

EVALUATION ROADMAP

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| TITLE OF THE EVALUATION | Evaluation of the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements (SFPAs) |
| LEAD DG – RESPONSIBLE UNIT | DG MARE – Unit B3 |
| INDICATIVE PLANNING (PLANNED START DATE AND COMPLETION DATE) | Q1/ 2021 – Q4/2021 |
| ADDITIONAL INFORMATION | Additional information on the external dimension of the Common Fisheries Policy and the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements can be found at https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/international/agreements_en . |
| The Roadmap is provided for information purposes only. It does not prejudice the final decision of the Commission on whether this initiative will be pursued or on its final content. All elements of the initiative described by the document, including its timing, are subject to change. | |

A. Context, purpose and scope of the evaluation

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| Context |
| <p>The principles of implementing the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) apply fully to its external dimension. The EU Regulation 1380/2013 on the CFP refers to the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements (SFPAs). The Agreements provide for access to resources commensurate with the interests of the Union fleet in exchange for a financial contribution from the Union and contribute to the establishment of a high-quality governance framework.</p> <p>The implementation of the SFPAs is closely linked to the work of the Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs), the implementation of the illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU) regulation and the sustainable management of external fishing fleets (SMEFF). SFPAs have strong linkages with third countries' cooperation and implementing policies supporting their sustainable development.</p> <p>There are currently 20 SFPAs mostly in West Africa, in the Indian Ocean, the Pacific Ocean and with Greenland. A total of 9 agreements are dormant as they do not have an implementing protocol in place. On 01.01.2021, 11 SFPAs are in force and have an implementing protocol in force or in provisional application.</p> <p>There are two main types of SFPAs: the bilateral agreements for highly migratory species, i.e., tunas and tuna-like species such as sharks and swordfish (8 protocols in force) and multi-species agreements (3 protocols in force).</p> <p>Currently, 12 EU Member States have active vessels under SFPAs. SFPAs provide access to EU vessels to 9.339.568 km² of waters in third countries. Between 2015 and 2020, 4.744 fishing licences have been requested and issued within the framework of the SFPAs involving 350 EU vessels and 1 561 417 Tn of catches. Between 2016 and 2019, the annual average catches amounted to 690 000 Tn with an average annual value of €290 million. The 2016 report on the impact of SFPAs on employment shows that, overall, the EU's fisheries agreements sustain about 23,320 jobs in the EU and third countries.</p> <p>SFPAs' implementing protocols set the technical conditions for accessing the fishing ground in a partner country. In exchange for providing access to resources consistent with the interests of the Union fleet, the EU budget provides a financial compensation (Article 32.1 of the CFP 'Basic' Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013) which has two components: access to fisheries resources and a financial contribution to sectoral support. On top of that, licence fees and other taxes and contributions are paid by the vessels owners to the partner country. In general, sectoral support financial contribution assists the priorities and actions at national level in the context of the implementation of national fisheries and maritime policies and the development of the sector.</p> |
| Purpose and scope |
| <p>The Commission will launch an evaluation of the SFPAs in 2020/beginning of 2021. The objective and scope of this evaluation is to provide DG MARE with a thorough assessment of the SFPAs by producing an overall analysis of their features, content, implementation, results and impacts and support their future improvement.</p> <p>This evaluation will analyse the governance framework that the SFPAs create, the impacts that they have in the EU and the partner countries, and the extent to which the expected objectives are achieved. An in-depth analysis</p> |

of the sectoral support will be an important part of the evaluation. The evaluation will have a global, regional and national scope. It will take into consideration the current, and when possible future, legal and political context of the fisheries policy and related EU policies, and analyse the role and contribution of the SFPAs to these policies, their contribution to the sustainable development of the partner countries and the overall cooperation between the EU and third countries. The evaluation will analyse and respond to all elements included in the better regulation guidelines¹. It will also identify areas for improvement and make relevant recommendations.

The results of the evaluation will provide fundamental elements to understand the impacts that the SFPAs have had and lessons learnt from their implementation. The evaluation will bring evidence on the SFPAs contribution to EU policies and the synergies created. The results of this evaluation are expected to feed the report on the functioning of the CFP foreseen in 2022.

Overall, the evaluation will assess; 1) the fit for purpose and added value of the SFPAs, 2) the extent to which the SFPAs' expected objectives and results fulfil the needs and expectations of EU in its different dimensions, 3) the overall global, regional and type of agreement coherence of the current SFPAs network, 4) the contribution of the SFPAs to the development and reinforcement of the technical and scientific capacities, and 5) the sectoral support component with a global and per country scope.

The scope of the evaluation will cover, in general, the current protocol in application and the previous one. Often, protocols implementing SFPAs have a duration of 4 to 6 years.

B. Better regulation

Consultation of citizens and stakeholders

A public consultation is foreseen to support the evaluation. This will be done beginning 2021. This consultation will be done through a questionnaire aimed at gathering information in support of the evaluation (for example understanding the public perception and opinion on the SFPAs, their definition, implementation, monitoring and financing). It will be performed in line with the EU Better Regulation guidelines.

The consultation will allow having the views from EU institutions, national or local administrations, industry, NGOs and citizens in both the EU and third countries.

Data collection and methodology

The documents and data supporting the implementation of SFPAs and the SFPAs' ex ante and ex-post evaluations² provide a lot of information to conduct this evaluation. Moreover, public and targeted consultations, interviews with national administrations, staff from EU Delegations, industry, NGOs and interested parties will also be fundamental to complement the analysis of the present situation and prognosis for the future.

Reports from the European Parliament³, the 2020 JRC Knowledge Review report on fisheries and food nutrition in developing countries⁴ from NGOs⁵ and the 2015 report from the Court of Auditors⁶ will also be important sources of information.

¹https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/law-making-process/planning-and-proposing-law/better-regulation-why-and-how/better-regulation-guidelines-and-toolbox_en

² The ex-ante and ex post evaluations, which are publicly available at the Publications Office of the EU website are conducted before the negotiation of a fisheries agreement or protocol with the purpose to assess the needs and benefits.

³ [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document.html?reference=IPOL_STU\(2019\)629202](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document.html?reference=IPOL_STU(2019)629202)

⁴ https://ec.europa.eu/knowledge4policy/publication/jrc-knowledge-review-2020-%E2%80%9Cfisheries-food-nutrition-security-developing-countries%E2%80%9D_en

⁵ https://wwfeu.awsassets.panda.org/downloads/ble_cffa_wwf_sfpa10keyrecommendations_en.pdf

⁶ <https://www.eca.europa.eu/en/Pages/DocItem.aspx?did=33233>