



НАЦИОНАЛНА АГЕНЦИЯ
ЗА РИБАРСТВО И АКВАКУЛТУРА
25. 03 2015
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15
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AGREEMENT

Between

NATIONAL AGENCY FOR FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE OF BULGARIA
and
NATIONAL AGENCY FOR FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE OF ROMANIA

Today 25. MARCH..... 2015, in SOPIA....., between:

The NATIONAL AGENCY FOR FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURES OF BULGARIA, Sofia, Hristo Botev bul. 17, BULSTAT 000649519, tel.: 02/805 16 66, fax: 02/805 16 86, represented by Yancho Yanev - Executive director, on one side

and

The NATIONAL AGENCY FOR FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURES OF ROMANIA, Str Transilvaniei, nr. 2, sectorul 1, Bucuresti, represented by Cristinel George Gherghisan – President, on the other side,

The two parties having regarded to:

- Regulation (EC) No 199/2008 which establishes the Community framework for the collection, management and use of data for the purpose of providing a solid basis for scientific analyses for the field of fisheries and of providing for the formulation of sound scientific advice for the implementation of the common fisheries policy (CFP).
- Commission Decision of 18 December 2009, 2010/93/EU adopting multiannual Community programmes for the collection, management and use of data in the fisheries sector for the period 2011-2013.
- Commission Implementing Decision C(2013) 5568 final /30.08.2013 extending the national programmes for the collection of primary biological, technical, environmental and socio-economic data for fisheries for the period 2011-2013 to the period 2014-2016.
- Report of the 10th Regional Coordination Meeting for the Mediterranean and Black Sea.
- Bulgarian national legislation on fisheries: Fishery and Aquaculture Act (FAA)/2013.
- Romanian national legislation on fisheries: G.E.O. No. 23/2008 on Fisheries and Aquaculture.

HAVE AGREED ON THE FOLLOWING:

Art. 1. Scope of the collaboration

Cooperation in implementing the National Programmes for collection, management and use of data for marine fisheries in Bulgaria and Romania, in accordance with the objectives of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) in the Black Sea.

Art. 2 (1). Objectives of the collaboration

The present Cooperation Agreement covers activities included in the following modules of the Multi-annual community programme for data collection (Commission Decision 2010/93/EU):

- a. Module of evaluation of the fishing sector
 - Section for the collection of biological variables
 - Section for research surveys at sea
- b. Module of evaluation of the effects of the fishing sector on the marine ecosystems
- c. Module for management and use of the data covered by the data collection framework

(2) The main objectives of this Collaboration Agreement are:

- Cooperation on conducting research surveys-at-sea;
- Adoption of common methodology when conducting research surveys-at-sea;
- Adoption of a coordination and sharing best practices between the national systems;
- Increasing the efficiency of scientific work of the institutes and the accuracy of collected data and analyses;

(3) Specific objectives of the collaboration:

- Harmonization of the sampling methods and data analyses (characteristics of the nets used, biological parameters to be sampled, statistical analyses);
- Harmonization of methods for stock assessment of commercially important fish species in the Romanian and Bulgarian marine zones (growth parameters, mortality rates);
- Collected data to be used for the development of indicators to assess the effects of fisheries on marine ecosystems;
- To protect and conserve living aquatic resources and their sustainable exploitation through a common approach on the implementation of management measures.

Art. 3. Participating institutions

Both Agencies for Fisheries and Aquaculture from Bulgaria and Romania are the national institutions responsible for implementation of the Fisheries Data Collection Program in each country.

For the implementation of scientific objectives, the participating institutes are:

• *In Bulgaria:*

- Institute of Fishing Resources, Varna (IFR)
- Institute of Oceanology of the Bulgarian Academy of Science, Varna (IOBAS)
- Institute for fisheries and aquaculture, Plovdiv

• *In Romania:*

- National Institute for Marine Research and Development *Grigore Antipa* (NIMRD), Constanta

Art. 4. Planned activities for 2014-2020:

1. Research surveys at sea:

During the period of agreement (2015 - 2020), each country will undertake annually research surveys in their territorial waters and EEZ under their jurisdiction - demersal trawl surveys and acoustic surveys, following common methodology that is going to be adopted by the countries and that will follow the methodology already adopted by other EU countries (MEDIAS and MEDITS). The survey number and the target species can be amended following Regional Coordination Meetings recommendations subject to EC-DG MARE approval. National scientific teams are responsible for collection and analysis of data, stock assessments, providing information on biological variables and reporting only for their national waters (territorial waters and EEZ).

2. Harmonization of biological data sampling and analysis:

- Sampling of the catch and landings: age, size, spawning intensity, growth parameters, mortality rates;

3. Harmonization of stock assessment methods:

- Methodology for demersal Trawl Surveys;
- Methodology for hydroacoustic surveys;
- Methodology for collection and analysis of biological variables;

Art. 5. Responsibilities of the partners:

1. The partners must harmonize the methodologies used for biological sampling/data processing and stock assessment according to the best available methodologies following suggestions from GFCM/STECF and, as necessary, to cooperate with the third countries in the Black Sea region in order to improve the quality of the data and the stock assessments interferences.
2. The partners shall take the necessary steps to coordinate the sampling methodology in similar segments/métiers. These methodologies are to be specified at the Regional coordination meeting between representatives of NAFA and scientists from the two countries.
3. The National Agencies for Fisheries and Aquaculture of Bulgaria and Romania are obliged to contract the respective national research institutes, responsible for the surveys, ensuring the Programme and Agreement implementation for each year.
4. The contracted research institutes shall organize meeting annually before starting the surveys for planning of the surveys-at-sea (starting dates, simultaneously in both areas) and harmonize the methodology that shall be used.
5. The two parties shall carry out the pelagic and bottom trawl surveys in the territorial waters of their respective countries, and, in order to facilitate the harmonization of the methodologies used, are committed to ensure the presence of scientists of the country's research institutes on board of the research vessels of the other contracting party, depending of the case.
6. The undersigned parties engage to collaborate when working on the next National Programmes for Fisheries Data Collection (NPFDC), submitted for approval to be co-financed by EC and national NAFA (for 2014-2020).
7. The procedures and methodologies to be used in collecting and analyzing data and in estimating their accuracy and precision shall be included in the national programmes.
8. In accordance with the acting legislation in Bulgaria and Romania, respectively, the partners commit to provide the financial means for the scientific surveys and working meetings (the cost will be covered by national NAFA with contribution of European

Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF). Each party will cover the costs of the surveys (according to Appendix IX – List of research survey at sea, of Decision (EC)93/2010) for own research vessel in its national waters and the costs of participation of its scientific team on board the other research vessel during the surveys execution.

9. The data obtained is to be stored in national computer databases so that they are accessible to the Partners and Commission, and could also be transmitted to end-users.
10. The Partners and the Commission should coordinate and cooperate in the relevant international scientific bodies. Priority should also be given to ensure the attendance of scientific personnel in the expert groups conducting the scientific evaluation needed to achieve the goals of the CFP.
11. Recommendations made at the Regional Coordination Meetings shall be taken into account when drafting and amending the National Programmes during the programming period.
12. All the expenses for specialists (surveys, data analyses, data managements, working meetings, etc.) will be supported by the NP under EC Regulations.
13. Each year, both parties shall have a meeting aiming exchanging of data, best practices and knowledge, and discussing the results of the Agreement implementation for the previous year. The meeting shall take place at a date prior Annual Report Data Collection submission to CE/DG MARE, under the commitments to the EU legislation on DCF.

FOR NAFA BULGARIA

Yancho Yanev
Executive director NAFA - Bulgaria



FOR NAFA ROMANIA

Cristinel George Gherghisan
President NAFA - Romania

