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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 2022 and 2023**

ANNEX

Work programme for 2022 and 2023 for the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund

1. Introduction

On the basis of the objectives given in the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund, this work programme contains the actions to be financed and the budget breakdown for years 2022 and 2023 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 Fund (point 5),
- e) for other actions or expenditure (point 6).

Legal basis

Regulation (Union) 2021/1139 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 July 2021 establishing the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund and amending Regulation (Union) 2017/1004

Budget line(s)

08 04 02 EMFAF — Operational expenditure under direct and indirect management

2. Grants

The global budgetary envelope reserved for grants under this work programme in 2022 and 2023 is EUR 20 700 000 and EUR 23 330 000 respectively.

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)

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 Regulation (Union) No 1380/2013 (CFP) requires the European Commission to consult appropriate 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.

The advisory deliverables shall be related to relevant policy developments and the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), such as: the Maximum Sustainable Yield 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 evaluation of the Deep Sea regulation, the Maritime Policy and concerning the data and marine research needs to support these policies. It should also be aligned with the European Green Deal and the related strategies, e.g. the Biodiversity Strategy, the Zero Pollution Action Plan and the offshore renewable Energy Strategy.

ICES is the only 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.

A new Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA) with ICES will need to be concluded by the end of 2022.

Implementation

DG MARE

2.2. Advisory Councils

2.2.1. Advisory Councils

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

The Advisory Councils (ACs) established in accordance with Article 43 of the CFP Regulation

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

ACs are established in accordance with Article 43 of the CFP Regulation in order to submit recommendations to the Commission and Member States on CFP related matters. Article 48(d) of Regulation 2021/1139 (“EMFAF Regulation”) stipulates that the fund 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) 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 maritime policy.

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 conservations 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.

The expected results are as follows:

- Improved management of the CFP 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 CFP.

As of January 2022 simplified cost options, i.e. lump-sums, are intended to be applied as a method of financing. To that end, lump-sum grant agreements are to be concluded with the ACs.

Implementation

DG MARE

2.3. Voluntary contributions to international organisations

2.3.1. *Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) – regional fisheries management organisations (RFMO)*

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)¹ – RFMO

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

¹ Council Decision 81/691/EEC of 4 September 1981 on the conclusion of the Convention on the conservation of Antarctic marine living resources (OJ L 252, 5.9.1981, p. 26)

Article 29 of the CFP Regulation establishes that the Union is to actively support and contribute to the activities of international organisations dealing with fisheries, including RFMOs. In particular, in its efforts to eradicate illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, the Union actively promotes the development of scientific knowledge and advice, periodical independent performance reviews and appropriate remedial actions. The Union is also proposing the establishment of new marine protected areas in the Southern ocean which might require support measures for their adoption and/or implementation. The objective of the voluntary contributions to CCAMLR for the period 2022-2023 is to support science-based decision-making, to fight IUU fishing and to enhance its ability to monitor fishing activities and the trade of the species under its purview.

The main activities and expected results include:

- Support to activities in the fight against IUU fishing, including the monitoring of vessels' activities and actions of cooperation with international organisations;
- Support to the monitoring of trade of toothfish;
- Support to the establishment and/or implementation of new marine protected areas.
- Other activities such as the undertaking of performance reviews or support to the meetings of CCAMLR and its subsidiary bodies.

Implementation

European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA)

2.3.2. *Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)*

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)² - RFMO

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

Article 28(2)(a) of the CFP Regulation establishes that the Union is to actively support and contribute to the development of scientific knowledge and advice.

This action will support IATTC in continuing its work towards the promotion of scientific based decisions and the improved management of the stocks under its purview consistent with the objectives included in the scientific work programme of the organisation.

The action is expected to support scientific analysis and management in IATTC including by, but not limited to:

- continuation of support for the development and implementation of Management Strategy Evaluation for tropical tunas;
- assessing the efficiency of monitoring and control mechanisms including electronic remote monitoring tools in long-liners;
- supporting stock assessment of tropical tunas;

² 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)

- undertaking scientific research to minimise the impact of fish aggregating devices (FADs) on juveniles and the ecosystem and therefore improving the sustainability of the fishery and contributing to achieving the objectives of the IATTC and the external dimension of the CFP.

Implementation

CINEA

2.3.3. *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)³ - RFMO

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

Article 29(1) of the CFP Regulation establishes that the Union is to actively support and contribute to the activities of international organisations dealing with fisheries, including RFMOs. In particular, the Union actively promotes the development of scientific knowledge and advice, action necessary to eradicate IUU fishing, periodical independent performance reviews and appropriate remedial actions.

The effective functioning of RFMOs is a priority for the Union. 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.

- The Union has a leading and pivotal role in ICCAT, which is the most strategic RFMO for the Union as a whole and for several Union Member States with significant active fleets in the ICCAT Convention. In line with Article 28(2)(a) of the CFP "the Union shall actively support and contribute to the development of scientific knowledge and advice". The current ICCAT budget provides only limited resources to the ICCAT scientific Committee. The Union contributions aim to support the work of the scientific Committee to address the requests from the ICCAT Commission, and also to conduct the stock evaluations necessary for the decision making process. This also includes the management of large scale and long term research programs for stocks of specific interests to the Union (e.g. Grand Bluefin Tuna Year Programme (GBYP) for Big Fish Tackle (BFT));
- The large membership in ICCAT (52 Parties) makes up for often challenging discussions. Progress requires regular intersessional meetings, as well as large annual meetings. The Union financial support helps in organising these meetings and that some of the most strategically important ones are organised in the Union;

³ Council Decision 86/238/EEC of 9 June 1986 on the accession of the Community to the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, as amended by the Protocol annexed to the Final Act of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries of the States Parties to the Convention signed in Paris on 10 July 1984 (OJ L 162, 18.6.1986, p. 33)

- The ICCAT membership is also characterised by the participation of a large number of delegates from developing countries. ICCAT decision making process is mostly by consensus, and this in turns requires to ensure that all Parties have an opportunity to meaningfully participate to the work of ICCAT, during its Commission's meeting, but also during its Scientific meetings. The Union contributes to facilitate participation to these meetings;
- The Union contribution also aims to support the finalisation of the ICCAT Online Management System, to facilitate reporting by developing Countries in ICCAT, but also by the European Union. In addition of facilitating the work of the Parties to meet their reporting obligations in ICCAT, this will also contribute in improving the data available to the Scientific and Compliance Committees. Important progress has been made in recent years, and additional support is needed to complete this project;
- Finally, the Union contribution also aims to support possible pilot projects and initiative to improve Monitoring Control and Surveillance (MCS) by the ICCAT Parties.

Implementation

CINEA

2.3.4. *North Atlantic Salmon Conservation organisation (NASCO)*

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

North Atlantic Salmon Conservation organisation (NASCO)⁴ - RFMO

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

Article 29(1) of the CFP Regulation provides that the Union is to actively support and contribute to the activities of international organisations dealing with fisheries, including RFMOs, inter alia to the development of scientific knowledge and advice.

The voluntary contributions to NASCO aim to support the sustainable management wild populations of Atlantic salmon, including through research activities aiming to better understand the sea migration and causes of marine mortality.

The main activities and expected results include:

- The organisation of a north Atlantic wide monitoring of salmon populations at sea through specific tagging surveys;
- The organisation of the 40th annual meeting of NASCO during which the results of the next performance review will be presented and discussed.

Implementation

⁴ 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)

CINEA

2.3.5. *North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC)*

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC)⁵ - RFMO

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

Article 29(1) of the CFP Regulation establishes that the Union shall actively support and contribute to the activities of international organisations dealing with fisheries, including RFMOs, inter alia to the development of scientific knowledge and advice.

At its 6th annual session from 23 to 25 February 2021 of the NPFC, the Union accepted the invitation to accede to the NPFC Convention. The Union is in the process of acceding and is expected to become a Member of the NPFC in 2022.

The voluntary contributions to NPFC aim to support the sustainable management of NPFC priority stocks, in particular chub mackerel.

The main activities and expected results include:

- completion of a chub mackerel stock assessment;
- progress towards establishing a Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) process chub mackerel; and
- establishment of a joint observer programme to improve chub mackerel data collection and support the stock assessment.

Implementation

CINEA

2.3.6. *Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (NAFO)*

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (NAFO)⁶ - RFMO

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

Article 29(1) of the CFP Regulation establishes that the Union is to actively support and contribute to the activities of international organisations dealing with fisheries, including

⁵ Recommendation for a Council Decision to authorise the Commission to open negotiations on behalf of the European union to accede to the Convention for the Conservation and management of High Seas Fisheries Resources in the North Pacific Ocean (NPFC).

⁶ 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)

RFMOs. In particular, the Union actively promotes the development of scientific knowledge and advice.

The voluntary contributions to NAFO for the period 2022-23 will aim to support science-based decision-making.

The activities include monitoring the assessment of bottom fishing footprint and supporting the implementation of an Ecosystem Based Approach to Fisheries Management (EAF) in NAFO area.

In addition, progress in NAFO also requires regular meetings, as well as annual meetings. In this regard, the Union financial support will help organising these meetings which will be relevant for the interests of the Union.

Implementation

CINEA

2.3.7. South Pacific Regional Fisheries Organisation (SPRFMO)

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

South Pacific Regional Fisheries Organisation (SPRFMO)⁷ - RFMO

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

Article 29(1) of the CFP Regulation establishes that the Union is to actively support and contribute to the activities of international organisations dealing with fisheries, including RFMOs, in particular to the development of scientific knowledge and advice.

The voluntary contribution to SPRFMO for the period 2022-23 aims to improve SPRFMO's scientific capacity to ensure the sustainable management of fisheries and the protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs) in the SPRFMO Convention area.

The expected results of the action are:

- improved protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs) in the SPRFMO Convention area through a review of the thresholds of the fraction of VME that needs to be undisturbed to avoid Significant Adverse Impacts (SAI) and the modelling of abundance;
- the sustainable management of the Jack mackerel stock through a better understanding of the spatial and temporal dynamics of the stock and consistency in age reading.

Implementation

CINEA

⁷ 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/Union), (OJ L 67, 6.3.2012, p.1)

2.3.8. *Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)*

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)⁸ - RFMO

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

Article 29(1) of the CFP Regulation establishes that the Union shall actively support and contribute to the activities of international organisations dealing with fisheries, including RFMOs. In particular, the Union actively supports and contributes to the development of scientific knowledge and advice, promotes action necessary to eradicate IUU-fishing, and periodical independent performance reviews and appropriate remedial actions.

The voluntary contributions to SIOFA for the period 2022-23 will aim to assess and improve its performance, to support science-based decision-making and to enhance its ability to monitor fishing activities in the Agreement Area.

The main activities and expected results include:

- the successful hosting by the Union of the 8th meeting of the SIOFA Scientific Committee in 2023 and progress towards selecting a harvest strategy approach for key deepwater stocks;
- the development and entry into operation of a SIOFA Vessel Monitoring System to enable SIOFA to monitor fishing activities in the Agreement Area, including potential IUU fishing activities by non-SIOFA vessels;
- improvements in the functioning and performance of SIOFA.

Implementation

CINEA

2.3.9. *Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)*

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)⁹ - RFMO

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

WCPFC is responsible for the management of the largest tuna stocks and provides more than 50% of the global tuna catch. The Union is a member of the organisation and is also

⁸ 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)

⁹ Council Decision 2005/75/EC of 26 April 2004 on the 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)

the main market for seafood products originating from the WCPO. Therefore, it is essential to support WCPFC in ensuring the sustainability of tuna fisheries under its purview. The action will support in particular the scientific and technical work that is necessary for providing robust advice to underpin the decision making process in this organisation.

The aim of the actions in 2022 and 2023 will be to support the workprogramme of the Scientific and Technical and Compliance Committees of WCPFC. Emphasis will be put on scientific work focused on the evaluation of the conservation status of fish stocks managed by the organisation, on the assessment and mitigation of environmental impacts of fishing activities and on the identification and benchmarking of appropriate management options for key stocks. In addition, the actions might also support technical work that would improve the monitoring, control and surveillance capabilities of the organisation.

The actions are expected to support WCPFC in implementing its ambitious work programme. By complementing the resources available, they will allow the undertaking of scientific and technical work that could not have been envisaged without these voluntary contributions. These actions will contribute in strengthening the scientific basis of WCPFC decisions, as well as, in improving its MCS capabilities which are essential for the monitoring of the effective implementation of the conservation and management measures adopted.

Implementation

CINEA

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 policy and development of a sustainable blue economy and promotion of healthy seas and oceans

Type of applicants targeted by the calls for proposals:

- Non-profit organisations (private or public); public authorities (national, regional, local); international organisations, including Regional Sea Conventions; Fisheries Local Action Groups (FLAGs); universities; educational institutions; research centres; profit making entities;
- For projects on maritime spatial planning, public authorities or bodies in charge of maritime spatial planning of coastal Member States can apply. Other legal entities shall be considered eligible applicants provided that they are endorsed by the public authorities or bodies in charge of maritime spatial planning at national level in the related coastal Member States. Further specific eligibility criteria will be detailed in the calls for proposals;
- In line with Article 61(2)(a) of the EMFAF Regulation, legal entities established in a third country shall be listed in the work programme. These third countries relate to the relevant sea basin strategies and regional frameworks which include: the Atlantic Maritime Strategy (France, Ireland, Portugal and Spain including their

outermost regions in the Atlantic Ocean, and Ireland), Initiative for the sustainable development of the blue economy in the Western Mediterranean (WestMed - Portugal, Spain, France, Italy, Malta, Mauritania, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Libya), the Common Maritime Agenda (CMA) for the Black sea (Romania, Bulgaria, Moldova, Ukraine, Russia, Georgia and Turkey), the Union for the Mediterranean (42 Member Countries), Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR - Sweden, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Russia), the Union Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Sea Region (EUSAIR - Croatia, Greece, Italy, Slovenia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia), the members of the Indian Ocean Commission (Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, France (Réunion and Mayotte), and Seychelles), the full members of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) (15 countries and territories) and Brazil, and the contracting parties of OSPAR Convention (15 countries), HELCOM (9 countries), Barcelona Convention (21 countries) and the Bucharest Convention (6 countries).

Description of the activities to be funded under the calls for proposals

Political priorities of the year and context

The Communication on a new approach for a sustainable blue economy in the Union calls for a transformation of the blue economy along the priorities of the European Green Deal. It recognises the specificities of each sea basin and the need to support regional cooperation between the Union Member States and non-Union countries in order to address common challenges and boost the transition towards a sustainable blue economy. It identifies maritime spatial planning (MSP) and the protection of marine ecosystems as a prominent condition for sustainable ocean governance.

The Commission's Offshore Renewable Energy Strategy also recognises that MSP and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive act as an enabler and a facilitator for achieving the objectives of the European Green Deal in the maritime realm.

The underlying calls for proposals will also fund actions contributing to the new European Skills Agenda and the twin digital and green transition of the European economy in this context. The actions will contribute to promoting gender equality in the sustainable blue economy, in line with the Union Gender Equality strategy for 2020-2025 .

This will be in synergy with the Horizon Europe programme and specifically the mission "Healthy oceans, seas, coastal and inland waters" which also proposes to implement a number of lighthouses at sea basin levels that will necessitate regional cooperation and also including the Zero Emission Waterborne Transport partnership with respect to green shipping.

A sustainable blue economy also contributes to the European Green Deal's flagship initiatives Farm to Fork, Preserving and restoring ecosystems and biodiversity, Circular economy and Zero pollution action plan.

Objectives pursued

Support the implementation of the new approach to a sustainable blue economy by promoting regional cooperation in the different sea basins around Europe, in line with the regional thematic priorities agreed by the Member States under the different cooperation frameworks, as well as the implementation of blue economy strategies in the Outermost regions.

With lessons drawn from the Commission's MSP implementation report (expected to be available in 2022), as well as the lessons drawn on regional cooperation from the implementation of the MSFD, a new generation of MSP crossborder cooperation projects will enable Member States to cooperate on issues of common interest in MSP, notably with regard to environmental protection or renewable energy production. They will also support further capacity building, by transferring experiences and best practice, or by developing tools to support MSP activities. Cross-border stakeholder contacts and consultations will be facilitated in the framework of the projects. Finally these projects will serve to reinforce the Union dimension of MSP, in particular in the context of seabasin cooperation.

The calls under this action will also fund consortia that work to strengthen the skill capabilities in the blue economy, to attract new, skilled talent into the blue economy, and to help further and boost digitalisation and greening of jobs in the blue economy.

They will contribute to promoting gender equality in the maritime community, by overcoming the existing constraints in all aspects of the maritime sector, in particular, recruitment, training, capacity-building, technical cooperation and promotions, in order to allow for full and safe participation.

As a concrete example of ecosystem restoration, the calls will aim at reorienting fishers from fishing (extraction) activities to ocean regeneration activities thus proving the feasibility and interest to reorient fishers to regenerative ocean farmers.

Expected results and main tasks to be carried out

Regional maritime cooperation:

- The transition to more sustainability in specific blue economy value chains (such as aquaculture, green shipping etc);
- The reduction of marine litter, in line with the Plastics strategy and circular economy and zero pollution action plans, as well as other contaminants and pollutants including underwater noise.
- The protection of marine biodiversity and their habitats, in line with the Biodiversity strategy for 2030, and to contribute to achieving good environmental status under the MSFD, favourable conservation status under the Birds and Habitats Directives and the establishment of a coherent and representative networks of marine protected areas.
- The cooperation between public authorities and the promotion of good practices in terms of maritime policies (including maritime security and marine environmental protection);
- Regional networks and partnerships involving various blue economy stakeholders, research institutes and/or citizens.

Developing a sustainable blue economy in the Outermost Regions

- Support the Outermost Regions, in line with Article 349 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), to develop and implement a sustainable

blue economy in a variety of sectors, according to the priorities identified in their respective blue economy strategies. The expected project results will need to address/propose solutions in one or several of the blue economy sectors, including training aspects and blue skills.

Maritime spatial planning:

Adaptation of Member States' maritime spatial plans to new needs and challenges, in particular integrating in their plans the "European Green Deal" and related initiatives in areas such as biodiversity, food, energy, mobility or at a more general level, a sustainable blue economy.

- Catering for cumulative impacts of ocean stressors in MSP especially by using Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs), and Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs) in relevant sea basins, in order to reach good environmental status, as set out in Directive 2008/56/EC (Marine Strategy Framework Directive).
- Reinforcing the seabasin dimension of MSP, including through cooperation with non-Union coastal states; making MSP "digital" and pan-European capitalising on existing tools and platforms, such as EMODNET.

Maritime knowledge/blue skills:

- Piloting innovative training and skills acquisition solutions and promoting topical career development, thus supporting the skill perspectives associated with the sustainable development of the blue economy in the future and the further digitalisation of blue professions. The expected project results will need to address/propose solutions for skills development in a variety of blue economy sectors, according to the needs of the respective sea-basins, and are expected to implement concrete ideas in this respect, in line with previous cycles of Blue Careers Calls in 2016 and 2018, while at the same time promoting sustainable practices that prevent and mitigate the impacts of anthropogenic activities on marine life and the environment.

Women in the blue economy:

- The grants will help increase the participation and representation of women in the different sectors of the blue economy, thus contributing to a gender equal society as a whole. The objective is to overcome the existing constraints in all aspects of the maritime sector, in particular, recruitment, training, capacity-building, technical cooperation and promotions, so that every person can fully and safely participate in the activities of the maritime economy.

Regenerative ocean farming:

- Prove the feasibility and viability of setting and operating ocean farms across various Union marine regions, and measure and quantify environmental benefits of regenerative farming of either local seaweed species or seaweed in combination with shellfish, thus offering new green employment opportunities.

Implementation

CINEA

2.4.2. *Promoting Sustainable Blue economy in the Mediterranean Sea Basin - Union for the Mediterranean*

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)

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 UfM is a unique body with such a broad array of activities in the field. On 2 February 2021, the Union and the 42 countries of the UfM adopted a ministerial declaration on the Sustainable blue economy identifying a series of common challenges and priorities for regional cooperation. The ministers tasked the Secretariat of the UfM to reinforce dialogue between the UfM member countries and stakeholders on the sustainable blue economy, maximising regional coordination and partnerships. This action aims at facilitating the implementation of the 2021 UfM ministerial declaration and boost the transition towards a sustainable blue economy in the Mediterranean region.

Implementation

CINEA

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 European Coast Guard Functions Forum and to the Mediterranean Coast Guard Functions Forum

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

The Union (and associated Schengen countries) national coastguard authorities that perform Coast Guard Functions (CGF)

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

European Coast Guard Functions Forum and to the Mediterranean Coast Guard Functions Forum are unique bodies on a European scale to address the actions described here.

Political priorities of the year and context

Implementation of:

- The EU Maritime Security Strategy and its Action Plan;
- Cooperation on Coast Guard Functions at the European level and at the Mediterranean level.

Objectives pursued

- Continuation and enhancement of cooperation on coast guard functions at the European level and at the Mediterranean level.

Expected results and main tasks to be carried out

- To support the European Coast Guard Functions Forum annual high-level conference and related activities, in order to enhance sectorial and cross-sectorial cooperation between national authorities performing Coast Guard Functions, the exchange of best practices and the promotion of a dialogue at international, regional and national level.
- To support the organisation of the Mediterranean Coast Guard Functions Forum annual high-level conference promoting cooperation and enhanced dialogue on coast guard functions at regional and sub regional level.

Implementation

CINEA

2.6. International Ocean Governance

2.6.1. *Voluntary cooperation with and coordination among international fora, organisations, bodies and institutions in the context of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other relevant international agreements, arrangements and partnerships*

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

- Saami Council (non-governmental organisation)
- The Africa-Europe Foundation
- Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS)

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

Saami Council, the Africa-Europe Foundation and IASS are unique bodies to address the needs of the actions described here.

In the context of the International Ocean Governance (IOG) Agenda and its Arctic Policy, the Union will implement actions contributing to healthy and resilient seas and ocean, through strengthening collaboration with and support to different organisations working both at regional and global levels. These actions will contribute to selected conservation and research projects with a special focus on stakeholders involvement, collaboration and dialogue for a more integrated maritime and coastal governance.

In order to promote cooperation with and coordination among organisations, bodies and institutions in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other relevant international agreements, arrangements and partnerships that aim to promote better ocean governance, in line with the international dimension of the European Green Deal, its international ocean governance agenda, its contribution to rules-based multilateralism and its trade policy, the Union will use its diplomatic and financial tools to ensure that green/blue partnerships are part of its relations with Africa and other countries and regions, particularly Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia, the Indian and the Pacific Ocean, and the Arctic. The grant will be allocated to the IASS as the Partnership on Regional Ocean Governance (PROG) coordinator for the Marine Regions Forum.

In order to implement the comprehensive strategy with Africa adopted in March 2020, and the Union strategy for cooperation in the Indo-Pacific adopted in September 2021, the Commission will provide support to organisations working with or in Africa and other regions of the world, on ocean governance, including fisheries and the blue economy, with a focus on local stakeholders involvement.

The Union's Arctic policy emphasises the importance of engaging with Arctic indigenous peoples and local communities to ensure that their views are heard 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. In order to foster a more integrated maritime and coastal governance, in the context of the rapidly changing Arctic environment, the Union will foster visibility of these stakeholders, to enable policy makers to take into account Saami perspectives regarding marine and coastal affairs.

These actions will contribute to promote the Union sustainability standards elsewhere in the world and will facilitate dialogue between Union and non-Union stakeholders strengthening collaboration, and possible venture partnerships, with stakeholders in other regions. The Union will thereby strengthen visibility, credibility and political influence at regional and global levels.

Implementation

CINEA

2.6.2. *Prevention, deterrence and elimination of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing; the development of actions, measures, tools and knowledge that enable safe, secure, clean and sustainably managed oceans*

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

INTERPOL Environmental Security Programme (ENS)

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

INTERPOL is a unique body on a European scale to address the needs of the action described here. The fight against IUU fishing, is a key element of Union's International Ocean Governance agenda as well as of the Union Biodiversity Strategy.

The Commission applies a 'zero-tolerance' approach towards IUU fishing, which is a priority under the European Green Deal. When engaging in IUU fishing, in particular international cases of IUU fishing involving several countries across the globe, operators may commit criminal offences.

The Union will continue to support INTERPOL to assist member countries with a view to addressing IUU fishing and crimes connected to the fisheries sector.

Implementation

CINEA

2.6.3. *International cooperation on and development of ocean research and data*

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

International Seabed Authority (ISA)

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

In implementing the third pillar of the Union IOG Agenda (strengthening international ocean research and data) the Union has continued to promote ocean research, data and science through grants to international and regional organisations. In this context the Union has been building scientific collaboration with international and regional organisations to tackle pressing challenges to ocean sustainability and facilitate Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 delivery. The Commission will thus continue supporting the mandate of the

International Seabed Authority to promote and encourage the conduct of marine scientific research in the seabed beyond national jurisdiction (the Area according to article 1.1 of the 1982 Convention on the Law of the Sea). This scientific partnership will contribute to achieve a better understanding of seabed ecosystems, their connectivity and the interrelation between species endemism and mineral conglomerations on the seabed, in order to establish a solid baseline for the protection of these ecosystems before any exploitation activities can be considered, in line with the objective of the 2030 Biodiversity Strategy.

Implementation

CINEA

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

EURONEWS

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

Euronews offers access to a unique platform for raising awareness among general audiences regarding the objectives and results of the Union's maritime and fisheries policies. It is the only television with a pan-European outreach. The services provided by Euronews under the Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA) with the Commission are a very strong fit for DG MARE's general communication strategy.

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 and 2021, the "Ocean" series has already been a success and demonstrated its potential in terms of quality and reach.

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 grow existing social media followership.

A continuation of the series in 2022 and 2023 will contribute to further raising the profile of ocean-related topics, and the related Union policies by showcasing concrete examples of the Union-funded actions, interviews with key players and powerful visuals from maritime settings.

Implementation

DG MARE

3. Procurement

The global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement contracts in 2022 and 2023 is EUR 35 725 953 and EUR 35 067 693 respectively.

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

3.1. Scientific advice and data collection

3.1.1. Studies and services providing scientific advice for fisheries and aquaculture

General description of the contracts envisaged

The CFP is based on principles of good governance which include decision-making based on the best scientific advice. The main sources providing this advice are scientific advisory bodies such as the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF), the ICES and the RFMOs and Bodies (RFBs).

Short-term needs for additional knowledge are addressed through scientific advice studies and services. The aim of this action is to provide scientific support covering such knowledge gaps that cannot be covered through scientific advisory bodies in support of the EU aquaculture and fisheries management and environmental protection.

Following the CFP regionalisation approach, knowledge gaps will be handled by means of studies and scientific advice clustered inter alia into the following groups:

- the Central Arctic Ocean;
- fisheries beyond EU waters;
- the Mediterranean and the Black Sea;
- the EU waters excluding the Mediterranean and the Black Sea;
- aquaculture.

In addition, open calls will be launched for the conclusion of the following new service framework contracts:

- *Actions related to the achieving the objectives of the action plan to conserve fisheries resources and protect marine ecosystems*

The contract aims to supplement knowledge gaps that will be identified through the above-mentioned action plan, so as to improve gear and species selectivity as well as protecting the seabed from damaging fishing practices, among others. Knowledge gaps in the action plan may also be supported by other means, including for example LIFE programmes.

- *Framework contract for the Scientific Support to the High Seas Fisheries in the Central Arctic Ocean*

The contract aims to provide scientific advice (studies and services) in support of the sustainable management of fish resources in the Central Arctic Ocean (CAO). This framework contract will help on the development and implementation of the Joint Program of Scientific Research and Monitoring defined by the Arctic High Seas Fisheries Meeting.

- *Framework contract for the studies providing scientific advice for aquaculture*

The contract aims to provide the Commission with specific and timely scientific advice or other services needed for the provision of the advice, to support the implementation of the Union legislation and guidelines regarding aquaculture.

- *Framework contract for scientific advice for fisheries beyond EU waters*

The contract aims to provide the 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 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 Union's environmental legislation (e.g. Marine Strategy Framework Directive) and with the Maritime Policy.

- *Framework contract for the studies providing scientific advice in support of the Common Fisheries Policy in EU waters excluding the Mediterranean and Black Sea*

The contract aims to provide scientific advice in support of the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy in the Baltic, North Sea and Atlantic Ocean as well as in EU Outermost Regions and fisheries at the international level.

Implementation

CINEA

3.1.2. *Design, development and maintenance of IT tools for Scientific advice and data collection*

General description of the contracts envisaged

The objective of this action is to support the information systems to ensure they are aligned with the MARE Digital Strategy, corporate IT standards and best practices.

This will be done through:

- Methodological and technical support for the development and maintenance of databases for data collection supporting scientific advice by ICES and JRC;
- Design and development of an online platform for data collection framework (DCF) work plans and annual reports.

Implementation

DG MARE

3.2. **Regional cooperation**

3.2.1. *Regional cooperation in the context of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement*

General description of the contracts envisaged

Under the Union-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) there is a call to set up a forum to discuss, promote and strengthen conservation and/or management measures between Normandy/Brittany and the Channel Islands. Given the particular situation of the fisheries, notably the vicinity and the longstanding tradition of joint management under the Granville Bay Agreement, which has been superseded by the TCA, it seems appropriate to further foster this cooperation. This cooperation could take the form of local events whereby local fishermen discuss and exchange on common issues. Some technical assistance may also be required to assist in the development and setting up of this forum.

Implementation

DG MARE and CINEA

3.3. Control and enforcement

3.3.1. Studies relating to the development and implementation of a Union fisheries control system

General description of the contracts envisaged

Study on rules of the Union fisheries control system:

- Collection and critical review of best practices in the area of engine power controls with a view to develop harmonised guidelines at Union level.
- Testing of devices for the continuous monitoring of engine power and proposal of technical requirements for their characteristics, installation and functioning.

Implementation

DG MARE

3.3.2. Equipment for Fisheries Control related tasks

General description of the contracts envisaged

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 included spare parts.

Implementation

DG MARE

3.3.3. Procurement for meetings related to the fisheries control including the meetings 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

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

Co-delegation to PMO

3.3.4. *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 CFP. Access to databases.

Contracting external expertise in the domains of software/enterprise architecture, IT project/operation management, IT Security and agile way of working.

MARE Digital Strategy, approved at DSC in April 2021, will focus on simplification, strong architectural principles, cloud and agile way of working. There is also a strong focus on Cybersecurity, in line with industry and corporate priorities.

The objective of this action is to support the information systems managed or hosted externally and required for Control and Enforcement, so they are aligned with the MARE Digital Strategy, corporate IT standards and best practices.

The final aim is an effective and efficient implementation of IT-related actions funded by the Control and Enforcement, and applying the same governance, methodological and technical processes and standards.

Implementation

DG MARE, co-delegation to PMO, DG DIGIT, DG SANTE

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

3.4. Market Intelligence

3.4.1. Market intelligence

General description of the contracts envisaged

The following type of actions will be implemented:

- Data collection, reports, studies and market analysis, dissemination and communication activities (EUMOFA).
- IT information systems for the delivery of market intelligence, including on commercial designations and the revised marketing standards.

- Other ad-hoc initiatives to support the Commission’s legal obligations to deliver on market intelligence.
- Methodological and technical support to the policy unit for the IT component of the initiatives.

Implementation

DG MARE

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

3.5. Maritime policy and sustainable blue economy

3.5.1. Maritime policy and development of a sustainable blue economy and promotion of healthy seas and oceans

General description of the contracts envisaged

Support will be given to:

- Design, development and implementation of policies and legislation related to the sustainable blue economy, e.g. scientific, legal and technical support, stakeholders consultation/involvement, missions, inspections, audits, evaluations, impact assessments, methodological and IT support;
- Support, exchange of expertise, synergies and networking to improve the participation of different stakeholders to the design and implementation of the new approach for a sustainable blue economy¹⁰;
- Perform support activities (e.g. secretariat, organisation of meetings) to the implementation of EU legislation and policies, including the identification and the promotion of blue investments, the exchange of best practices and development of guidance for the sustainable development of blue economy sectors such as aquaculture.

This includes, inter alia:

- Support to the identification and the promotion of blue investments, the exchange of best practices and development of guidance for the sustainable development of blue economy sectors such as aquaculture and the blue bio-economy, with specific attention to mitigate their pollution and/or other environmentally harmful impacts;
- Continued services to support the implementation of the 3 EU Sea Basin Strategies - in the Atlantic, Black Sea and Western Mediterranean, by building on best practices and lessons learned from the past services contracts and by encouraging synergies between the different sea basins;
- Activities of the “Blue Forum for users of the sea” that the Commission will set up in 2022¹¹ to coordinate a dialogue between offshore operators, stakeholders and scientists engaged in fisheries, aquaculture, shipping, tourism, renewable energy and other

¹⁰ COM(2021) 240 final of 17/05/2021

¹¹ COM(2020) 741 final of 19/11/2020

activities; this includes the provision of administrative and technical support to the Commission and to Member States, in relation to the implementation of Maritime Spatial Planning, and in particular of Directive 2014/89/EU;

- Support to the design and implementation of Commission initiatives on algae, ocean observation, climate and decarbonisation through studies and other activities such as improving the consumer knowledge on the sustainability and traceability of seafood and aquaculture products
- An Observatory aiming to gather, analyse and disseminate socio-economic knowledge and intelligence for a better understanding and measurement of the EU sustainable blue economy along the value chain and the EU coastal regions;
- External communication, e.g. media-relations, publications, information materials, translations, stakeholder events, workshops, conferences and support to participatory schemes/activities;
- An information system to make publicly available the latest available data of the Blue Economy.

Implementation

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

3.5.2. *European marine observation and data network*

General description of the contracts envisaged

The continuation and enforcement of the European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet).

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

- Agregating data, creating data products and developing software (allowing users to search for data and data products, view them and download them), developing further interaction with new technologies, ensuring interoperability of all data and compliance with INSPIRE directive requirements; these actions will provide the (in-situ) foundation on which the Digital Twin Oceans; the marine component of Destination Earth and other novel applications;
- Supporting the implementation of key environmental and maritime legislation; this will include advancements that will support the MSP and MSFD directives, including providing support to Member States, work in new standards and sharing methodologies (i.e for micro-plastics; noise, etc.);
- Contributing to the Horizon Europe Mission:Ocean, Seas and Waters by maintaining and expanding the in-situ data availability for the development of research, innovation, blue economy and ocean literacy;
- 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 national monitoring programmes and private companies) is delivered on a voluntary

basis for safekeeping to data repositories, from where it can be disseminated; under Horizon Europe this will include all marine research project which collect in-situ data;

- Create harmonised data products for all European seas and, when possible, beyond; these products are frequently updated, increasing their spatial and temporal resolution, adding more data sources, increasing the number of parameters available, etc.;
- Maintain and develop further cooperation with appropriate international organisations (notably Regional Sea Conventions) and partner countries on the above objectives or issues; this includes collaborations on international data sharing frameworks and methodologies in the context of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, the G7 Future of Seas and Oceans Initiative, the EU4OceanObs partnership and more;
- Outreach to users in order to better understand their needs and develop the network accordingly, including business and industry;
- Coordination, assesment and monitoring of EMODnet;
- Development and maintenance of the European Atlas of the Seas, to further support Ocean Literacy.

EMODnet contributes to Commission priorities of the European Green Deal and the European Digital Strategy. EMODnet is an operational service providing in-situ data which support the Copernicus Marine service, the marine forecasting services across Europe and activities of the blue economy. It is recognised by DG CNECT as the marine sub-data space of the European Green Deal in the context of the implementation of the EC Digital Strategy. Focus of the EMODnet contracts is to maintain and increase the current level of service, by providing more and better quality data to a constantly increased user base.

Implementation

CINEA

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

3.6. International Ocean Governance

3.6.1. Cooperation with and coordination among international fora, organisations, bodies and institutions

General description of the contracts envisaged

Under the European Green Deal, and its related Biodiversity Strategy, and other Union priorities, such as IOG Agenda, the external dimension of the CFP and the Union Arctic Policy, the Union is active in promoting a multilateral rules-based order, including in particular the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, especially SDG14 on life below water.

In this context, the Union will organise actions aimed at fostering collaboration with relevant international agreements, arrangements and partnerships to promote conservation and sustainable use of the seas and ocean at global and regional levels.

The Commission and the European External Action Service have launched the Union International Ocean Governance Forum (IOG Forum) as a platform for ocean actors and stakeholders within and beyond Europe to share understanding, experiences and good practices on ocean governance. The IOG Forum feeds the development and follow-up of the Union's Agenda to strengthen IOG.

The Union is engaged in the Arctic Region, notably in countering global processes (climate change) affecting the Arctic in particular. The Union's interests in the Arctic touch upon many topics including energy, transport, environment, fisheries as well as sustainable economic development and cooperation with local population, including indigenous peoples. The Union will promote its commitment in the region following its updated Arctic policy.

The Union organises regularly an Arctic stakeholders forum and a dialogue with Indigenous Peoples, to facilitate and strengthen stakeholders' collaboration in the region. These two events will be organised in 2022 and in 2023.

To achieve these objectives the Union will also organise events to promote the visibility of the Union actions and will support the participation of experts/speakers and stakeholders to these events.

Implementation

DG MARE and CINEA

3.6.2. *Implementation of ocean partnerships between Union and relevant ocean actors*

General description of the contracts envisaged

The objective of ocean partnerships is to strengthen cooperation and expand relations in key areas of ocean governance and to foster integration and coordination of all existing relations pertaining to the oceans.

In line with the IOG Agenda, the first ocean partnership with China was signed in 2018. A second ocean partnership with Canada was signed in July 2019. Ocean partnerships provide for the organisation of regular Ocean Partnership Fora between the parties. The Ocean Partnership Forum provides a platform to facilitate dialogue and collaboration on a mutually agreed set of topics bringing together public authorities and stakeholders from both sides.

Canada agreed to organise the first meeting of the EU Canada Ocean Partnership Forum tentatively planned to take place in June 2022, the pandemic situation permitting. The Union will then organise a second edition tentatively in 2023 in Brussels.

The second EU-China Ocean Partnership Forum should tentatively be organised in China in 2022 and the third one in Brussels in 2023. Due to the covid pandemic, another scenario could be to have only one Forum in China.

To achieve these objectives the Union will also support the participation of experts/speakers and stakeholders to events related to the Union ocean partnerships in order to ensure proper representation of Union points of view.

Implementation

DG MARE and CINEA

3.6.3. *International cooperation and development of ocean research and data*

General description of the contracts envisaged

The Union promotes ocean research, data and science (the third pillar of the EU IOG Agenda is strengthening international ocean research and data). Comprehensive, reliable, comparable and accessible ocean knowledge will improve policy-making, drive innovation and facilitate a sustainable ‘blue’ economy. The Union has been building scientific collaboration with international partners, to achieve a better understanding of ocean dynamics and trends, to drive innovation and reduce costs, and will continue to do so in the upcoming two years.

Scientific support, including to local scientific fisheries observers, will be provided in the Eastern Central Atlantic fisheries area.

Finally, in implementing its science based approach the Union will fund scientific studies that will bring clarity on technical issues related to international negotiations where the Union is involved, including the (Marine Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction) BBNJ negotiations.

To achieve these objectives the Union will also organise events to promote the visibility of the Union actions, and will support the participation of experts/speakers and stakeholders to these events.

Implementation

DG MARE and CINEA

Actions covering multiple priorities

3.7. Communication

3.7.1. Public relations, information and communication 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, audio-visuals (comprising the EMFAF);

- 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;
- information about CFP and 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 a contribution to the Commission Corporate communication, which would cover the communication of Union's political priorities.

Implementation

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

4. Actions implemented in indirect management

The global budgetary envelope reserved for actions implemented under indirect management in 2022 and 2023 is EUR 11 950 000 and EUR 12 900 000 respectively.

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

4.1. Control and enforcement

4.1.1. Harmonisation of conversion factors

Implementing entity

European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) is the decentralised agency of the Commission specialised in fisheries control and inspection, and can provide the necessary expertise. Moreover this assessment is directly linked to the assessment of the weighing procedures that EFCA is carrying out in 2021-2022.

According to Article 62(1)(c) of Regulation 2018/1046 ("Financial Regulation"), under the indirect management mode, the Commission may delegate budget execution tasks to different types of partners, to international organisations or their agencies, such as EFCA, within the meaning of Article 156 of the Financial Regulation.

Description

After the adoption of the revised fisheries Control Regulation, the Commission will have to draft the implementing and delegated rules. It is therefore essential to have relevant analysis on specific and very technical issues of the Union fisheries control system, so as to swiftly

adapt the legal framework and to complete the harmonisation process and to ensure a level playing field across the Union.

The results of this action will serve as a basis for the preparation of the implementing rules of the revised Control Regulation currently under interinstitutional adoption procedure.

4.2. Voluntary contributions to international organisations

4.2.1. Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) on behalf of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM)

Implementing entity

According to Article 62.1(1)(c)(ii) of the Financial Regulation, under the indirect management mode, the Commission may delegate budget execution tasks to different types of partners, to international organisations or their agencies, such as the FAO, within the meaning of Article 156 of the Financial Regulation.

Description

Since 2016, the GFCM has started a heavy reform process in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea. This process started with the adoption of a Strategy for 2017-2020 which has been revised for 2021-2030. The new Strategy was adopted at the GFCM Annual Meeting in November 2021.

As the level of ambition is raised with the new Strategy and the set of GFCM measures grows, and especially in the aftermath of the Covid-19 crisis, the financial needs to implement these measures grow as well, along the following lines:

- Enhanced sustainability of fisheries;
- Innovation, data collection and scientific research;
- Social and economic dimension;
- Ecosystems conservation and interactions between environment and fisheries;
- Better compliance and more efficient monitoring, control and surveillance;
- Sustainable aquaculture development.

The identification of these needs is in line with the recent conclusions of the second GFCM performance review, in particular in terms of beefing up data and science in the Mediterranean, better understanding of small-scale fisheries, reinforcing aquaculture, and generally beefing up capacity of Southern partner countries.

It is expected that the contribution will help reinforce the reform of fisheries governance in the Mediterranean and implementing the new GFCM Strategy in the coming years. It will also fund the regional programmes under the GFCM, aiming at improving capacity and cooperation in the scientific field in the fisheries area.

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

Implementing entity

According to Article 62.1(1)(c) of the Financial Regulation, under the indirect management mode, the Commission may delegate budget execution tasks to different types of partners,

to international organisations or their agencies, such as the FAO, within the meaning of Article 156 of the Financial Regulation.

Description

In the context of the Union IOG agenda, the Commission has reaffirmed its commitment to fight IUU fishing according to a zero-tolerance approach. To that end, the Union supports the work of FAO aimed at preventing, deterring and eliminating IUU fishing. More specifically, the Union support will consist in:

- Assisting FAO in advocating and implementing the FAO Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA), particularly with a view to respond to the requirement of developing countries and developing their capacities as well as to develop the PSMA effectiveness strategy via the ad hoc working group for the PSMA strategy established on the Third Meeting of the Parties to the PSMA hosted by the Union in Brussels;
- Further developing the Global Record of fishing vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels as one of the latest and most advanced tools being developed to fight IUU fishing;
- Contributing to following up and implementing the decisions taken by the FAO Fisheries Committee (COFI).

4.2.3. *Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) – Globefish project*

Implementing entity

According to Article 62(1)(c) of the Financial Regulation, under the indirect management mode, the Commission may delegate budget execution tasks to different types of partners, to international organisations or their agencies, such as the FAO, within the meaning of Article 156 of the Financial Regulation.

Description

The contribution to the Globefish project run by FAO supports activities for gathering and providing 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.

The project relies on FAO general budget and bilateral contributions for its functioning. The Commission (DG MARE) is one of the members of Globefish together with France, Spain, Norway, Alaska, United States, Canada and New Zealand.

4.2.4. *Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) on behalf of the Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF)*

Implementing entity

According to Article 62(1)(c) of the Financial Regulation, under the indirect management mode, the Commission may delegate budget execution tasks to different types of partners,

to international organisations or their agencies, such as the FAO, within the meaning of Article 156 of the Financial Regulation.

Description

The Union has committed to support the upgrade of the CECAF to become a binding international organisation for the conservation and management of marine biological resources in the area. The proposed voluntary contribution is intended to support the assessment and discussions necessary to accompany this objective. In addition, in line with the CFP, this contribution might also contribute in supporting scientific work necessary for the achievement of key objectives of the organisation and continue negotiations and exchanges amongst Members.

The intention is to create the conditions to up-grade CECAF to a full-fledged RFMO and have a defined framework to upgrade CECAF and contribute to the implementation of necessary studies and related actions.

4.2.5. *Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) on behalf of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)*

Implementing entity

According to Article 62(1)(c) of the Financial Regulation, under the indirect management mode, the Commission may delegate budget execution tasks to different types of partners, to international organisations or their agencies, such as the FAO, within the meaning of Article 156 of the Financial Regulation.

Description

Article 28 of the CFP Regulation establishes how the Union should conduct its external fisheries relations, including its relations in RFMOs.

In the context of the IOTC, two priorities shall be pursued: the active support and contribution to the development of scientific knowledge and advice, and the strengthening of the compliance record of the organisation, while ensuring a coherence with other Union initiatives.

This action will support IOTC in continuing its work towards the promotion of scientific based decisions and will increase the overall implementation of the conservations and management measures adopted by the organisation. This action will improve the management of stocks under its purview, consistent with the objectives included in the scientific programme of work of the IOTC and in in line with the capacity building needs of the organisation.

The action is expected to improved scientific information and advice for the management of tuna, tuna-like and bycatch species caught in IOTC fisheries, and to foster implementation of IOTC conservation and management measures.

This will be achieved by carrying out and continuing different tasks, including but not limited to, support stock assessment of tropical tunas and bycatch species, improve the implementation of the Regional Observer Scheme and improved data quality in the IOTC, support capacity building activities.

The action will therefore contribute to achieve the objectives of the IOTC and the CFP.

4.2.6. *Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) on behalf of the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC)*

Implementing entity

Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO)

According to Article 62(1)(c) of the Financial Regulation, under the indirect management mode, the Commission may delegate budget execution tasks to different types of partners, to international organisations or their agencies, such as the FAO, within the meaning of Article 156 of the Financial Regulation.

Description

WECAFC is Regional Fisheries Bodies created under the auspices of the FAO. In this context, it plays an important role in regional coordination of scientific and technical work that is necessary for developing advice for the management of fisheries resources in the broader Caribbean region. In recent years a strategic reorientation process has been initiated aiming at strengthening the organisation, possibly through a transformation into a regional fisheries management entity.

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. *Supporting the global implementation of international maritime spatial planning guidelines*

Implementing entity

Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC-UNESCO)

IOC-UNESCO is the only competent organization for marine science within the UN system. Its objectives are to promote international cooperation and to coordinate programmes for the management and protection of the marine environment. It has continuously documented MSP practices around the world, and drafted technical guidance on MSP design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Consequently, it is the only international institution with the specialisation and technical competence in maritime spatial planning that is necessary for this implementation of this action.

According to Article 62(1)(c) of the Financial Regulation, under the indirect management mode, the Commission may delegate budget execution tasks to different types of partners to International organisations or their agencies, such as the IOC-UNESCO, within the meaning of Article 156 of the Financial Regulation.

Description

The objective of this action is to promote the use of MSP and related processes by non-Union countries and at international level, in line with Sustainable Development Goal 14

(Life below water) and the Union's updated IOG agenda (to be adopted in 2022). The action will enable the dissemination of the international guidelines on MSP and support their implementation in two distinct sea basins on the global level. It will consolidate the global community of MSP practitioners and contribute to capacity building for MSP in countries and regions where MSP is not yet well established.

In close cooperation between the Commission and IOC-UNESCO, two pilot regions will be selected for the application of the international guidelines on MSP. In these regions, the action will support the development of concrete planning solutions, including cross-border cooperation. Furthermore, the action will include concrete support to building capacity for MSP processes, both in the pilot regions and globally. This includes the organisation of global MSP planners' forums and a high-level international conference on MSP.

Priority 4: Strengthening international ocean governance and enabling seas and oceans to be safe, secure, clean and sustainably managed

4.3.2. Common Information Sharing Environment (CISE) transitional phase: Maintenance and management in view of operationalising CISE by the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA)

Implementing entity

European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA)

According to Article 62(1)(c) of Regulation 2018/1046, under the indirect management mode, the Commission may delegate budget execution tasks to different types of partners, to international organisations or their agencies, such as EMSA, within the meaning of Article 156 of the Financial Regulation.

Description

Political priorities of the year and context

Implementation of:

- The EU Maritime Security Strategy and its Action Plan;
- Maritime Security and Surveillance priorities, in particular the Common Information Sharing Environment (CISE) for the maritime domain.

Objectives pursued

- To establish a permanent governance structure and a long-term modus operandi of CISE. To maintain, manage and further develop CISE for the European maritime domain, once the transitional phase is complete, and CISE has entered its operational phase planned to start in 2024.

Expected results and main tasks to be carried out

- Establishment of governance and long-term management for the planned operational phase of the Common Information Sharing Environment for the maritime domain.

4.4. International Ocean Governance

4.4.1. *Implementation of relevant international agreements, arrangements and instruments that aim to promote better ocean governance, as well as the development of actions, measures, tools and knowledge that enable safe, secure, clean and sustainably managed oceans*

Implementing entity

United Nations (UN): Division for Ocean Affairs and the law of the sea (UN-DOALOS) and FAO

According to Article 62(1)(c) of the Financial Regulation, under the indirect management mode, the Commission may delegate budget execution tasks to different types of partners, to international organisations or their agencies, such as UN-DOALOS, within the meaning of Article 156 of the Financial Regulation.

Description

In line with the principles and objectives of its IOG Agenda, the Union has been actively implementing and promoting the rules based order of the oceans established by the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and its implementing agreements; as well as other international agreements, arrangements and instruments that aim to promote more efficient ocean governance. The Union aims at an effective multilateral system that delivers results in tackling current and future global challenges. Strengthening the multilateral system and supporting international agreements, can be provided through different actions including by:

- Upholding international norms and agreements;
- Extending multilateralism to new global realities;
- Making multilateral organisations fit for purpose;
- Promoting the ratification for early entry into force of priority instruments;
- Supporting developing countries in actively participating to meetings of bodies related to the instruments;
- Providing financial assistance to ensure that developing countries can adequately implement instruments to which they are party.

The Union and its Member States are important players in setting the multilateral agenda and are the largest collective financial contributor to the UN system. By contributing to Trust Funds administered by the UN, the Union will contribute to the achievement of their objectives. The Trust Funds concerned are the following:

- Assistance Fund under Part VII of the UN Agreement on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (UNFSA);
- DOALOS Trust Fund;
- Trust Fund of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf for developing States.

Most of these trust funds, which are chronically underfunded, are aimed at fostering active participation of developing countries in multilateral fora. The Union's contribution can help to ensure universal representation in such important political and legal processes and thus better ownership by stakeholders.

The Union would also gain visibility and credit, and other international organisations that are active in the field of international ocean governance, and this will help to bolster the Union's international profile.

5. Financial instruments: blending operations under InvestEU Fund

The overall budgetary allocation reserved for blending operations in 2022 and 2023 is EUR 19 500 000 and EUR 19 500 000 respectively.

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 in 2022; EUR 19 500 000 in 2023

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 European Green Deal. It is generally SMEs and small mid-caps that drive the necessary changes.

However, an ex -ante assessment conducted by the Commission¹² and subsequent experience with the BlueInvest Platform¹³ 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 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

¹² 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>

¹³ <https://blue-invest.eu>.

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 operations¹⁴ 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 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) which is expected to be signed under InvestEU towards the end of 2021.

Implementation

Co-delegation to DG ECFIN

Entities participating in the blending facility

The European Commission (DG ECFIN) and the European Investment Fund

6. Other actions or expenditure

The global budgetary envelope reserved for other actions and expenditure in in 2022 and 2023 is EUR 3 910 000 and EUR 3 410 000 respectively.

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*

Amount

EUR 400 000 in 2023

Description

The promotion of the objectives and principles of the external dimension of the CFP includes the Union goal to actively support and contribute to the development of scientific knowledge and advice in RFMOs. This requires the assistance of highly qualified scientific

¹⁴ The operation is of type 2 according to the classification of the Commission. i.e. it includes an InvestUnion budgetary guarantee, a financial instrument from EMFAF and a non-Union budget repayable support from Implementing Partner.

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.

Under the terms by means of which the relevant Expert Group will be set up by end 2021 beginning 2022, the payment of a compensation will be implemented in specific cases, to the experts invited by the Commission in the form of special allowances for their assistance and expertise.

Implementation

DG MARE and co-delegation to PMO

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

Amount

EUR 1 320 000 in 2022; EUR 1 320 000 in 2023

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 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

DG MARE

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

Amount

EUR 900 000 in 2022; EUR 900 000 in 2023

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 the form of special allowances for their assistance and expertise.

Implementation

DG MARE and co-delegation to PMO

6.2. Control and enforcement

6.2.1. Training, missions and meetings

Amount

EUR 620 000 in 2022; EUR 720 000 in 2023

Description

Training of European Commission officials/agents involved in fisheries control, missions to ensure the implementation of the rules of the CFP and reimbursement of experts of the Expert Groups on Fisheries Control and on Compliance in line with the obligations under the Union's fisheries control system of the expert groups on fisheries control.

Implementation

DG MARE and co-delegation to PMO

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

Amount

EUR 50 000 in 2022 and EUR 50 000 in 2023

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.

Implementation

CINEA

6.3.2. *Administrative arrangement with the Joint Research Centre (JRC) in the areas of Maritime Security and Surveillance – Common Information Sharing Environment (CISE)*

Amount

EUR 1 000 000 in 2022

Description

Several Member States and Agencies will be connected through a network of more reliable CISE nodes, connecting existing sectorial systems (e.g. Maritime Surveillance (MARSUR), etc.) as well as Member States that were not part of the CISE so far. During this transitional phase, the CISE network will enable the collection of important information and lessons learned in view of the operational phase due to start in 2024. The JRC will provide scientific and technical support during the transitional phase of CISE.

Implementation

DG MARE

Horizontal actions covering all priorities

6.4. **Communication**

6.4.1. *Communication services provided by the Publications Office*

Amount

EUR 20 000 in 2022 and EUR 20 000 in 2023

Description

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

Implementation

Co-delegation to PO