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PROPOSAL

From:	Secretary-General of the European Commission, signed by Ms Martine DEPREZ, Director
date of receipt:	13 November 2026
To:	Ms Thérèse BLANCHET, Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union
No. Cion doc.:	COM(2026) 603 final
Subject:	Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL laying down management, conservation and control measures applicable in the Convention area of the South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO)

Delegations will find attached document COM(2026) 603 final.

Encl.: COM(2026) 603 final

EUROPEAN
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Brussels, 13.11.2026
COM(2026) 603 final

2026/0346 (COD)

Proposal for a

REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL

laying down management, conservation and control measures applicable in the Convention area of the South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO)

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1. CONTEXT OF THE PROPOSAL

• Reasons for and objectives of the proposal

The purpose of this proposal is to implement into EU law conservation and management and control measures adopted in the South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO). SEAFO was established by the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Fishery Resources in the South East Atlantic Ocean (the Convention) to which the European Union has been a contracting party since 2003. The SEAFO is the regional fisheries management organisation (RFMO) responsible for managing fishery resources in the Convention area as defined in Article 4 of the Convention. The EU currently has one fishing vessel active in that Convention area, and it must comply with the SEAFO's conservation and management measures.

In accordance with Article 23 of the Convention, the SEAFO conservation and management measures adopted by the Meeting of the Parties are binding on Contracting Parties, and each Contracting Party is required to take all action necessary to ensure the enforcement of and compliance with these measures.

Though aimed mainly at the Contracting Parties, SEAFO measures also impose obligations on operators (e.g. vessel masters).

This proposal covers the measures that the Meeting of the Parties has adopted since 2003 as amended (in some cases) at its annual meetings. The EU must ensure compliance with these measures, as international obligations, as soon as they enter into force. This proposal is designed to implement the most recent SEAFO measures and set up a mechanism to implement them in the future. To swiftly implement SEAFO rules, this proposal first provides for delegated powers to be granted to the Commission under Article 290 TFEU to cater for amendments to SEAFO measures and ensure that EU fishing vessels are on an equal footing with those of other Contracting Parties. Delegated powers are proposed for: (i) the information required for vessel requirements; (ii) marking of gear; (iii) fishing logbook and record of production; (iv) catch reports communications; (v) specifications of vessel monitoring systems; (vi) vulnerable marine ecossytems (VMEs) area closures and changes to the annexes to this Regulation.

Second, SEAFO data requirements and templates are already used by the Union fleet and publicly available on the SEAFO website. These documents include SEAFO reporting formats or data exchange documents related to: (i) the entry to and exit from particular areas; (ii) the start and end points of setting fishing gear, transhipment and transfer operations; and (iii) the sighting of third-country vessels. These requirements and templates change from time to time. Therefore, it is appropriate to refer to the requirements and templates to be provided by Members States having fishing opportunities for SEAFO fishery resources to their fishing vessels when issuing fishing authorisations. Dynamic references to these documents are provided in this Regulation**.**

The reporting deadlines set out in this proposal have been set on the basis of deadlines in the SEAFO measures. The aim is to enable the EU to make timely submissions of reports to the SEAFO Secretariat.

- **Consistency with existing policy provisions in the policy area**

This proposal complements and is generally consistent with other EU law in this area. Derogations from existing acts are, however, provided for in certain instances due to the nature of the more specific measures proposed.

This proposal is in line with Part VI (External policy) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 on the common fisheries policy (CFP), which provides for the EU to conduct its external fisheries in accordance with its international obligations and base its fishing activities on regional fisheries cooperation.

The proposal complements Regulation (EU) 2017/2403[1] on external fleet management, which provides that EU fishing vessels are subject to the list of fishing authorisations under the conditions and rules of the RFMO in question. The proposal also complements Council Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008[2] on illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

- **Consistency with other Union policies**

Not applicable

2. LEGAL BASIS, SUBSIDIARITY AND PROPORTIONALITY

- **Legal basis**

The proposal is based on Article 43(2) TFEU as it sets out the provisions required for pursuing the CFP's objectives.

- **Subsidiarity (for non-exclusive competence)**

As the proposal falls under the exclusive competence of the EU (Article 3(1)(d) TFEU), the subsidiarity principle does not apply.

- **Proportionality**

The proposal will ensure that EU law is in line with international obligations adopted by the Meeting of the Parties and that the EU complies with decisions taken by an RFMO to which it is a Contracting Party. The proposal does not go beyond what is necessary to achieve these objectives.

- **Choice of the instrument**

The instrument chosen is a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council.

3. RESULTS OF EX-POST EVALUATIONS, STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS AND IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

- **Ex-post evaluations/fitness checks of existing legislation**

Not relevant.

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[1] Regulation (EU) 2017/2403 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 December 2017 on the sustainable management of the external fleets, and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1006/2008 (OJ L 347, 28.12.2017, p. 81).

[2] Council Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008 of 29 September 2008 establishing a Community system to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, amending Regulations (EEC) No 2847/93, (EC) No 1936/2001 and (EC) No 601/2004 and repealing Regulations (EC) No 1093/94 and (EC) No 1447/1999 (OJ L 286, 29.10.2008, p. 1).

- **Stakeholder consultations**

The purpose of this proposal is to implement SEAFO measures that are binding on the Contracting Parties. National experts and industry representatives from EU countries are consulted both during the run-up to the annual Meeting of the Parties at which the measures are adopted and throughout negotiations at the meeting. Consequently, the Commission did not consider it necessary to hold a stakeholder consultation on this proposal.

- **Collection and use of expertise**

Not applicable

- **Impact assessment**

Not relevant. This concerns the implementation of measures directly applicable to Member States.

- **Regulatory fitness and simplification**

This proposal is not linked to REFIT, the Commission's regulatory fitness and performance programme.

- **Fundamental rights**

This proposal has no consequences for the protection of people's fundamental rights.

4. BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS

There are no budgetary implications.

5. OTHER ELEMENTS

- **Implementation plans and monitoring, evaluation and reporting arrangements**

Not applicable

- **Detailed explanation of the specific provisions of the proposal**

The proposal implements the management, conservation and control provisions adopted and currently applicable in SEAFO. These provisions, concerning duties of flag Member States and of Union fishing vessels, are related to the following areas:

(a) vessel authorisation and Member States' obligations when fishing for the fishery resources in the Convention area;

(b) prohibition of transhipment at sea in the Convention area;

(c) documents issued and certified by the competent authority of that flag Member State that must be carried on board vessels;

(d) requirements for gear to be used on board;

(e) information on fishing activities, including the communication and reporting of catches and the vessel monitoring system that allows for tracking fishing vessels;

(f) inspections carried out by inspection vessels at sea;

(g) port state control systems in Member States with fishing vessels that have been engaged in fishing or fishing-related activities in the Convention area;

(h) promoting compliance and avoiding illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing;

(i) fishing vessels conducting research activities;

(j) exploratory fishing-related activities and encounters in closed areas and vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs).

The proposal delegates powers to the Commission to amend this Regulation to adapt it to measures adopted by SEAFO that bind the EU and its Member States concerning: vessels requirements, marking of gear, fishing logbook, record of production, catch reports communications, specifications of vessel monitoring systems, VME area closures and annexes to this Regulation.

The prompt implementation of these provisions is necessary to put EU vessels on the same footing as vessels of other SEAFO Contracting Parties for every future fishing season.

2026/0346 (COD)

Proposal for a

REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL

laying down management, conservation and control measures applicable in the Convention area of the South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO)

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 43(2) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

After transmission of the draft legislative act to the national Parliaments,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee[3],

Acting in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure,

Whereas:

(1) The overall objective of the common fisheries policy ('CFP'), as set out in Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013[4] of the European Parliament and of the Council, is to ensure that the exploitation of living aquatic resources contributes to long-term environmental, economic and social sustainability.

(2) The European Union has, by means of Council Decision 98/392/EC[5], approved the United Nations Convention of 10 December 1982 on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). By means of Council Decision 98/414/EC, the Union has approved the Agreement for the Implementation of that Convention relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks[6]. This agreement contains principles and rules with regard to the conservation and management of the living resources of the sea. In the framework of its wider international obligations, the Union participates in efforts made in international waters to conserve fish stocks.

(3) Pursuant to Council Decision 2002/738/EC of 22 July 2002[7], the Union approved the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Fisheries Resources in the South East Atlantic Ocean (the Convention') that entered into force on 13 April 2003 and established the South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation ('SEAFO').

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3 OJ C [...], [...], p. [...]

4 Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 on the Common Fisheries Policy, amending Council Regulations (EC) No 1954/2003 and (EC) No 1224/2009 and repealing Council Regulations (EC) No 2371/2002 and (EC) No 639/2004 and Council Decision 2004/585/EC (OJ L 354, 28.12.2013, p. 22).

5 Council Decision 98/392/EC of 23 March 1998 concerning the conclusion by the European Community of the United Nations Convention of 10 December 1982 on the Law of the Sea and the Agreement of 28 July 1994 relating to the implementation of Part XI thereof (OJ L 179, 23.6.1998, p. 1).

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

7 OJ L 234, 31.8.2002, p. 39).

(4) The Meeting of the Parties adopts conservation and management measures that are binding on Contracting Parties, Participating Fishing Entities and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties to the SEAFO, including the Union. This Regulation implements the SEAFO System and conservation and management measures adopted since 2003.

(5) In order to swiftly implement future SEAFO measures amending the ones established in this Regulation into Union law, the power to adopt acts in accordance with Article 290 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union should be delegated to the Commission in relation to: vessels requirements; marking of gear, fishing logbook, record of production, catch reports communications, specifications of vessel monitoring systems, vulnerable marine ecosystem area closures and annexes to this Regulation.

(6) The European Data Protection Supervisor was consulted in accordance with Article 42(1) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council[8] and delivered formal comments on []. Data processed in the framework of this Regulation are to be treated in accordance with the relevant rules on the protection of personal data and confidentiality as referred to in Articles 112 and 113 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009[9]. In order to ensure the fulfilment of obligations under this Regulation, the personal data should be stored for a period of up to 10 years. In the event that the personal data are needed in order to follow up an infringement, for inspections, judicial or administrative procedures, it should be possible for those data to be stored for a period exceeding 10 years, but no longer than 20 years.

HAVE ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Chapter I
General provisions

Article 1

Subject matter

This Regulation lays down management, conservation and control provisions relating to fishing for the fishery resources in the Convention area of the South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation[10] (SEAFO).

Article 2

Scope

1. This Regulation applies to:

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8 Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 and Decision No 1247/2002/EC (OJ L 295, 21.11.2018, p. 39)

9 Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 of 20 November 2009 establishing a Union control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of the common fisheries policy, amending Regulations (EC) No 847/96, (EC) No 2371/2002, (EC) No 811/2004, (EC) No 768/2005, (EC) No 2115/2005, (EC) No 2166/2005, (EC) No 388/2006, (EC) No 509/2007, (EC) No 676/2007, (EC) No 1098/2007, (EC) No 1300/2008, (EC) No 1342/2008 and repealing Regulations (EEC) No 2847/93, (EC) No 1627/94 and (EC) No 1966/2006 (OJ L 343, 22.12.2009, p. 1, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2009/1224/oj).

10 Council Decision 2002/738/EC of 22 July 2002 on the conclusion by the European Community of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Fishery Resources in the South East Atlantic Ocean (OJ L 234, 31.8.2002, p. 39).

a) Union fishing vessels operating in the Convention area as defined in Article 3(2);

b) Union fishing vessels transhipping fishery products harvested in the Convention area;

c) third-country fishing vessels (foreign fishing vessels) requesting access to or being the object of an inspection in Union ports and carrying fishery products harvested in the Convention area.

2. This Regulation shall apply without prejudice to stricter applicable requirements under Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009[11], Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/2196[12], and Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2025/1766[13].

Article 3

Definitions

For the purposes of this Regulation, the following definitions apply:

(1) 'Convention' means the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Fishery Resources in the South East Atlantic Ocean[14];

(2) 'Convention area' means waters defined in Article 4 of the Convention;

(3) 'fishing' means:

(i) the actual or attempted searching for, catching, taking or harvesting of fishery resources;

(ii) engaging in any activity which can reasonably be expected to result in the locating, catching, taking or harvesting of fishery resources for any purpose including scientific research;

(iii) placing, searching for or recovering any aggregating device for fishery resources or associated equipment including radio beacons;

(iv) any operation at sea in support of, or in preparation for, any activity described in this definition, except for any operation in emergencies involving the health and safety of crew members or the safety of a vessel; or

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11 Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 of 20 November 2009 establishing a Union control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of the common fisheries policy, amending Regulations (EC) No 847/96, (EC) No 2371/2002, (EC) No 811/2004, (EC) No 768/2005, (EC) No 2115/2005, (EC) No 2166/2005, (EC) No 388/2006, (EC) No 509/2007, (EC) No 676/2007, (EC) No 1098/2007, (EC) No 1300/2008, (EC) No 1342/2008 and repealing Regulations (EEC) No 2847/93, (EC) No 1627/94 and (EC) No 1966/2006 (OJ L 343, 22.12.2009, p. 1), , ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2009/1224/oj).

12 Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/2196 of 17 October 2025 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 as regards access to waters and resources, control of fisheries, surveillance, inspection and enforcement, deduction of quotas and fishing efforts, data and information, and repealing Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 404/2011 (OJ L, 2025/2196, 12.11.2025, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2025/2196/oj).

13 Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2025/1766 of 27 August 2025 supplementing Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 by laying down rules on the control of fisheries and on the surveillance and inspection of fishing activities, enforcement and compliance (OJ L, 2025/1766, 12.11.2025, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_del/2025/1766/oj).

14 The Convention on the Conservation and Management of Fishery Resources in the South East Atlantic Ocean (OJ L 234, 31.8.2002, p. 40).

(v) the use of an aircraft in relation to any activity described in this definition except for flights in emergencies involving the health or safety of crew members or the safety of a vessel

(4) ‘fishing vessels’ means any vessel used or intended for use for the purposes of the commercial exploitation of fishery resources, including mother ships, any other vessels directly engaged in such fishing operations, and vessels engaged in transshipment;

(5) ‘fishery resources’ means resources of fish, molluscs, crustaceans and other sedentary species within the Convention Area, excluding:

(i) sedentary species subject to the fishery jurisdiction of coastal States pursuant to article 77 paragraph 4 of UNCLOS; and

(ii) highly migratory species listed in Annex I of UNCLOS;

(6) ‘Union fishing vessels’ means a fishing vessel flying the flag of a Member State and registered in the Union;

(7) ‘SEAFO record’ means the SEAFO record of vessels authorised to fish in the Convention area;

(8) ‘Executive Secretary’ means the Executive Secretary of SEAFO;

(9) ‘FMC’ means a land-based fisheries monitoring centre of the flag Member State;

(10) ‘foreign vessel’ means a vessel flying the flag of another Contracting Party;

(11) ‘flag Member State’ means the Member State where the fishing vessel is flagged;

(12) 'IUU fishing' means any illegal, unreported or unregulated fishing activities as defined in Article 2, points 1-4 of Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008.

(13) 'non-Contracting Party vessel’ means any vessel not flagged to a Contracting Party of SEAFO, including vessels for which there are reasonable grounds for suspecting them to be without nationality;

(14) ‘United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement’ means the Agreement for the implementation of the provisions of UNCLOS relating to the conservation and management of straddling stocks and highly migratory fish stocks[15];

(15) ‘patrol vessel’ means any ship clearly marked and identifiable as being on government service and authorised to carry out inspections and related monitoring control and surveillance operations and activities to ensure compliance with SEAFO conservation and management measures;

(16) ‘port’ includes offshore terminals and other installations for landing, transhipping, packaging, processing, refuelling or resupplying;

(17) ‘fishing-related activities’ means any operation supporting or preparing for fishing, including the landing, packaging, processing, transhipping or transporting of fishery resources that have not been previously landed at a port, as well as the provisioning of personnel, fuel, gear and other supplies at sea;

(18) ‘bottom fishing’ means fishing where the fishing gear is likely to come contact into with the seabed during the normal course of operations;

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15 The Agreement for the implementing of the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the conservation and management of straddling stocks and highly migratory fish stocks (OJ L 189, 3.7.1998, p. 17).

(19) ‘existing bottom fishing areas’ means the portion of the Convention Area where bottom fishing occurred between 1987 and July 2011 and any areas added subsequently as set out in Annex I.

(20) ‘exploratory bottom fishing’ means all commercial bottom fishing activities outside area closures and existing bottom fishing areas, or fisheries in existing bottom fishing areas when there are attempts to use a new fishing method and/or strategy;

(21) ‘significant adverse impacts’ means the significant adverse impacts referred to in paragraphs 17 to 20 of the FAO International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-sea Fisheries in the High Seas;[16]

(22) ‘vulnerable marine ecosystem’ (VME) means a marine ecosystem identified using the criteria outlined in paragraph 42 of the FAO International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-sea Fisheries in the High Seas (FAO, 2009; FAO Deep-sea Fisheries Guidelines);

(23) ‘VME indicators’ are those species and indicator units set out in Annex II.

(24) ‘encounter’ means an incidental catch of a VME indicator species above threshold levels set out in Annex II.

(25) 'SEAFO System' is a system of observation, inspection, compliance and enforcement established by the SEAFO Contracting Parties, through the SEAFO Commission, to strengthen the effective exercise of flag State responsibility by Contracting Parties for fishing vessels and fishing research vessels flying their flags in the Convention Area.

(26) ‘VMS’ means vessel monitoring system, as referred to in Article 9(1) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009.

(27) ‘Draft SEAFO IUU Vessel List’ means the list of vessels presumed to have engaged in illegal, unreported and unregulated ('IUU') fishing activities in the Convention area, drawn up by the SEAFO Secretariat and transmitted to Contracting Parties and to non-Contracting Parties with vessels on the list prior to the annual meeting of the SEAFO Commission.

Chapter II
Control measures

Article 4

Vessel authorisation and Member States’ obligations

1. Member States shall issue an authorisation to fishing vessels flying their flag to fish for the fishery resources in the Convention area in accordance with Article 21 of Regulation (EU) 2017/2403[17].

2. Member States shall:

   (a) authorise their vessels to operate in the Convention area only if their vessels are able to comply with the requirements and responsibilities under the

[16] FAO, 2009; FAO Deep-sea Fisheries Guidelines.

[17] Regulation (EU) 2017/2403 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 December 2017 on the sustainable management of the external fleets, and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1006/2008 (OJ L 347, 28.12.2017, p. 81).

Convention, the SEAFO system and the conservation and management measures adopted by SEAFO;

(b) ensure, to the extent possible under national law, that the owners and operators of its registered vessels on the SEAFO record are not engaged in or associated with fishing activities conducted in the Convention area by vessels not registered on the SEAFO record;

(c) take necessary measures to ensure, to the extent possible under national law, that the owners of the vessels on the SEAFO record are citizens or legal entities from a Member State so that any enforcement or punitive actions can be effectively taken against them.

3. Union fishing vessels shall comply with the SEAFO system.

4. Union fishing vessels on the SEAFO record shall:

(a) keep on board valid certificates of vessel registration and valid authorisation to fish and/or tranship;

(b) have no history of IUU fishing, or, if those vessels have such a history, the new owners have provided sufficient evidence demonstrating that the previous owners and operators have no legal, beneficial or financial interest in or control over those vessels, or that having taken into account all relevant facts, their vessels are not engaged in or associated with IUU fishing.

5. Each Member State shall notify the Commission of the authorisations granted and of any factual information showing that there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that vessels not registered on the SEAFO record are operating in the Convention area in line with Article 25 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008[18].

Article 5

Prohibition of transhipments at sea in the Convention area

Union vessels are prohibited from transhipping at sea in the Convention area any fishery resources covered by the Convention.

Article 6

Vessel requirements

1. The master of the Union fishing vessel shall carry on board the following documents issued and certified by the competent flag Member State authority:

(a) registration document;

(b) licence, permit or authorisation to fish or to engage in research fishing activities and the terms and conditions attached to the licence, permit or authorisation;

(c) certified drawings or description of all fish holds, including storage capacity in cubic metres.

[18] Council Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008 of 29 September 2008 establishing a Community system to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, amending Regulations (EEC) No 2847/93, (EC) No 1936/2001 and (EC) No 601/2004 and repealing Regulations (EC) No 1093/94 and (EC) No 1447/1999 (OJ L 286, 29.10.2008, p. 1, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2008/1005/oj).

2. The documents referred to in paragraph 1 shall include, as a minimum, the following information:

(a) vessel name;

(b) port in which the vessel is registered and the number(s) under which it is registered;

(c) International Radio Call Sign;

(d) names and addresses of owner(s) and where relevant, the charterer;

(e) overall length;

(f) power of main engine or engines in KW.

3. The above documents referred to in paragraph 1 are checked on a regular basis.

4. Any modification to the documents referred to in paragraph 1 is certified by the competent authority of any Member State.

5. Vessels authorised to operate in the Convention area shall be marked in such a way that they can be readily identified with generally accepted international standards, such as the FAO Standard Specification for the Marking and Identification of Fishing Vessels[19] .

Article 7

Marking of gear

1. Gear used by Union fishing vessels authorised to operate in the Convention area shall be marked as follows: the ends of nets, lines and gear anchored in the sea are fitted with flag or radar reflector buoys by day and light buoys by night, sufficient to indicate their position and extent. Those lights shall be visible at a distance of at least two nautical miles in good visibility.

2. Marker buoys and similar objects floating on the surface and intended to indicate the location of fixed fishing gear shall be clearly marked at all times with the letter(s) and/or number(s) of the vessel to which they belong.

Article 8

Retrieval of lost or abandoned fishing gear

1. Union fishing vessels operating with any gear shall have equipment on board to retrieve lost or abandoned gear.

2. A Union fishing vessel that has lost or abandoned gear shall make every reasonable attempt to retrieve it as soon as possible, including but not limited to a search and retrieval period of at least 24 hours.

3. Union fishing vessels shall not deliberately abandon fishing gear, except for safety reasons, particularly vessels in distress and/or if life is in danger.

[19] Davies, S., Hjort, A. and Markides, M. 2022. The 1989 FAO Standard Specifications for the Marking and Identification of Fishing Vessels – Use and options for review. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Circular No. 1255. Rome, FAO.

4. If the lost gear, amounting to 10% or more of longlines, pot lines or trawling gear, cannot be retrieved, the vessel notifies the competent authorities of its flag Member State within 24 hours of the following:

   (a) the name and call sign of the vessel;

   (b) the type of lost gear;

   (c) the quantity of gear lost;

   (d) the time when the gear was lost;

   (e) the position where the gear was lost;

   (f) measures taken by the vessel to retrieve the lost gear.

5. Following retrieval of lost gear, the vessel notifies the flag Member State within 24 hours of the following:

   (a) the name and call sign of the vessel that has retrieved the gear;

   (b) the name and call sign of the vessel that lost the gear (if known);

   (c) the type of gear retrieved;

   (d) the quantity of gear retrieved;

   (e) the time when the gear was retrieved;

   (f) the position where the gear was retrieved.

6. The flag Member State shall notify the Commission of the information referred to in paragraph 4 and 5 as soon as possible.

Article 9

Labelling of frozen products of fishery resources

Masters of fishing vessels shall ensure that:

(a) when frozen, all fishery products caught and retained on board within the Convention area can be identified by a clearly legible label or stamp; the label or stamp, on each box, carton, container, bag or block of frozen fishery products, shall indicate the species (using the relevant FAO 3-alpha code), presentation, production date, the SEAFO division where the catch was taken and the name of the catching vessel;

(b) labels are securely affixed, stamped or written on packaging at the time of stowage and are of a size that can be clearly read by inspectors in the normal course of their duties;

(c) labels are marked in ink on a contrasting background;

(d) each package only contains:

   (i) one product form/type category;

   (ii) one division of capture;

   (iii) one date of production;

   (iv) one species.

Chapter III
Monitoring of fisheries

Article 10

Information on fishing activities

1. Union fishing vessels shall keep an electronic fishing logbook for the purpose of recording fishing activities and, where appropriate, a production logbook, stowage plan or research plan. In addition to the minimum information listed in Article 14(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009, the electronic fishing logbook shall contain the following information at a minimum:

   (a) each entry into and exit from the Convention area;

   (b) the cumulative catches by species (using the relevant FAO 3-alpha code) by live weight (kg), the proportion of the catch by live weight (kg) retained on board, including retained by-catch species and discarded species;

   (c) for each haul:

      (i) catch retained on board by species in live weight (kg) and an estimation of the amount of fishery resources discarded (kg) by species;

      (ii) all non-quota species discarded for which the total live weight is less than 10 kg (reported using the 3-alpha code MZZ (miscellaneous marine species));

      (iii) the type of gear (trawl, pots, longline, etc.);

      (iv) the description of gear (number of hooks, number of pots, size of the trawl, etc.);

      (v) the longitude and latitude coordinates of shooting and hauling;

      (vi) the date and time of shooting and hauling (UTC).

2. After each report, the following details shall be entered in the logbook as soon as possible:

   (a) date and time (UTC) of transmission of the report;

   (b) in the case of a radio transmission, the name of the radio station through which the report is transmitted.

3. Union fishing vessels shall:

   (a) submit the fishing logbook data to the Commission for transmission to the SEAFO Secretariat within 30 days of the completion of a fishing trip in the Convention area;

   (b) submit the fishing logbook data to the SEAFO Secretariat in the electronic format as provided in the Reporting Forms section on the SEAFO website.

4. Union fishing vessels that process and/or freeze their catch shall:

   (a) record their cumulative production by species (using the relevant FAO 3-alpha code), by live weight (kg), including by-catch and product form/type in a production logbook;

(b) stow all processed catch in the hold in such a way that the location of each species can be identified from a stowage plan maintained by the vessel.

5. The quantities recorded shall correspond to the quantities kept on board. The original recordings contained in the fishing logbooks shall be kept on board the vessel for at least 12 months.

Article 11

Vessel reporting of catches

1. Union fishing vessels authorised to operate in the Convention area shall transmit catch reports to its FMC by electronic means or other appropriate means in accordance with the specifications set out in Annex III. The timing and content of the reports are as follows:

(a) Entry report (COE). This report shall be transmitted between 6 and 12 hours before each entry into the Convention area. It shall include the date of transmission , the time of transmission, the vessel's geographical position and the quantity of fishery resources on board by species (using the relevant FAO 3-alpha code) and by live weight (kg).

(b) Catch report (CAT). The aggregated catch for five consecutive days shall be recorded by division, by species (using the relevant FAO 3-alpha code) and by live weight (kg), including retained by-catch species and discarded species. The report shall be transmitted every five days or more frequently if required by the Member States.

(c) Exit report (COX). This report shall be transmitted between 6 and 12 hours before each exit from the Convention area. The report shall include the date of transmission , the time of transmission, the vessel's geographical position, the number of fishing days and the catch taken by species (using the relevant FAO 3-alpha code) and by live weight (kg) since the start of fishing in the Convention area or since the last catch report.

2. Each Member State shall ensure that its FMC forwards the reports referred to in paragraph 1 to the Commission electronically, in the format set out in Annex III as soon as possible, for onward transmission to the Executive Secretary.

Article 12

Periodic reporting of catch and fishing effort

Each flag Member State shall report to the Commission, for transmission to the Executive Secretary, the aggregated retained and discarded catch of fishery resources listed in Annex IV and of by-catch species, in accordance with the specifications and format set out in Annex II.B of the SEAFO System. The data shall be reported in kilograms per species and shall cover catches taken by its vessels in the Convention area on a quarterly basis. The reports shall specify the months covered and shall be submitted within 30 days after the end of the quarter in which the fishing occurred

Article 13

Patagonian toothfish tagging

Each longline vessel shall tag and release Patagonian toothfish continuously while fishing, at a rate of one fish per tonne of live weight.

Article 14

Vessel monitoring system (VMS)

1. Union fishing vessels shall not enter the Convention area and start operations if they have a defective VMS, in line with Article 4(1) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2025/1766.
2. Each flag Member State shall provide a copy of the reports required in accordance with this Article simultaneously to the Executive Secretary and the Commission within 24 hours of receiving the reports.
3. Each flag Member State shall ensure that the reports and messages transmitted to the Executive Secretary use the format set out in Annex V.

Article 15

Monitoring of transhipments in ports

1. Union fishing vessels carrying fishery resources covered by the Convention and caught in the Convention area shall only tranship in port of a SEAFO Contracting Party if they have prior authorisation from both its flag Member State and the authorities of the port Contracting Party.
2. Each flag Member State shall ensure that transhipments are consistent with the reported catch of each vessel. Vessels flagged to Member States involved in transhipment operations shall report the transhipment using the format set out in Annex VI.
3. Union vessels involved in transhipment shall, at the time of the transhipment, inform the receiving vessel's flag State authorities about the fishery resources and quantities involved, the date of the transhipment and the location where the catches occurred.
4. Union vessels shall submit a transhipment declaration to its flag Member State in accordance with the format set out in Annex VI. The Union vessel shall notify, at least 24 hours before the start of the transhipment, the following information to the port state authorities:
   (a) the date, time and port of transhipment;
   (b) the names of the transhipping vessels;
   (c) the names of the receiving vessels;
   (d) the weight of fishery resources (in tonnes) by species to be transhipped.
5. The fishing vessel shall transmit the transhipment declaration to the competent authorities within 24 hours of completing the transhipment. The receiving vessel shall, 48 hours before landing, submit a transhipment declaration to the competent authorities of the port state where the landing takes place.
6. Member States involved in transhipments shall take the appropriate measures to verify the accuracy of the information received and shall cooperate with port Contracting Parties to ensure that landings are consistent with the reported catches of each vessel.

7. Member States shall notify the details of transhipments by its vessels referred to in this Article to the Commission on an annual basis for transmission to the Executive Secretary.

Chapter IV
Inspections and observer programme

Article 16

Scope and application

Member States carrying out inspections at sea of vessels fishing or suspected of fishing for fishery resources covered by the Convention in the Convention area shall apply the relevant provisions set out in Part VI of the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement.

Article 17

Notification to inspect at sea

1. At least 30 days before the start of the initial sea inspection, each Member State shall notify the Commission of:

   (a) the provisional plan, the names of inspectors and inspector trainees and the name, radio call sign and contact information of each inspection vessel it has assigned to sea inspection duties, applying the provisions provided in Article 16 for the inspection;

   (b) any changes to that information notified before subsequent sea inspections.

2. On receiving that information, the Commission shall immediately forward it to the Executive Secretary for posting on the secure part of the SEAFO website.

Article 18

At sea inspection reports and procedures

1. Inspectors shall complete the approved SEAFO inspection report form set out in Annex V of the SEAFO System and ensure the following procedures are carried out:

   (a) the inspector shall provide a written explanation on the inspection report form of any alleged violation of SEAFO measures. The inspector shall allow the master of the vessel being inspected to provide comments, on the inspection report form, about any aspect of the inspection;

   (b) the inspector shall sign the inspection report form. The master of the inspected vessel shall be invited to sign the inspection report form to acknowledge receipt of the report;

   (c) before leaving the vessel that has been inspected, the inspector shall give the master of that vessel a copy of the completed inspection form;

   (d) the inspector shall provide a copy of the completed inspection form along with photographs and video footage to the competent authority of the Member State within 15 days of the arrival of the inspector into port.

2. The inspecting Member State shall forward to the Commission, for transmission to the Executive Secretary, a copy of the inspection form in electronic format within 15 days of receiving it along with two copies of the photographs and video footage.

3. Any supplementary reports or information shall be provided to the Commission for transmission to the Executive Secretary.

Article 19

Scientific observer programme

1. Each flag Member State shall ensure that the scientific observers carried by all its vessels operating in the Convention Area are qualified by the flag State. Flag Member States shall ensure that the data collected by the scientific observers are transmitted to the Executive Secretary using the scientific observer forms and report templates provided in the reporting forms section on the SEAFO website.

2. Each flag Member State shall require the submission of the information referred to in paragraph 1, in respect of each vessel flying its flag, within 30 days of leaving the Convention area. Member States shall provide a copy of the information to the Commission as soon as possible for transmission to the Executive Secretary, taking into account the need to protect the confidentiality of any non-aggregated data.

Chapter V
Port state control

Article 20

Scope

Member States shall maintain an effective system of port State control for all vessels that have been engaged in fishing or fishing-related activities in the Convention area, except container vessels that are not carrying fishery resources. Containers carrying fishery resources are not subject to port control measures if those fishery resources have been previously landed, on the condition that there are no clear grounds for suspecting that those vessels have engaged in fishing-related activities in support of IUU fishing.

Article 21

Designation of ports

1. Member States shall designate the ports to which foreign vessels carrying fishery resources caught in the Convention area may request to land, tranship or make use of port services. Member States shall notify those ports to the Commission. The Commission shall send the information to the SEAFO Secretariat to be published on the SEAFO website.

2. Member States shall ensure that designated ports have sufficient capacity to conduct inspections and take other measures in accordance with obligations set out by SEAFO.

Article 22

Advance request for port entry of foreign vessels

Before granting entry to a foreign vessel to its port, each Member State shall, as a minimum standard, require the information set out in Annex VII. The Member State shall provide this information to the Commission at least 48 hours before the estimated time of the vessel's arrival, for transmission to the Executive Secretary as soon as possible.

Article 23

Authorisation or denial of port entry for foreign vessels

1. After receiving the information required pursuant to Article 22 and any other information it may require to determine whether the vessel requesting entry into its port has engaged in IUU fishing, each port Member State shall decide whether to authorise or deny the entry of the vessel into its port and shall communicate this decision to the master of the vessel or to the vessel's representative.

2. In the case of authorisation of entry, the master of the vessel or the vessel's representative shall present the authorisation for entry to the competent authorities of the port Member State upon the vessel's arrival at port.

3. In the case of denial of entry, the port Member State shall communicate its decision taken pursuant to paragraph 1 to the flag state of the vessel and to the Executive Secretary, who shall publish this information on the SEAFO website.

4. Without prejudice to paragraph 1, the port Member State shall deny a vessel entry into its ports if that Member State has sufficient proof that the vessel seeking entry has engaged in IUU fishing, in particular the inclusion of this vessel on a list of vessels having engaged in IUU fishing or fishing-related activities adopted by SEAFO or another regional fisheries management organisation.

5. In addition to paragraphs 3 and 4, a port Member State may allow the entry of a vessel referred to in those paragraphs into its ports exclusively for the purpose of inspecting it and taking other appropriate measures in compliance with international law, which are at least as effective as denial of port entry in preventing, deterring and eliminating IUU fishing.

6. Where a vessel referred to in paragraph 4 or 5 is in port for any reason, the port Member State shall deny that vessel the use of its ports for landing, transhipping, packaging and processing of fishery resources and for other port services, including refuelling and resupplying, maintenance and dry-docking. Paragraphs 2 and 3 of Article 24 apply *mutatis mutandis* in such cases.

Article 24

Use of ports by foreign vessels

1. Where a foreign vessel has entered one of its ports, a port Member State shall deny that vessel the use of the port for landing, transhipping, packaging and processing of fishery resources that have not already been landed and for other port services, including refuelling and resupplying, maintenance and dry-docking, if either:

   (a) the port Member State finds that the vessel does not have a valid and applicable authorisation to engage in fishing or fishing-related activities required by its flag State;

(b) the flag State does not confirm within a reasonable period of time, on the request of the port state, that the fishery resources on board were taken in accordance with applicable SEAFO requirements;

(c) the port Member State has reasonable grounds to believe that the vessel was otherwise engaged in IUU fishing, including in support of a vessel referred to in Article 23(4), except where the vessel can prove either:

(i) that it was acting in a manner consistent with relevant conservation and management measures;

(ii) in the case of provision of personnel, fuel, gear and other supplies at sea, that the vessel that was provisioned was not, at the time of provisioning, a vessel referred to in Article 23(4).

2. In addition to paragraph 1 of this Article, a port Member State shall not deny the use of port services to a vessel referred to in that paragraph if either:

(a) the services are essential to the safety or health of the crew or the safety of the vessel, provided these needs are duly proven;

(b) where appropriate, the services are required for the scrapping of the vessel.

3. Where a port Member State has denied the use of its port in accordance with this Article, it shall promptly notify the flag state, the Commission and the Executive Secretary, who shall publish this information on the SEAFO website.

Article 25

Port inspections

1. Each port Member State shall ensure that inspections of vessels are carried out by authorised inspectors trained and familiar with the Convention and all the relevant conservation and management measures adopted by SEAFO. Inspector training programmes shall take into account the elements set out in Annex VII of the SEAFO System.

2. Before an inspection, the inspector shall present an appropriate identity document to the master of the vessel.

3. Each port Member State shall ensure that inspections of vessels in their ports are carried out in accordance with the procedures set out in Annex VIII of the SEAFO System.

4. The port Member State may invite inspectors of other Contracting Parties to accompany their own inspectors and observe the inspection of landings or transhipment operations of fishery resources caught by foreign vessels.

5. Each port Member State shall ensure that its inspectors make all possible efforts to avoid unduly delaying a vessel, that the vessel suffers minimum interference and inconvenience and avoid degradation of the quality of the fishery resources.

6. On completion of the inspection, the port Member State inspector shall provide the master of the foreign fishing vessel with the inspection report containing the findings of the inspection as set out in Annex IX of the SEAFO System, including possible subsequent measures that could be taken by the port Member State. The master shall be given the opportunity to add any comments or objection to the report and to contact the flag State. The inspector and the master shall sign the report, and a copy

of the report shall be provided to the master. The master's signature shall only serve as an acknowledgement of receipt of the copy of the report.

7. The port Member State shall transmit a copy of the inspection report to the Executive Secretary within 14 days following the date of completion of the inspection. If the inspection report cannot be transmitted within 14 days, the port Member State shall notify the Executive Secretary within that same time period of the reasons for the delay and when the report will be submitted, with the Commission in copy.

8. When the catch is landed at a port of a non-Contracting Party, the flag Member State shall transmit the information about the landing of the catch to the SEAFO Secretariat as soon as possible after the landing. The information shall include the date, the name of the port, the name of the fishing vessel and the weight by species. If the landing is inspected by the port non-Contracting Party, the flag Member State shall transmit a copy of the inspection report to the Executive Secretary within 30 days following the date of receipt of the inspection report by the port non-Contracting Party. If the inspection report cannot be transmitted within 30 days, the flag Member State shall notify the Executive Secretary, with the Commission in copy, within the 30-day after the due submission date of the reasons for the delay, and when the report will be submitted. If a suspected infringement is identified during the inspection, the flag Member State shall also report the nature of the infringement and any other details when the port inspection report is submitted.

Article 26

Procedure in the event of apparent infringements

1. If the information collected during the inspection provides evidence that a foreign fishing vessel has committed an apparent infringement of the SEAFO conservation and management measures, the inspector shall:

   (a) record the apparent infringement in the inspection report as set out in Annex VIII;

   (b) take all measures to ensure the evidence of the apparent infringement is kept safely.

2. The inspecting Member State shall promptly transmit the inspection report and evidence collected to the designated authority of the inspected vessel's flag State, the Executive Secretary, the Commission and coastal State(s) in whose waters the infringement took place.

3. If the apparent infringement falls within the legal jurisdiction of the port Member State, it shall promptly notify the flag State, with the Commission in copy, of action taken, the relevant coastal State(s), as applicable, and the Executive Secretary, who shall promptly publish this information in a secured part of the SEAFO website.

4. Apparent infringements that do not fall within the jurisdiction of the port Member State and apparent infringements referred to paragraph 2 of this Article for which the port Member State has not taken action shall be referred to the flag State, with the Commission in copy and, as appropriate, the relevant coastal State(s).

5. Upon receiving the copy of the inspection report and evidence, the flag Member State shall promptly investigate the infringement. Within six months of receiving the report, the flag Member State shall notify the Executive Secretary, with the Commission in copy, of the status of the investigation and of any enforcement action

that may have been taken. If the flag Member State cannot notify the Executive Secretary within that time period, the flag Member State shall notify the SEAFO Secretariat, with the Commission in copy, within that same time period of the reasons for the delay and when the status report will be submitted.

6. If the inspection provides evidence that the inspected vessel has engaged in IUU fishing activities as referred to in Article 28, the port Member State shall promptly report the case to the flag state and the relevant coastal State(s), as applicable. The port Member State shall also notify the Executive Secretary as soon as possible, with the Commission in copy, along with its supporting evidence for the purpose of including the vessel on the draft IUU vessel list.

Chapter VI
Measures to promote compliance

Article 27

Sightings and identifications of Non-Contracting Party vessels

1. Masters of the fishing vessels report information on any possible fishing and fishing-related activities by vessels flying the flag of a Non-Contracting Party in the Convention area. This information shall be sent to the flag FMC and include:

   (a) name of the vessel;

   (b) registration number of the vessel;

   (c) flag State of the vessel;

   (d) date, time and position of sighting;

   (e) any other relevant information about the sighted vessel.

2. Each Member State shall immediately submit this information to the Commission for transmission to the Executive Secretary.

Article 28

Presumption of IUU fishing listing and measures applicable to vessels included on the SEAFO IUU Vessel list

1. Vessels engaged in fishing and fishing related activities for fishery resources covered by the Convention are presumed to have carried out IUU fishing in the Convention Area when a Contracting Party presents evidence that such vessels, inter alia:

   (a) harvest fishery resources covered by the Convention in the Convention Area and are not on the SEAFO Record of authorized vessels; or

   (b) harvest fishery resources covered by the Convention, when its flag State is without or has exceeded its quotas, catch limit or effort allocation established by SEAFO conservation and management measures; or

   (c) do not record or report their catches made in the Convention Area, or make false reports; or

   (d) take or land undersized fish in contravention of SEAFO conservation and management measures; or

(e) fish during closures in contravention of SEAFO conservation and management measures; or

(f) use prohibited fishing gear in contravention of SEAFO conservation and management measures; or

(g) tranship with, participate in joint fishing operations with, support or re-supply vessels included in the IUU Vessel List; or

(h) are without nationality and harvest fishery resources covered by the Convention in the Convention Area; or

(i) engage in fishing activities contrary to any other SEAFO conservation and management measures; or

(j) are under the control of the owner of any vessel on the SEAFO IUU Vessel List.

2. Union fishing vessels shall not participate in any transhipment with vessels on the IUU Vessel List or support or resupply them.

3. Member States shall take all necessary measures under their applicable legislation to:

(a) ensure that vessels on the IUU Vessel List that enter ports voluntarily are not authorised to land, tranship, refuel or resupply in those ports but are inspected upon entry;

(b) prohibit the chartering of a vessel on the IUU Vessel List;

(c) refuse to grant their flag to vessels on the IUU Vessel List;

(d) prohibit commercial transactions, imports, landings and/or transhipment of fisheries resources covered by the Convention from vessels on the IUU Vessel List;

(e) encourage traders, importers, transporters and others involved to refrain from transactions in and transhipment of fishery resources covered by the SEAFO Convention caught by vessels on the IUU Vessel List;

(f) collect any appropriate information and exchange it with other Contracting Parties in order to search for, control and prevent false import/export certificates for fishery resources covered by the Convention from vessels on the IUU Vessel List.

Chapter VII
Research

Article 29

Vessels conducting fishing research

1. Any Union fishing vessel wishing to conduct fishing research in the Convention area shall send a request to its flag Member Stat e, including a fishing research plan with the purpose, location, and for vessels engaged in research, the dates during which the vessel will be engaged in research, at least 30 days before the expected start of the research period.

2. At least 15 days before the start of a research period, the flag Member State shall:

(a) notify the Commission, for transmission to the Executive Secretary, of any vessel it has authorised to conduct fishing research in the Convention area;

(b) provide to the Commission, for transmission to Executive Secretary, a fishing research plan for any vessel flying its flag that it has authorised to conduct research, including the purpose, location, and for vessels engaged in research, the dates during which the vessel will be engaged in research.

3. When Union vessels engaged in research complete their fishing research, the flag Member State shall immediately notify the Commission for transmission to the Executive Secretary. The flag Member State shall also submit a copy of the research data to the Commission for transmission to the Executive Secretary.

4. At least 15 days before the effective date of any changes to the fishing research plan, each flag Member State shall notify the Commission of those changes for notification to the Executive Secretary. Each flag Member State shall also ensure that the master of the vessel maintains a record of those changes on board.

5. Masters of Union fishing vessels shall keep on board:

(a) a copy of the fishing research plan in one of the official SEAFO languages, at all times;

(b) a stowage plan, until the vessel has been completely unloaded. The masters of vessels shall keep the stowage plan updated daily, showing the location of the different species by FAO 3-alpha code in the holds as well as the weight of the total quantity of each species on board (kg), labelled in accordance with Article 9.

6. Union fishing vessels engaged in research shall not conduct commercial fishing during the research period.

7. Unless otherwise provided in this Regulation, Union fishing vessels that are conducting fishing research are not subject to the conservation measures pertaining to the harvesting of fish in the Convention area. However, they may be subject to sea inspections pursuant to Article 16.

Chapter VIII
Vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs)

Article 30

Vulnerable marine ecosystems area closures

1. Besides the area closure to the south of Valdivia Bank, which is explicitly identified as being closed to all fishing except for pots and set longlines, all fishing activities shall be prohibited in the areas set out and within the coordinates set out in Annex IX.

2. Within the areas referred to in paragraph 1, Union fishing vessels intending to conduct fishery research, other than exploratory bottom fishing pursuant to Article 31, shall notify its flag Member State, which shall notify the Commission of their intended research programmes. The notification shall include the assessment of substantial pollution or of significant and harmful changes to the marine environment, and the potential effects of fishing activities on the marine

environment. The Commission shall forward the notification to the Executive Secretary after reviewing it.

3. Where an existing bottom fishing area square overlaps with a closed area, the existing bottom fishing area square is deemed to be closed

Article 31

Exploratory bottom fishing

1. Any Union fishing vessel wishing to conduct exploratory bottom fishing shall notify its flag Member State.

2. Before carrying out exploratory bottom fishing, Member States shall gather data to facilitate assessments of exploratory bottom fishing by the Scientific Committee. Those data should preferably include echo-sounder data from sea-bed mapping programmes, multi-beam sounders if practicable, and/or other data relevant to the preliminary assessment of the risk of significant adverse impacts on VMEs.

3. Member States intending to carry out exploratory bottom fishing shall forward to the Commission a notice of intent to carry out exploratory bottom fishing at least 90 days before the proposed start of the fishing activity. The notice of intent shall be accompanied by the following information:

   (a) a harvesting plan, which outlines target species, proposed dates and areas and the type of bottom fishing gear to be used; area and effort restrictions shall be considered to ensure that fishing occurs on a gradual basis in a limited geographical area;

   (b) mitigation plan, including measures to prevent significant adverse impacts on VMEs that may be encountered during the fishing activity;

   (c) a catch monitoring plan, including recording/reporting of all species caught;

   (d) a system for recording/reporting of catch, which is sufficiently detailed to conduct an assessment of activity, if required;

   (e) a data collection plan to facilitate the identification of VMEs in the area fished.

4. Member States shall also make every effort to ensure that the notice of intent includes the following information:

   (a) a fine-scale data collection plan on the distribution of intended tows and sets, to the extent practicable on a tow-by-tow and set-by-set basis;

   (b) plans for monitoring bottom fishing activities using gear monitoring technology, including cameras if practicable;

   (c) monitoring data obtained pursuant to paragraph 1 of this Article.

5. Following the review of the notice, the Commission shall forward it to the Executive Secretary at least 60 days before the proposed start of the fishing activity along with the information included in paragraph 2 for SEAFO evaluation and approval.

6. Exploratory bottom fishing shall only start after SEAFO has approved it.

7. Union fishing vessels conducting exploratory fishing shall have a scientific observer on board. Observers shall collect data in accordance with the VME data collection protocol set out in Annex X.

8. Member States involved in exploratory fishing shall provide a report of the results of the activities to the Commission as soon as possible for transmission to the Executive Secretary.

Article 32

Assessment of proposed exploratory bottom fishing activities

In addition to the notice of intent, Member States intending to carry out exploratory bottom fishing shall submit to the Commission a preliminary assessment of the known and anticipated impacts of the proposed bottom fishing activity as described in Annex 3 of SEAFO Conservation Measure 30/15.

Article 33

Encounters with possible VMEs

Where the quantity of VME indicators caught in a bottom fishing operation is beyond the threshold levels set out in Annex II, the following shall apply:

(a) the master shall cease fishing activities and move at least two nautical miles away from the end point of the trawl tow in the direction least likely to result in further encounters, creating a buffer area with a two-mile nautical radius;

(b) where an encounter is discovered in connection with other bottom fishing gears, the fishing vessel shall cease fishing and move at least one nautical mile away from the position that the evidence suggests is closest to the exact encounter location, defining a buffer area with a one-mile nautical radius; the vessel master shall use their best judgment based on all available sources of information;

(c) the master shall report the incident, including the track of the trawl or position determined under sub-paragraphs (a) and (b), to its flag Member State as soon as possible, which shall forward the information simultaneously to the Commission and the Executive Secretary as soon as possible.

Chapter IX
Protection of species

Article 34

Prohibition of gillnets

The use of all gillnets in the Convention area is prohibited.

Article 35

Prohibition on direct fishing of deep water sharks

Direct fishing of deep-water sharks is prohibited in the Convention area.

Article 36

Sharks

1. Each Member State shall report data annually on catches of sharks to the Commission for transmission to the Executive Secretary.

2. Fishers shall use their entire shark catch. This means that fishing vessels shall keep all parts of the shark, except for the head, guts and skin, until the point of first landing.

3. Union fishing vessels are prohibited from retaining any fins harvested in contravention of this Article on board or transhipping or landing them.

4. In fishing activities that are not directed at sharks, each Member State shall encourage the release of live sharks, especially juveniles, whenever possible, that are caught incidentally and are not used for food and/or subsistence.

Article 37

Seabird mitigation measures

1. All longline vessels fishing south of 30 degrees South shall carry and use bird-scaring lines (tori poles):

   (a) tori poles shall be in accordance with agreed tori pole design and deployment guidelines, provided in Annex XI;

   (b) tori poles shall be deployed before longlines are placed in the water at all times south of 30 degrees South;

   (c) where practical, vessels shall be encouraged to use a second tori pole and bird-scaring line when there are many birds or bird activity is high;

   (d) back-up tori lines shall be carried by all vessels and be ready for immediate use.

2. Longlines shall only be set at night (i.e. during the hours of darkness between the times of nautical twilight[20]). During longline fishing at night, only those ship lights that are required for safety shall be used, except where a vessel can demonstrate its ability to fully comply with one of the three protocols described in Annex XII.

3. Vessels having caught a total of three seabirds during one fishing trip shall revert to the night setting immediately. They shall only resume day operations on the next trip or three months after the date on which the third seabird was caught, whichever is longer, in order to fully comply with one of the three protocols.

4. The dumping of offal is prohibited while gear is being shot or set. The dumping of offal during the hauling of gear shall be avoided. Any such discharge shall take place, where possible, on the opposite side of the vessel from where the gear is being hauled. For vessels or fisheries where there is no requirement to retain offal on board the vessel, a system shall be in place to remove fish hooks from offal and fish heads before they are dumped.

5. Member States shall not authorise vessels to fish in the Convention area if they lack on-board processing facilities or sufficient capacity to retain offal on board or the ability to dump offal on the opposite side of the vessel from where gear is being hauled.

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[20] The exact times of nautical twilight are set forth in the Nautical Almanac tables for the relevant latitude, local time and date. All times, whether for ship operations or observer reporting, shall be referenced to GMT (e.x. 14:00 GMT +1).

6. Every effort shall be made to ensure that birds captured alive during fishing operations are released alive and that hooks are removed without jeopardising the life of the bird concerned whenever possible.

7. For trawl gear, a streamer (or tori) line shall be deployed outside both warp cables, and the tori lines shall be attached to the stern at the maximum practical height above the waterline. Back-up tori lines shall be carried by all vessels and be ready for immediate use. Technical specifications for tori lines are set out in Annex XIII.

8. Nets shall be cleaned before shooting to remove items that might attract seabirds.

9. Vessels shall adopt shooting and hauling procedures that minimise the time that the net is lying on the surface with slack meshes. To the extent possible, net maintenance shall not be carried out with the net in the water.

10. Flag Member States shall collect and provide all available information to the Commission, for transmission to the Executive Secretary, on interactions with seabirds, including incidental catches by fishing vessels, when fishing for fishery resources in the Convention area.

Article 38

Turtles

1. Member States shall implement the FAO 'Guidelines to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality in Fishing Operations'[21] to reduce the incidental catch of sea turtles and ensure the safe handling of all turtles that are captured.

2. Member States shall collect and provide to the Commission, for transmission to the Executive Secretary, all available information on interactions with and by-catch of sea turtles in fishing activities in the Convention area. Member States shall foster collaboration with other Contracting Parties to exchange information on this topic.

Chapter X
Final provisions

Article 39

Alleged non-compliance reported by the SEAFO

1. If the Commission receives any information from the SEAFO Secretariat that indicates suspected non-compliance with the Convention or with SEAFO conservation and management measures by a Member State or by vessels flying its flag, the Commission shall transmit that information to the Member State concerned as soon as possible.

2. The Member State shall provide the Commission with the findings of any investigation carried out into the allegations of non-compliance and any action taken to address compliance concerns at least 75 days before the start of the next ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties.

3. The Commission shall forward that information to the Executive Secretary or the SEAFO Secretariat at least 30 days before the ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties.

[21] FAO Fisheries Department, Rome, 2009, 128p.

Article 40

Confidentiality and data protection

1. Data collected and exchanged in the framework of this Regulation shall be treated in accordance with the applicable rules on data protection and on confidentiality pursuant to Articles 112 and 113 of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009, unless provided otherwise in this Article.

2. Personal data collected under this Regulation shall be processed for the purposes of implementation and enforcement of the management, conservation and control measures laid down by this Regulation, including any enquiries pertaining to complaints and infringements and judicial or administrative procedures relating to thereto.

3. Personal data processed under this Regulation shall not be stored for a period longer than 10 years, except if those personal data are necessary to allow the follow-up of an infringement, an inspection or judicial or administrative procedures. In those cases, the personal data may be stored for a maximum period of 20 years. If the information is retained for a longer period, the data shall be anonymised.

Article 41

SEAFO format, data exchange documents and guides

The Member States concerned shall ensure that the masters of their vessels engaged in the SEAFO fisheries receive the documents when they are issued a fishing authorisation or beforehand.

Article 42

Delegation of power

1. The Commission is empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 43 to amend or supplement this Regulation to adapt it to measures adopted by SEAFO that bind the Union and its Member States concerning:

   (a) vessels requirements (Article 6(1), (2), (3) and (4));

   (b) marking of gear (Article 7);

   (c) fishing logbook (Article 10(1)) and record of production (Article 10(4));

   (d) catch reports communications of Article 11(1));

   (e) specifications of vessel monitoring scheme (Article 14(1));

   (f) vulnerable marine ecosystems area closures (Article 30(1));

   (g) annexes to this Regulation;

   (h) References to international acts set out in Article 12, Article 18(1), Article 25(1), Article25(3), Article 25(6) and Article 32.

2. Amendments in accordance with paragraph 1 shall be strictly limited to the implementation of amendments to SEAFO conservation and management measures into Union law.

Article 43

Exercise of the delegation

1. The power to adopt delegated acts is conferred on the Commission subject to conditions laid down in this Article.

2. The power to adopt delegated acts referred to in Article 42 shall be conferred on the Commission for a period of five years from the date of entry into force of this Regulation. The Commission shall draw up a report in respect of the delegation of power at least nine months before the end of the five-year period. The delegation of power shall be tacitly extended for periods of an identical duration, unless the European Parliament or the Council opposes such extension at least three months before the end of each period.

3. The delegation of power referred to in Article 42 may be revoked at any time by the European Parliament or by the Council. A decision to revoke shall put an end to the delegation of the power specified in that decision. It shall take effect the day following the publication of the decision in the *Official Journal of the European Union* or at a later date specified therein. It shall not affect the validity of any delegated act already in force.

4. Before adopting a delegated act, the Commission shall consult experts designated by each Member State in accordance with the principles laid down in the Interinstitutional Agreement of 13 April 2016 on Better Law-Making.

5. As soon as it adopts a delegated act, the Commission shall notify it simultaneously to the European Parliament and to the Council.

6. A delegated act adopted pursuant to Article 42 shall enter into force only if no objection has been expressed either by the European Parliament or the Council within a period of two months of notification of that act to the European Parliament and the Council or if, before the expiry of that period, the European Parliament and the Council have both informed the Commission that they will not object. That period shall be extended by two months at the initiative of the European Parliament or of the Council.

Article 44

Entry into force

This Regulation shall enter into force on the twentieth day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels,

For the European Parliament	*For the Council*
The President	*The President*
[...]	*[...]*

LEGISLATIVE FINANCIAL AND DIGITAL STATEMENT

1. FRAMEWORK OF THE PROPOSAL/INITIATIVE

1.1. Title of the proposal/initiative

Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down management, conservation and control measures applicable in the Convention area of the South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO)

1.2. Policy area(s) concerned

Fisheries

1.3. Objective(s)

1.3.1. *General objective(s)*

The purpose of this proposal is to implement into EU law the management, conservation and control measures adopted under the remit of the SEAFO, to which the European Union has been a Contracting Party since 2003. The EU currently has one fishing vessel active in the SEAFO Convention area that must comply with these measures.

1.3.2. *Specific objective(s)*

Implementation of SEAFO rules into EU law.

1.3.3. *Expected result(s) and impact*

Implementation of SEAFO rules into EU law.

1.3.4. *Indicators of performance*

Specify the indicators for monitoring progress and achievements.

Not applicable.

1.4. The proposal/initiative relates to:

☑ **a new action**

☐ **a new action following a pilot project/preparatory action[22]**

☐ **the extension of an existing action**

☐ **a merger or redirection of one or more actions towards another/a new action**

1.5. Grounds for the proposal/initiative

1.5.1. *Requirement(s) to be met in the short or long term including a detailed timeline for roll-out of the implementation of the initiative*

Implementation of EU international obligations.

1.5.2. *Added value of EU involvement (it may result from different factors, e.g. coordination gains, legal certainty, greater effectiveness or complementarities). For the purposes of this section 'added value of EU involvement' is the value resulting from EU action, that is additional to the value that would have been otherwise created by Member States alone.*

[22] As referred to in Article 58(2), point (a) or (b) of the Financial Regulation.

Fisheries is exclusive EU competence.

1.5.3. *Lessons learned from similar experiences in the past*

Not applicable.

1.5.4. *Compatibility with the multiannual financial framework and possible synergies with other appropriate instruments*

Not applicable.

1.5.5. *Assessment of the different available financing options, including scope for redeployment*

Not applicable

1.6. **Duration of the proposal/initiative and of its financial impact**

☐ **limited duration**

☐ in effect from [DD.MM]YYYY to [DD.MM]YYYY

☐ financial impact from YYYY to YYYY for commitment appropriations and from YYYY to YYYY for payment appropriations.

☑ **unlimited duration**

Implementation with a start-up period from YYYY to YYYY,

followed by full-scale operation.

1.7. **Method(s) of budget implementation planned**[23]

☐ **Direct management** by the Commission

☐ by its departments, including by its staff in the Union delegations;

☐ by the executive agencies

☐ **Shared management** with the Member States

☐ **Indirect management** by entrusting budget implementation tasks to:

☐ third countries or the bodies they have designated;

☐ international organisations and their agencies (to be specified);

☐ the European Investment Bank and the European Investment Fund;

☐ bodies referred to in Articles 70 and 71 of the Financial Regulation;

☐ public law bodies;

☐ bodies governed by private law with a public service mission to the extent that they are provided with adequate financial guarantees;

☐ bodies governed by the private law of a Member State that are entrusted with the implementation of a public-private partnership and that are provided with adequate financial guarantees;

[23] Details of budget implementation methods and references to the Financial Regulation may be found on the BUDGpedia site: https://myintracomm.ec.europa.eu/corp/budget/financial-rules/budget-implementation/Pages/implementation-methods.aspx.

☐ bodies or persons entrusted with the implementation of specific actions in the common foreign and security policy pursuant to Title V of the Treaty on European Union, and identified in the relevant basic act

☐ bodies established in a Member State, governed by the private law of a Member State or Union law and eligible to be entrusted, in accordance with sector-specific rules, with the implementation of Union funds or budgetary guarantees, to the extent that such bodies are controlled by public law bodies or by bodies governed by private law with a public service mission, and are provided with adequate financial guarantees in the form of joint and several liability by the controlling bodies or equivalent financial guarantees and which may be, for each action, limited to the maximum amount of the Union support.

Comments

[...]

2. MANAGEMENT MEASURES

2.1. Monitoring and reporting rules

Not applicable.

2.2. Management and control system(s)

2.2.1. *Justification of the budget implementation method(s), the funding implementation mechanism(s), the payment modalities and the control strategy proposed*

Not applicable.

2.2.2. *Information concerning the risks identified and the internal control system(s) set up to mitigate them*

Not applicable.

2.2.3. *Estimation and justification of the cost-effectiveness of the controls (ratio between the control costs and the value of the related funds managed), and assessment of the expected levels of risk of error (at payment & at closure)*

Not applicable.

2.3. Measures to prevent fraud and irregularities

Not applicable.

3. **ESTIMATED FINANCIAL IMPACT OF THE PROPOSAL/INITIATIVE**

3.1. **Heading(s) of the multiannual financial framework and expenditure budget line(s) affected**

Existing budget lines

In order of multiannual financial framework headings and budget lines.

Heading of multiannual financial framework	Budget line	Type of expenditure	Contribution			
	Number	Diff./Non-diff.[24]	from EFTA countries[25]	from candidate countries and potential candidates[26]	from other third countries	other assigned revenue
	[XX.YY.YY.YY]	Diff./Non-diff.	YES/NO	YES/NO	YES/NO	YES/NO
	[XX.YY.YY.YY]	Diff./Non-diff.	YES/NO	YES/NO	YES/NO	YES/NO
	[XX.YY.YY.YY]	Diff./Non-diff.	YES/NO	YES/NO	YES/NO	YES/NO

New budget lines requested

In order of multiannual financial framework headings and budget lines.

[24] Diff. = Differentiated appropriations / Non-diff. = Non-differentiated appropriations.

[25] EFTA: European Free Trade Association.

[26] Candidate countries and, where applicable, potential candidates from the Western Balkans.

Heading of multiannual financial framework	Budget line	Type of expenditure	Contribution			
	Number	Diff./non-diff.	from EFTA countries	from candidate countries and potential candidates	from other third countries	other assigned revenue
	[XX.YY.YY.YY]	Diff./Non-diff.	YES/NO	YES/NO	YES/NO	YES/NO
	[XX.YY.YY.YY]	Diff./Non-diff.	YES/NO	YES/NO	YES/NO	YES/NO
	[XX.YY.YY.YY]	Diff./Non-diff.	YES/NO	YES/NO	YES/NO	YES/NO

3.2. **Estimated financial impact of the proposal on appropriations**

3.2.1. *Summary of estimated impact on operational appropriations*

☐ The proposal/initiative does not require the use of operational appropriations

☐ The proposal/initiative requires the use of operational appropriations, as explained below:

3.2.1.1. *Appropriations from voted budget*

EUR million (to three decimal places)

Heading of multiannual financial framework	Number				
DG: <.....>	Year	Year	Year	Year	**TOTAL MFF**

			2024	2025	2026	2027	2021-2027
Operational appropriations							
Budget line	Commitments	(1a)					**0.000**
	Payments	(2a)					**0.000**
Budget line	Commitments	(1b)					**0.000**
	Payments	(2b)					**0.000**
Appropriations of an administrative nature financed from the envelope of specific programmes[27]							
Budget line		(3)					**0.000**
TOTAL appropriations for DG <.....>	Commitments	=1a+1b+3	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**
	Payments	=2a+2b+3	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**
DG: <.....>			Year **2024**	Year **2025**	Year **2026**	Year **2027**	**TOTAL MFF 2021-2027**
Operational appropriations							
Budget line	Commitments	(1a)					**0.000**
	Payments	(2a)					**0.000**
Budget line	Commitments	(1b)					**0.000**

[27] Technical and/or administrative assistance and expenditure in support of the implementation of EU programmes and/or actions (former 'BA' lines), indirect research, direct research.

	Payments	(2b)					**0.000**
Appropriations of an administrative nature financed from the envelope of specific programmes[28]							
Budget line		(3)					**0.000**
TOTAL appropriations for DG <.....>	Commitments	=1a+1b+3	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**
	Payments	=2a+2b+3	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**
			Year **2024**	Year **2025**	Year **2026**	Year **2027**	**TOTAL MFF 2021-2027**
TOTAL operational appropriations	Commitments	(4)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	**0.000**
	Payments	(5)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	**0.000**
TOTAL appropriations of an administrative nature financed from the envelope for specific programmes		(6)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	**0.000**
TOTAL appropriations under HEADING <....> of the multiannual financial framework	Commitments	=4+6	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**
	Payments	=5+6	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**
Heading of multiannual financial framework		Number					
DG: <.....>			Year	Year	Year	Year	**TOTAL MFF**

[28] Technical and/or administrative assistance and expenditure in support of the implementation of EU programmes and/or actions (former 'BA' lines), indirect research, direct research.

			2024	2025	2026	2027	2021-2027
Operational appropriations							
Budget line	Commitments	(1a)					**0.000**
	Payments	(2a)					**0.000**
Budget line	Commitments	(1b)					**0.000**
	Payments	(2b)					**0.000**
Appropriations of an administrative nature financed from the envelope of specific programmes[29]							
Budget line		(3)					**0.000**
TOTAL appropriations for DG <.....>	Commitments	=1a+1b +3	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**
	Payments	=2a+2b+3	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**
DG: <.....>			Year **2024**	Year **2025**	Year **2026**	Year **2027**	**TOTAL MFF 2021-2027**
Operational appropriations							
Budget line	Commitments	(1a)					**0.000**
	Payments	(2a)					**0.000**
Budget line	Commitments	(1b)					**0.000**

[29] Technical and/or administrative assistance and expenditure in support of the implementation of EU programmes and/or actions (former 'BA' lines), indirect research, direct research.

	Payments	(2b)					**0.000**
Appropriations of an administrative nature financed from the envelope of specific programmes[30]							
Budget line		(3)					**0.000**
TOTAL appropriations for DG <.....>	Commitments	=1a+1b +3	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**
	Payments	=2a+2b+3	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**
			Year **2024**	Year **2025**	Year **2026**	Year **2027**	**TOTAL MFF 2021-2027**
TOTAL operational appropriations	Commitments	(4)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	**0.000**
	Payments	(5)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	**0.000**
TOTAL appropriations of an administrative nature financed from the envelope for specific programmes		(6)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	**0.000**
TOTAL appropriations under HEADING <....> of the multiannual financial framework	Commitments	=4+6	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**
	Payments	=5+6	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**

			Year **2024**	Year **2025**	Year **2026**	Year **2027**	**TOTAL MFF 2021-2027**
TOTAL operational	Commitments	(4)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	**0.000**

[30] Technical and/or administrative assistance and expenditure in support of the implementation of EU programmes and/or actions (former 'BA' lines), indirect research, direct research.

appropriations (all operational headings)	Payments	(5)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	**0.000**
TOTAL appropriations of an administrative nature financed from the envelope for specific programmes (all operational headings)		(6)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	**0.000**
TOTAL appropriations Under Heading 1 to 6 of the multiannual financial framework (Reference amount)	Commitments	=4+6	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**
	Payments	=5+6	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**
Heading of multiannual financial framework		**7**			‘Administrative expenditure’[31]		
DG: <.....>			Year **2024**	Year **2025**	Year **2026**	Year **2027**	**TOTAL MFF 2021-2027**
Human resources			0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	**0.000**
Other administrative expenditure			0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	**0.000**
TOTAL DG <.....>	Appropriations		**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**
DG: <.....>			Year **2024**	Year **2025**	Year **2026**	Year **2027**	**TOTAL MFF 2021-2027**
Human resources			0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	**0.000**
Other administrative expenditure			0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	**0.000**

[31] The necessary appropriations should be determined using the annual average cost figures available on the appropriate BUDGpedia webpage.

TOTAL DG <.....>	Appropriations		**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**
TOTAL appropriations under HEADING 7 of the multiannual financial framework		(Total commitments = Total payments)	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**

EUR million (to three decimal places)

		Year **2024**	Year **2025**	Year **2026**	Year **2027**	**TOTAL MFF 2021-2027**
TOTAL appropriations under HEADINGS 1 to 7 of the multiannual financial framework	Commitments	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**
	Payments	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**

3.2.1.2. *Appropriations from external assigned revenues*

EUR million (to three decimal places)

Heading of multiannual financial framework		Number					
DG: <.....>			Year **2024**	Year **2025**	Year **2026**	Year **2027**	**TOTAL MFF 2021-2027**
Operational appropriations							
Budget line	Commitments	(1a)					**0.000**

	Payments	(2a)					**0.000**
Budget line	Commitments	(1b)					**0.000**
	Payments	(2b)					**0.000**
Appropriations of an administrative nature financed from the envelope of specific programmes[32]							
Budget line		(3)					**0.000**
TOTAL appropriations for DG <.....>	Commitments	=1a+1b+3	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**
	Payments	=2a+2b+3	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**
DG: <.....>			Year **2024**	Year **2025**	Year **2026**	Year **2027**	**TOTAL MFF 2021-2027**
Operational appropriations							
Budget line		(1a)					**0.000**

[32] Technical and/or administrative assistance and expenditure in support of the implementation of EU programmes and/or actions (former 'BA' lines), indirect research, direct research.

	Commitments						
	Payments	(2a)					**0.000**
Budget line	Commitments	(1b)					**0.000**
	Payments	(2b)					**0.000**
Appropriations of an administrative nature financed from the envelope of specific programmes[33]							
Budget line		(3)					**0.000**
TOTAL appropriations for DG <.....>	Commitments	=1a+1b+3	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**
	Payments	=2a+2b+3	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**
			Year **2024**	Year **2025**	Year **2026**	Year **2027**	**TOTAL MFF 2021-2027**

[33] Technical and/or administrative assistance and expenditure in support of the implementation of EU programmes and/or actions (former 'BA' lines), indirect research, direct research.

TOTAL operational appropriations	Commitments	(4)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	**0.000**
	Payments	(5)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	**0.000**
TOTAL appropriations of an administrative nature financed from the envelope for specific programmes		(6)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	**0.000**
TOTAL appropriations under HEADING <....> of the multiannual financial framework	Commitments	=4+6	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**
	Payments	=5+6	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**
Heading of multiannual financial framework		Number					
DG: <.....>			Year **2024**	Year **2025**	Year **2026**	Year **2027**	**TOTAL MFF 2021-2027**
Operational appropriations							
Budget line	Commitments	(1a)					**0.000**
		(2a)					**0.000**

	Payments						
Budget line	Commitments	(1b)					**0.000**
	Payments	(2b)					**0.000**
Appropriations of an administrative nature financed from the envelope of specific programmes[34]							
Budget line		(3)					**0.000**
TOTAL appropriations for DG <.....>	Commitments	=1a+1b+3	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**
	Payments	=2a+2b+3	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**
DG: <.....>			Year **2024**	Year **2025**	Year **2026**	Year **2027**	**TOTAL MFF 2021-2027**
Operational appropriations							
Budget line	Commit	(1a)					**0.000**

[34] Technical and/or administrative assistance and expenditure in support of the implementation of EU programmes and/or actions (former 'BA' lines), indirect research, direct research.

	ments						
	Payments	(2a)					**0.000**
Budget line	Commitments	(1b)					**0.000**
	Payments	(2b)					**0.000**
Appropriations of an administrative nature financed from the envelope of specific programmes[35]							
Budget line		(3)					**0.000**
TOTAL appropriations for DG <.....>	Commitments	=1a+1b+3	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**
	Payments	=2a+2b+3	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**
			Year **2024**	Year **2025**	Year **2026**	Year **2027**	**TOTAL MFF 2021-2027**
TOTAL operational	Commit	(4)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	**0.000**

[35] Technical and/or administrative assistance and expenditure in support of the implementation of EU programmes and/or actions (former 'BA' lines), indirect research, direct research.

appropriations	ments						
	Payments	(5)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	**0.000**
TOTAL appropriations of an administrative nature financed from the envelope for specific programmes		(6)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	**0.000**
TOTAL appropriations under HEADING <....> of the multiannual financial framework	Commitments	=4+6	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**
	Payments	=5+6	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**
			Year **2024**	Year **2025**	Year **2026**	Year **2027**	**TOTAL MFF 2021-2027**
TOTAL operational appropriations (all operational headings)	Commitments	(4)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	**0.000**
	Payments	(5)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	**0.000**
TOTAL appropriations of an administrative nature financed from the envelope for specific programmes (all operational headings)		(6)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	**0.000**
TOTAL appropriations	Commit	=4+6	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**

under Headings 1 to 6 of the multiannual financial framework (Reference amount)	ments						
	Payments	=5+6	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**
Heading of multiannual financial framework		**7**			‘Administrative expenditure’[36]		

EUR million (to three decimal places)

DG: <.....>		Year **2024**	Year **2025**	Year **2026**	Year **2027**	**TOTAL MFF 2021-2027**
Human resources		0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	**0.000**
Other administrative expenditure		0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	**0.000**
TOTAL DG <.....>	Appropriations	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**
DG: <.....>		Year **2024**	Year **2025**	Year **2026**	Year **2027**	**TOTAL MFF 2021-2027**
Human resources		0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	**0.000**
Other administrative expenditure		0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	**0.000**
TOTAL DG <.....>	Appropriations	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**
TOTAL appropriations under HEADING 7 of the	(Total commit	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**

[36] The necessary appropriations should be determined using the annual average cost figures available on the appropriate BUDGpedia webpage.

multiannual financial framework	ments = Total payme nts)					

EUR million (to three decimal places)

		Year **2024**	Year **2025**	Year **2026**	Year **2027**	**TOTAL MFF 2021-2027**
TOTAL appropriations under HEADINGS 1 to 7 of the multiannual financial framework	Commitments	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**
	Payments	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**

3.2.2. *Estimated output funded from operational appropriations (not to be completed for decentralised agencies)*

Commitment appropriations in EUR million (to three decimal places)

Indicate objectives and outputs ⇓			Year **2024**		Year **2025**		Year **2026**		Year **2027**		Enter as many years as necessary to show the duration of the impact (see Section 1.6)						**TOTAL**	
	OUTPUTS																	
	Type [37]	Average cost	No	Cost	No	Cost	No	Cost	No	Cost	No	Cost	No	Cost	No	Cost	Total No	Total Cost
SPECIFIC																		

[37] Outputs are products and services to be supplied (e.g.: number of student exchanges financed, number of km of roads built, etc.).

OBJECTIVE No 1[38]: [...]																		
- Output																		
- Output																		
- Output																		
Subtotal for specific objective No 1																		
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE No 2 ...																		
- Output																		
Subtotal for specific objective No 2																		
TOTALS																		

3.2.3. *Summary of estimated impact on administrative appropriations*

[38] As described in point 1.4.2. 'Specific objective(s)...'

☐ The proposal/initiative does not require the use of appropriations of an administrative nature

☐ The proposal/initiative requires the use of appropriations of an administrative nature, as explained below:

3.2.3.1. *Appropriations from voted budget*

VOTED APPROPRIATIONS	Year **2024**	Year **2025**	Year **2026**	Year **2027**	**TOTAL MFF 2021-2027**
HEADING 7					
Human resources	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	**0.000**
Other administrative expenditure	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	**0.000**
Subtotal HEADING 7	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**
Outside HEADING 7					
Human resources	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	**0.000**
Other expenditure of an administrative nature	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	**0.000**
Subtotal outside HEADING 7	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**
TOTAL	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**

3.2.3.2. *Appropriations from external assigned revenues*

EXTERNAL ASSIGNED REVENUES	Year **2024**	Year **2025**	Year **2026**	Year **2027**	**TOTAL MFF 2021-2027**

HEADING 7					
Human resources	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	**0.000**
Other administrative expenditure	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	**0.000**
Subtotal HEADING 7	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**
Outside HEADING 7					
Human resources	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	**0.000**
Other expenditure of an administrative nature	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	**0.000**
Subtotal outside HEADING 7	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**
TOTAL	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**

3.2.3.3. *Total appropriations*

TOTAL VOTED APPROPRIATIONS + EXTERNAL ASSIGNED REVENUES	Year **2024**	Year **2025**	Year **2026**	Year **2027**	**TOTAL MFF 2021-2027**
HEADING 7					
Human resources	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	**0.000**
Other administrative expenditure	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	**0.000**

Subtotal HEADING 7	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**
Outside HEADING 7					
Human resources	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	**0.000**
Other expenditure of an administrative nature	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	**0.000**
Subtotal outside HEADING 7	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**
TOTAL	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**

The appropriations required for human resources and other expenditure of an administrative nature will be met by appropriations from the DG that are already assigned to management of the action and/or have been redeployed within the DG, together, if necessary, with any additional allocation which may be granted to the managing DG under the annual allocation procedure and in the light of budgetary constraints.

3.2.4. *Estimated requirements of human resources*

☐ The proposal/initiative does not require the use of human resources

☐ The proposal/initiative requires the use of human resources, as explained below

3.2.4.1. *Financed from voted budget*

Estimate to be expressed in full-time equivalent units (FTEs)[39]

VOTED APPROPRIATIONS	Year **2024**	Year **2025**	Year **2026**	Year **2027**

[39] Please specify below the table how many FTEs within the number indicated are already assigned to the management of the action and/or can be redeployed within your DG and what are your net needs.

Establishment plan posts (officials and temporary staff)					
20 01 02 01 (Headquarters and Commission's Representation Offices)		0	0	0	0
20 01 02 03 (EU Delegations)		0	0	0	0
01 01 01 01 (Indirect research)		0	0	0	0
01 01 01 11 (Direct research)		0	0	0	0
Other budget lines (specify)		0	0	0	0
External staff (in FTEs)					
20 02 01 (AC, END from the 'global envelope')		0	0	0	0
20 02 03 (AC, AL, END and JPD in the EU Delegations)		0	0	0	0
Admin. support line [XX.01.YY.YY]	- at Headquarters	0	0	0	0
	- in EU Delegations	0	0	0	0
01 01 01 02 (AC, END - Indirect research)		0	0	0	0
01 01 01 12 (AC, END - Direct research)		0	0	0	0
Other budget lines (specify) - Heading 7		0	0	0	0
Other budget lines (specify) - Outside Heading 7		0	0	0	0
TOTAL		**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**

3.2.4.2. *Financed from external assigned revenues*

EXTERNAL ASSIGNED REVENUES		Year **2024**	Year **2025**	Year **2026**	Year **2027**
Establishment plan posts (officials and temporary staff)					
20 01 02 01 (Headquarters and Commission's Representation Offices)		0	0	0	0
20 01 02 03 (EU Delegations)		0	0	0	0
01 01 01 01 (Indirect research)		0	0	0	0
01 01 01 11 (Direct research)		0	0	0	0
Other budget lines (specify)		0	0	0	0
External staff (in full time equivalent units)					
20 02 01 (AC, END from the global envelope)		0	0	0	0
20 02 03 (AC, AL, END and JPD in the EU Delegations)		0	0	0	0
Admin. support line [XX.01.YY.YY]	- at Headquarters	0	0	0	0
	- in EU Delegations	0	0	0	0
01 01 01 02 (AC, END - Indirect research)		0	0	0	0
01 01 01 12 (AC, END - Direct research)		0	0	0	0
Other budget lines (specify) - Heading 7		0	0	0	0
Other budget lines (specify) - Outside Heading 7		0	0	0	0

TOTAL	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**

3.2.4.3. *Total requirements of human resources*

TOTAL VOTED APPROPRIATIONS + EXTERNAL ASSIGNED REVENUES		Year **2024**	Year **2025**	Year **2026**	Year **2027**
Establishment plan posts (officials and temporary staff)					
20 01 02 01 (Headquarters and Commission's Representation Offices)		0	0	0	0
20 01 02 03 (EU Delegations)		0	0	0	0
01 01 01 01 (Indirect research)		0	0	0	0
01 01 01 11 (Direct research)		0	0	0	0
Other budget lines (specify)		0	0	0	0
External staff (in full time equivalent units)					
20 02 01 (AC, END from the global envelope)		0	0	0	0
20 02 03 (AC, AL, END and JPD in the EU Delegations)		0	0	0	0
Admin. support line [XX.01.YY.YY]	- at Headquarters	0	0	0	0
	- in EU Delegations	0	0	0	0
01 01 01 02 (AC, END - Indirect research)		0	0	0	0

01 01 01 12 (AC, END - Direct research)	0	0	0	0
Other budget lines (specify) - Heading 7	0	0	0	0
Other budget lines (specify) - Outside Heading 7	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**

The staff required to implement the proposal (in FTEs):

	To be covered by current staff available in the Commission services	**Exceptional additional staff***		
		To be financed under Heading 7 or Research	**To be financed from BA line**	**To be financed from fees**
Establishment plan posts			N/A	
External staff (CA, SNEs, INT)				

Description of tasks to be carried out by:

Officials and temporary staff	
External staff	

3.2.5. **Overview of estimated impact on digital technology-related investments**

Compulsory: the best estimate of the digital technology-related investments entailed by the proposal/initiative should be included in the table below.

Exceptionally, when required for the implementation of the proposal/initiative, the appropriations under Heading 7 should be presented in the designated line.

The appropriations under Headings 1-6 should be reflected as "Policy IT expenditure on operational programmes". This expenditure refers to the operational budget to be used to re-use/ buy/ develop IT platforms/ tools directly linked to the implementation of the initiative and their associated investments (e.g. licences, studies, data storage etc). The information provided in this table should be consistent with details presented under Section 4 "Digital dimensions".

TOTAL Digital and IT appropriations	Year **2024**	Year **2025**	Year **2026**	Year **2027**	**TOTAL MFF 2021-2027**
HEADING 7					
IT expenditure (corporate)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	**0.000**
Subtotal HEADING 7	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**
Outside HEADING 7					
Policy IT expenditure on operational programmes	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	**0.000**
Subtotal outside HEADING 7	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**
TOTAL	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**

3.2.6. *Compatibility with the current multiannual financial framework*

The proposal/initiative:

☐ can be fully financed through redeployment within the relevant heading of the multiannual financial framework (MFF).

☐ requires use of the unallocated margin under the relevant heading of the MFF and/or use of the special instruments as defined in the MFF Regulation.

☐ requires a revision of the MFF.

3.2.7. *Third-party contributions*

The proposal/initiative:

☐ does not provide for co-financing by third parties

☐ provides for the co-financing by third parties estimated below:

Appropriations in EUR million (to three decimal places)

	Year **2024**	Year **2025**	Year **2026**	Year **2027**	Total
Specify the co-financing body					
TOTAL appropriations co-financed					

3.3. **Estimated impact on revenue**

☐ The proposal/initiative has no financial impact on revenue.

☐ The proposal/initiative has the following financial impact:

☐ on own resources

☐ on other revenue

☐ please indicate, if the revenue is assigned to expenditure lines

EUR million (to three decimal places)

Budget revenue line:	Appropriations available for the current financial year	Impact of the proposal/initiative[40]			
		Year **2024**	Year **2025**	Year **2026**	Year **2027**

[40] As regards traditional own resources (customs duties, sugar levies), the amounts indicated must be net amounts, i.e. gross amounts after deduction of 20% for collection costs.

Article					

For assigned revenue, specify the budget expenditure line(s) affected.

[...]

Other remarks (e.g. method/formula used for calculating the impact on revenue or any other information).

[...]

4. DIGITAL DIMENSIONS

4.1. Requirements of digital relevance

If the policy initiative is assessed as having no requirement of digital relevance, provide an explanation as to why digital means are not used.

[...]

Otherwise, please list the requirements of digital relevance in the table below:

Reference to the requirement	**Requirement description**	**Actor(s) affected or concerned by the requirement**	**High-level Processes**	**Categories**
Article 4	Vessel authorisations: Member States (MS) shall issue authorisations and send data electronically to the Commission. Commission validates that authorisation and, if accepted, communicates it to SEAFO secretariat.	Member States, Commission, SEAFO Secretariat	Manage data on fishing authorisations in relevant systems, communicate data to SEAFO.	Data, Digital solution
Article 10	Fishing activities: Union fishing vessels shall record catches in their electronic fishing loogbooks.	Operators of fishing vessels	Manage data on fishing logbooks	Data, Digital solution, Digital public service

Article 11, 12	Monitoring of fisheries: Vessels transmit catch reports to its FMCs, Member States prepare reports and send them to the Commission. The Commission transmits them to SEAFO secretariat.	Operators of fishing vessels, Member States, Commission, SEAFO Secretariat	Reporting obligations	Data, Digital solution, Digital public service
Article 14	VMS: Vessels communicate Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) data regularly to their FMCs. Member States FMCs ensure that data is transmitted to SEAFO secretariat.	Operators of fishing vessels, Member States, SEAFO Secretariat	Vessel monitoring system	Data, Digital solution, Digital public service
Article 15	Transhipment monitoring in ports: Vessels shall submit a transhipment declaration using the template in Annex VII.	Vessel Operators, Flag Member States, Port	Monitoring of transhipment in port.	Data, Digital public service
Article 17	Notification to inspect at sea: Member State shall notify the Commission 30 days before the initial sea inspection with: the provisional plan, the name of inspectors and the name, radio call sign and contact of each inspection vessel in accordance with Part VI of the United Nations Fish Stock Agreement	Vessel Operators, Flag Member States	Inspection at sea	Data
Article 19	Scientific Observer data: Vessels shall submit scientific data collected by scientific observers to SEAFO secretariat using the reporting templates	Vessel Operators, Flag Member	Reporting on scientific	Data

	provided in the SEAFO website.	State, SEAFO secretariat	observation	
Article 21	Designation of ports: Member States shall designate the ports to which foreign vessels carrying fisheries resources may request to land or make use of port services. MS will inform the Commission and the Commission will inform the SEAFO Secretariat	Member States, Commission, SEAFO Secretariat	Reporting on designation of ports	Data
Article 22	Advanced request for port entry: Before granting entry to a foreign vessel to its port, each Member States shall submit the required information set out in Annex IX.	Member States, Commission, SEAFO Secretariat	Reporting on a vessel requesting for port entry	Data, Digital public service
Article 23,24	Authorisation or denial of port entry: Member State shall communicate the decision wether to authorise or to deny the entry of the vessel into its port.	Member States, vessel operator	Reporting on authorisation or denial of port entry	Data
Article 25	Port inspections: Member State shall ensure that inspections of vessels in their ports are carried out in accordance with procedures set out in Annex XI	Member States	Reporting on port inspection	Data
Article 27	Sightings and identifications of non Contracting Party vessels: Member States shall submit to the Commission any reporting by their fishing vessels concerning the sighting of any non Contracting Party fishing vessel.	Vessel Operators, Member States, Commission, SEAFO	Reporting on non Contracting Party fishing vessel	Data

		Secretariat		
Article 29	Fishing research: At least 15 days before the start of a research period, Member States shall provide the Commission with a fishing research plan from a vessel that has been authorised to conduct a fishing research.	Vessel Operators, Mmeber States, Commission, SEAFO Secretariat	Reporting of fishing research plans	Data
Article 30,33	Vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs) and closures: Closed areas to fisheries are described in Annex XIII and data collection of VMEs shall be done in accordance with Annex II and XIV.	Vessel Operators and Member States	Reporting of VMEs	Data
Article 31,32	Exploratory bottom fishing: Member States shall communicate to the Commission exploratory bottom fishing activities which must include technical requirements (echo-sounder data and multi-beam sounders if possible) and a specific plan with the gear that will be used and mitigation measures. Following the review of the information by the Commission, the information will be sent to the SEAFO Secretatiat.	Vessel Operators, Member States, Commission, SEAFO Secretariat	Reporting of exploratory bottom fishing.	Data
Article 37	Seabird mitigation measures: Longline fishing vessels shall carry and use bird-scaring lines (tori poles) in accordance with Annex XI.	Vessel Operators	Seabird mitigation measures	Data
Article 38	Turtles: Member States shall implement the FAO 'Guidelines to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality in Fishing Operations' to reduce the incidental catch of sea turtle. Encounters with turtles shall be	Vessel Operators	Turtles mitigation measures	Data

	reported to the SEAFO Secretariat.			
Article 39	Non compliance: Non compliance information with the SEAFO Convention or with SEAFO conservation and managed measures by a Member Stare or by a vessel flying its flag shall be transmited to the Commission as soon as possible and it will be transmited to the SEAFO Secretariat.	Vessel Operators, Member States, Commission, SEAFO Secretariat	Non compliance information	Data

4.2. **Data**

High-level description of the data in scope and any related standards/specifications

Type of data	**Reference to the requirement(s)**	**Standard and/or specification (if applicable)**
Vessel authorisation	Article 4	UN/FLUX standard
Fishing logbooks data	Article 10, 11, 12	UN/FLUX standard
VMS and position data	Article 14	UN/FLUX standard
Transhipment notification	Article 15	Format as per Annex VII
Inspection at sea	Article 17	In accordance with Part VI of the United Nations Fish Stock Agreement
Scientific observer data	Article 19	SEAFO website
Designation of Ports	Article 21	Electronic communication from the Commission to SEAFO Secretariat
Advance request for port entry	Article 22	Format as per Annex IX

Port inspection report	Article 25	Format as per Annex XI
VME encounter data	Article 33	In accordance with Annex II
Exploratory bottom fishing plan	Article 31,32	echo sounder, multi-beam (if possible)
Seabird mitigation measures	Article 37	Format as per Annex XI
Turtles mitigation measures	Article 38	FAO 'Guidelines to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality in Fishing Operations'

Alignment with the European Data Strategy

Explain how the requirement(s) are aligned with the European Data Strategy

This regulation aligns with the European Data Strategy by providing a data governance structure for fisheries control. It establishes rules for collecting and sharing data, such as VMS, electronic logbooks and licensing data, to enable better decision-making, support scientific research, and ensure the sustainable management of marine resources. By enforcing common standards like UN/FLUX, the regulation ensures interoperability between the systems of Member States, the Commission, and the SEAFA RFMO in order to exchange and reuse data, advancing the EU's goal of using data for the public good of ocean conservation.

Alignment with the once-only principle

Explain how the once-only principle has been considered and how the possibility to reuse existing data has been explored

The proposal reuses existing data reporting systems mandated by the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), including the UN/FLUX standard and FLUX Transportation Layer. The information is provided by operators only once to the public authorities and reported once by the Member States through their national systems. The data is stored in VMS and ERS databases, and can be re-used by various parties for different regulatory purposes. It minimises redundancy and administrative burden while facilitating reporting obligations.

Explain how newly created data is findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable, and meets high-quality standards

The introduction of electronic reporting systems ensures that data is catalogued and searchable in a systematic manner, helping to make the data easy to find and reused for a wide range of purposes.

Data flows

For each data flow, please fill the table below:

Type of data	Reference(s) to the requirement(s)	Actor who provides the data	Actor who receives the data	Trigger for the data exchange	Frequency (if applicable)
Vessel authorisation data	Article 4	Member State	Commission, SEAFO Secretariat	authorisation requests or updates	As frequent as needed, at least one a year
Electronic Fishing logbooks data	Article 10,11,12	Vessel Operators	Commission, SEAFO Secretariat	fishing activities data	within 30 days of the completion of a fishing trip
VMS and position data	Article 14	Vessel Operators	Flag Member State, SEAFO Secretariat	vessel position	Every 2 hours.
Transhipment in port notification	Article 15	Vessel Operators	Flag Member State, Commission, SEAFO Secretariat	transhipment i port	within 48 hours
Sea inspection notification	Article 17	Member State	Commission, SEAFO Secretariat	inspection at sea	In accordance with Part VI of the United Nations Fish Stock Agreement
scientific data	Article 19	Scientific Observer/ Member State	Commission, SEAFO Secretariat	reporting cycle	within 30 days of leaving the Convention area.
request for port entry	Article 22	Vessel operator	Member State, Commission	prior to entry port	48h before the estimated time of the vessel's arrival

port inspection	Article 25	Member State	Commission, SEAFO Secretariat		The report shall be transmitted from the Port Member State to the SEAFO Secretary within 14 days following the date of the completion of the inspection.
VME Data	Article 30,33	Member State	Commission, SEAFO Secretariat	VME encounter above threshold	
New exploratory bottom fishing plan	Article 31,32	Member State	Commission SEAFO Secretariat	Request for new fishery authorisation	90 days before the proposed start of the fishing activity

4.3. **Digital solutions**

For each digital solution, please provide the reference to the requirement(s) of digital relevance concerning it, a description of the digital solution's mandated functionality, the body that will be responsible for it, and other relevant aspects such as reusability and accessibility. Finally, explain whether the digital solution intends to make use of AI technologies.

Digital solution	**Reference(s) to the requirement(s)**	**Main mandated functionalities**	**Responsible body**	**How is accessibility catered for?**	**How is reusability considered?**	**Use of AI technologies (if applicable)**
Member States' national systems in FMCs	Articles 4, 10, 11, 12, 14	Data storage, data processing	Member States		MS national systems are singles source of all relevant data and are reused everywhere data	

					is required	
FLUX Transportation layer	Articles 4, 10, 11, 12, 14	Data communication to the Commission	Member States, Commission	Certified connections	FLUX TL is reused in all data communications using UN/FLUX standard	

For each digital solution, explain how the digital solution complies with the requirements and obligations of the EU cybersecurity framework, and other applicable digital policies and legislative enactments (such as eIDAS, Single Digital Gateway, etc.).

Digital solution #1

Digital and/or sectorial policy (when these are applicable)	**Explanation on how it aligns**
AI Act	N/A This system does not use AI technologies
EU Cybersecurity framework	As a back-end system developed and operated by the Commission, it adheres to the binding IT security standards and governance established in Commission Decision (EU, Euratom) 2017/46 and the cybersecurity provisions of Regulation (EU) 2018 / 1725.
eIDAS	N/A This is a machine-to-machine system with no user authentication interface.
Single Digital Gateway and IMI	N/A This is not a public-facing serivce for citizens.
Others	N/A

Digital solution #2

Digital and/or sectorial policy (when these are applicable)	Explanation on how it aligns
AI Act	N/A This system does not use AI technologies
EU Cybersecurity framework	Member States are required to ensure their FMCs implement appropriate technical, operational and organisational measures to manage cybersecurity risks.
eIDAS	N/A
Single Digital Gateway and IMI	N/A This is not a public-facing service for citizens.
Others	N/A

4.4. The proposal relies on the established governance structure of the CFP, where Member States' Fisheries Monitoring Centres (FMCs) are the single points of contact for data exchange with the Commission and other Member States. Data is then forwarded by the Commission to the SEAFO Secretariat as required.

Describe the digital public service(s) affected by the requirements

Digital public service or category of digital public services	Description	Reference(s) to the requirement(s)	Interoperable Europe Solution(s)(NOT APPLICABLE)	Other interoperability solution(s)
Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)	Satellite-based Vessel Monitoring System	Article 14		UN/FLUX
Electronic Reporting System (ERS)	Electronic Reporting System	Articles 10, 11, 12, 15, 22		UN/FLUX

Assess the impact of the requirement(s) on cross-border interoperability

Digital public service #1 and #2

Assessment	Measure(s)	Potential remaining barriers (if applicable)
Alignment with existing digital and sectorial policies. Please list the applicable digital and sectorial policies identified	The proposal is fully aligned with the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) control framework (Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 and Implementing Regulation (EU) No 404/2011). The VMS and ERS systems also fall under the scope of the NIS 2 Directive (Directive (EU) 2022/2555) as a critical public administration data system.	None. The proposal builds directly on the existing legal and technical framework.
Organisational measures for a smooth cross-border digital public services delivery. Please list the governance measures foreseen	The proposal relies on the established governance structure of the CFP, where Member States' Fisheries Monitoring Centres (FMCs) are the single points of contact for data exchange with the Commission. Data is then forwarded by the Commission to the SEAFO Secretariat as required.	Dependency on the availability and performance of the central Commission systems.
Measures taken to ensure a shared understanding of the data. Please list such measures	Semantic interoperability is ensured through the mandatory use of the UN/FLUX Data Exchange Standard, which provides a common business grammar and information model for fisheries data. It also mandates the use of internationally agreed code lists, such as FAO 3-alpha codes for species.	Differing interpretations or inconsistent application of codes at the national level could still lead to minor data discrepancies.
Use of commonly agreed open technical specifications and standards. Please list	Technical interoperability is ensured through the mandatory use of the FLUX	Varying levels of technical capacity or slower adoption of updated standards

such measures	Transportation Layer for data exchange	within some Member States' national systems.

4.5. **Measures to support digital implementation**

For each measure to support digital implementation, please fill in the table below

Description of the measure	**Reference(s) to the requirement(s)**	**Commission role** (if applicable)	**Actors to be involved** (if applicable)	**Expected timeline** (if applicable)
Delegated acts concerning SEAFO measures in the following areas: vessels requirements, marking of gear, fishing logbook and record of production, catch reports communications, specifications of vessel monitoring scheme, and VMEs area closures.	Article 42	The Commission is empowered to adopt delegated acts concerning SEAFO measures in the specified areas	EP, the Council, experts designated by MS	As needed, following SEAFO decisions.
Measure #2				
Measure #3				