetings, with the objective to:

- promote the Union's international ocean governance strategy,
- bring more focus on the Union's experience and activities and
- work on increased complementarity between the World Bank portfolio and the Union programmes.

Indicative amount

EUR 1 895 000

## 5. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS: BLENDING OPERATIONS UNDER INVESTEU

The overall budgetary allocation reserved for blending operations in 2021 is EUR 19,500,000.

### Priority 3 - Enabling a sustainable blue economy in coastal, island and inland areas and fostering development of fishing and aquaculture communities

#### 5.1. Maritime policy and sustainable blue economy

##### 5.1.1. Blue economy window

Amount allocated to the blending operations

EUR 19 500 000
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##### Description

The Blue Economy can support Europe's post-crisis economic recovery through innovative products and services and high-value jobs that shift the Union towards the objectives of the Green Deal. It is generally SMEs and small mid-caps that drive the necessary changes.

However, an ex-ante assessment conducted by the Commission<sup>8</sup> and subsequent experience with the BlueInvest Platform<sup>9</sup> show that there is a lack of investment in these companies. The study shows that businesses in innovative, sustainable and circular blue economy sectors, while receiving financial support from the Union's Horizon 2020 research programme, lack support on the path towards market entry and scaling up.

The objective therefore is to develop and bring to market new products, services and business models in blue economy value chains that could develop pre-commercial innovations into revenue-generating activity that provide sustainable and innovative blue growth in Europe's sea basins.

A sustainable blue economy will contribute significantly to European Green Deal objectives. It can help communities and industries hit hard by the coronavirus or migration of key workers to recover through a more resilient economy with reduced carbon and environmental footprint that is competitive on a global scale.

The financial instruments offered in this blue economy window will be used in blending operations<sup>10</sup> to provision relevant InvestEU financial products implemented by the European Investment Fund under the InvestEU programme. They should finance actions in the blue economy that further Union goals such as decarbonisation, biodiversity, digital earth, farm to fork or the circular economy. It will allow intermediaries to make investments that they would otherwise consider too risky.

Further details regarding the underlying financial structure, including the risk-sharing

<sup>8</sup> Study to support investment for the sustainable development of the blue economy Service Request No EASME/EMFF/2017/038. D4 – Report on finance  
<https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/7e2a955d-4016-11eb-b27b-01aa75ed71a1/language-en/format-PDF/source-180200272>

<sup>9</sup> <https://blue-invest.eu>.

<sup>10</sup> The operation is of type 2 according to the classification of the Commission. i.e. it includes an InvestEU budgetary guarantee, a financial instrument from EMFAF and a non-EU budget repayable support from Implementing Partner.

arrangement between the Commission and the European Investment Fund, the allocation of annual commitment and eligibility rules related to blending operations will be specified in the Guarantee Agreement (or in an amendment to it) signed under InvestEU.	
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## Implementation

This action will be managed via a co-delegation to DG ECFIN.
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## 6. OTHER ACTIONS AND EXPENDITURE

The global budgetary envelope reserved for other actions and expenditure in 2021 is EUR 3 735 000.

### Priority 1 - Fostering sustainable fisheries and the restoration and conservation of aquatic biological resources

#### 6.1. Scientific advice and data collection

##### 6.1.1. *Scientific Advice-Implementation of the administrative arrangement*

#### Description

Article 18 of Regulation 1380/2013 states that in its external action on fisheries, the Union is to ‘actively support and contribute to the development of scientific knowledge and advice’.

In the various Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) where the Union is a party, there is a need for assistance from scientific experts to participated in the scientific discussions and provide scientific advice to the European Commission, who represents the Union in those organisations.

As the expertise available in the Commission is not sufficient to meet the increasing demand of the scientific work undertaken in RFMOs, it is necessary to call on the appropriate scientists from the various scientific institutions in the Member States to ensure that the scientific advice on which the conservation and management measures adopted by those organisation are taken is of the highest quality.

This assistance is provided by experts who are expected to have a robust scientific knowledge of the stocks concerned and the associated conservation issues.

The current action, which is to be implemented through an ad-hoc contract, intends to strengthen the scientific advice and assistance available to the Commission and Commission officials involved in RFMOs meetings through the provision of travel support to independent scientists from Member states to physical meetings of the working groups, subsidiary bodies and decision-making instances of those organisations as appropriate. The action also envisages, within the available financial means, the payment of a compensation to the experts invited by the Commission to cover, when and if needed, the participation of independent scientists from Member States in virtual meetings and the scientific expertise linked to the participation in those meetings (such as reports, or assessment of proposals).

The compensations are in line with the Commission Decision n°2014/22202016/3301 on

conditions for granting a special allowance to participants in the activities of a Commission expert group.

#### Implementation

This action will be implemented by DG MARE.

#### Indicative amount

EUR 500 000

### 6.1.2. *Administrative arrangement with the Joint Research Centre (JRC) in the area of fisheries data and scientific advice*

#### Description

Provision of scientific, technical and administrative support facilitating the efficient functioning of the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF), support for the data collection framework (DCF) implementation in the fisheries sector and additional scientific activities in support of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP).

Provision of services related to the collection, management and use of data, to the organisation and management of fisheries expert meetings and the management of annual work programmes related to fisheries scientific and technical expertise, to the processing of data calls and datasets and to the preparatory work aiming at delivering scientific opinions and advice.

#### Implementation

This action will be implemented by DG MARE.

#### Indicative amount

EUR 1 250 000

### 6.1.3. *Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF)*

#### Description

The implementation of the Union policy for fisheries and aquaculture requires the assistance of highly qualified scientific experts, particularly in the application of the marine and fisheries biology, fishing technology, fisheries economics or similar disciplines, or in connection with the requirements of research and data collection in the fields of fishing and aquaculture.

A permanent Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF) set up by a Commission Decision C (2016)1084 OJ C 74 provides the necessary assistance to DG

MARE in these matters. The Commission Decision foresees the payment of compensation to the members of the STECF and/or the experts invited by the STECF in a form of special allowances for their assistance and expertise.

#### Implementation

This action will be implemented by DG MARE

#### Indicative amount

EUR 900 000

## 6.2. Control and enforcement

### 6.2.1. *Training of European Commission officials/agents involved in fisheries control*

#### Description

To finance the costs for the training of European Commission officials/agents involved in fisheries control.

#### Implementation

This action will be implemented by DG MARE.

#### Indicative amount

EUR 20 000

### 6.2.2. *Meetings of the experts groups on 1. Fisheries Control and 2. Compliance with the obligations under the Union fisheries control system*

#### Description

To finance the reimbursement of experts' expenses incurred in the framework of the meetings of the Expert Group on Fisheries Control and the Expert Group on Compliance with the obligations under the Union fisheries control system.

#### Implementation

This action will be implemented through a co-delegation to PMO.

#### Indicative amount

EUR 150 000

6.2.3. *Missions to ensure the implementation of the rules of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), including missions to evaluate and control the application of the rules of the CFP*

Description

To cover the costs of missions which purpose is to ensure the implementation of the rules of the CFP, to control and to evaluate the implementation of the CFP, including inter alia, missions verifying the application of CFP rules in accordance with title X of the Control regulation and participation at subsequent meetings.

Implementation

This action will be implemented through a co-delegation to PMO.

Indicative amount

EUR 700 000

**Priority 3 - Enabling a sustainable blue economy in coastal, island and inland areas and fostering development of fishing and aquaculture communities**

**6.3. Maritime policy and sustainable blue economy**

6.3.1. *External expertise for the evaluation of EMFAF direct management actions and monitoring of projects*

Description

The objective is to support the evaluation of grant applications and procurement tenders under the directly managed EMFAF calls for proposals and procurement procedures and, where appropriate, the monitoring of running or completed projects, by acquiring the assistance of independent external experts.

Experts will be selected from the “My Expert Area” database (<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/myarea/expertarea>) or via a standard call for expression of interest.

The contracts with these external experts will cover, inter alia, the reading and analysis of background information, participation in briefing, evaluation meetings for proposals and hearings, the evaluation of assigned proposals or for procurement to provide an opinion in their field of expertise in writing about all the tenders received, the review of project deliverables and reports and the preparation of consolidated evaluation reports or other deliverables.

Implementation

This action will be implemented by CINEA.

Indicative amount

EUR 200 000

## Horizontal actions covering all priorities

### 6.4. Communication

#### 6.4.1. *Accompanying measures for the Common Fisheries Policy and the Maritime Policy*

##### Description

Storage, distribution and production services provided by the Publications Office (OP).

##### Implementation

This action will be implemented by OP under co-delegation.

##### Indicative amount

EUR 15 000