



**EFAFA**  
EXECUTIVE AGENCY FOR  
FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE



AGENCIJA NAȚIONALĂ  
PENTRU PESCUIT ȘI ACVACULTURĂ  
**anpa**

ИЗПЪЛНИТЕЛНА АГЕНЦИЯ  
ПО РИБАРСТВО И АКВАКУЛТУРИ

Вх. № 12-09-582  
11.10 2021 год.  
Бургас

## AGREEMENT

between

**NATIONAL AGENCY FOR FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE OF ROMANIA**

and

**EXECUTIVE AGENCY FOR FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE OF BULGARIA**

The **NATIONAL AGENCY FOR FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE OF ROMANIA**, (NAFA RO), 29, Sf. Vineri Str, Floor 3, București, represented by Eng. Ioan DOBROTCHI - President, on one side, and

The **EXECUTIVE AGENCY FOR FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE OF BULGARIA** (EFAFA BG), 1 Aleksandar Batenberg str., Burgas 8000, Bulgaria, Phone: (+35956) 87 60 60, Fax: (+35956) 87 60 90, e-mail: [office@iafa.government.bg](mailto:office@iafa.government.bg), represented by Assoc. Prof. Galin Nikolov, PhD executive director, on the other side,

The two parties having regarded to:

- Regulation (EU) 2017/1004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2017 on the establishment of a Union framework for the collection, management and use of data in the fisheries sector and support for scientific advice regarding the common fisheries policy and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 199/2008 (recast) 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 DELEGATED DECISION (EU) 2021/1167 of 27 April 2021 establishing the multiannual Union programme for the collection and management of biological, environmental, technical and socioeconomic data in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors from 2022;
- COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION (EU) 2021/1168 of 27 April 2021 establishing the list of mandatory research surveys at sea and thresholds as part of the multiannual Union programme for the collection and management of data in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors from 2022;
- Commission Decision of 18 December 2009, 2010/93/EU adopting multiannual Community programs for the collection, management and use of data in the fisheries sector for the period 2011-2013;
- Report of the 10<sup>th</sup> Regional Coordination Meeting for the Mediterranean and Black Sea;
- Commission Delegated Decision (EU) 2019/910 of 13 March 2019 establishing the multiannual Union programme for the collection and management of biological environmental, technical and socioeconomic data in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors;
- Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2019/909 of 18 February 2019 establishing the list of mandatory surveys and thresholds for the purposes of the multiannual Union programme for the collection and management of data in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors;
- Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2016/1701 of 19 August 2016 laying down rules on the format for the submission of work plans for data collection in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors – (notified under document C(2016) 5304);
- Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2018/1283 of 24 August 2018 laying down rules on the

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format and timetables for the submission of annual data collection reports in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors (notified under document C(2018) 5270);

- Commission Decision of 30.5.2016, Brussels, 30.5.2016 C(2016) 3301 final, establishing horizontal rules on the creation and operation of Commission expert groups;
- The new expected Framework on Data collection legislation would be adopted by E.C. applicable for the next EMFAF 2021-2027 programming period including data collection, that will be applied for actual Agreement;
- Bulgarian national legislation on fisheries: Fishery and Aquaculture Act (FAA)/2020;
- 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 the implementation of the multiannual Union programme for collection, management and use of data in the fisheries sector and support for scientific advice regarding the common fisheries policy at national level in Bulgaria and Romania, in accordance with the objectives of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) in the Black Sea.

### **Art. 2. Objectives of the collaboration**

The present Cooperation Agreement covers activities included in the following modules activities of the Multi-annual community program for data collection, format proposal under legislative procedure for adoption, referring to:

- Evaluation of the fishing sector – general, results, including pilot studies, regular sampling;
- Data collection activities;
- Planning of sampling for biological variables;
- Recreational fisheries;
- Sampling plan description for biological data;
- Research surveys at sea;
- Fishing activity variables data collection strategy;
- Incidental by-catch of vulnerable species;
- Economic and social variables for fisheries data collection;
- Economic and social variables for aquaculture data collection;
- Economic and social variables for fish processing data collection;
- Quality report for biological data sampling scheme;
- Quality report for socioeconomic data sampling scheme.

#### 1. 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;

#### 2. 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 authorities responsible for implementation of the multiannual Union programme at national level.

For the implementation of scientific objectives, the participating institutes that could be accompanied by other scientific bodies authorized in each country are:

*\* In Bulgaria:*

Institute of Fish Resources, Varna, Agricultural Academy (IFR);  
Institute of Oceanology, Varna, Bulgarian Academy of Science, (IO-BAS);  
Institute of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Plovdiv, Agricultural Academy (IFA).

*\* In Romania:*

National Institute for Marine Research and Development *Grigore Antipa* (NIMRD), Constanta,  
Institute for Research-Development for Aquatic Ecology, Fisheries and Aquaculture (IRDFAEFA), Galati,  
Research and Development Station for Fisheries (RDSF), Nucet.

### **Art. 4. Planned activities for 2021-2027:**

1. Research surveys at sea:

During the period of agreement (2021 - 2027), each country will undertake annually research surveys in their territorial waters and EEZ under their jurisdiction - bottom trawl surveys and pelagic trawl surveys, following common methodology that is going to be agreed by the parties and that will follow the methodology already adopted at EU level – regional, i.e.: GFCM methodologies, MEDIAS and MEDITS.

The number of surveys and the target species could be amended according to the changes in the European legislation or in accordance to the Regional Coordination Group for the Mediterranean and Black Sea and GFCM recommendations.

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: length, age, weight, sex ratio, maturity, fecundity, spawning intensity, growth parameters, mortality rates, and stomach content.

3. Harmonization of stock assessment methods:

Methodology for Bottom Trawl Surveys;

Methodology for Pelagic Trawl surveys;

Methodology for collection and analysis of biological variables from biological sampling from landings and by observers on board.

### **Art. 5. Responsibilities of the parties:**

1. The parties shall use harmonized methodologies for biological sampling/data processing and stock assessment according to the best available methodologies following suggestions from GFCM/STECF, GFCM - WGBS 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 parties shall take the necessary steps to coordinate the sampling methodology in similar segments /métiers.

3. The methodologies should be specified at the Regional coordination meeting between representatives of NAFA, Romania, EAFA, Bulgaria and responsible scientists from the two countries.

4. The National Agencies for Fisheries and Aquaculture of Bulgaria and Romania should contract the respective national research institutes with the responsibilities for the surveys, in order to ensure the implementation of the Programme for each year.

5. The research institutes could organize annual meetings before starting the surveys for planning of the surveys-at-sea (starting dates, simultaneously in both areas, etc.) and harmonize/update the methodology

that shall be used.

6. The 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.

7. The undersigned parties engage to collaborate when working on the next National Work Plans for Fisheries Data Collection (NWPs), submitted for approval and under co-financed by EC and national management authorities (for 2021-2027).

8. The procedures and methodologies to be used in collecting and analysing data and in estimating their accuracy and precision shall be included in the national Work Plans.

9. In accordance with the acting legislation in Bulgaria and Romania, respectively, the parties commit to provide the financial costs for the scientific surveys established in their countries. Each party shall cover the costs for their own surveys (in regards to the List of research surveys at sea listed in Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2019/909 of 18 February 2019), for the research vessel for their own surveys and the costs for the participation of its scientific team on board the research vessel during the surveys execution of the other country.

10. The data obtained during the surveys shall be stored in national electronic databases in order to be provided to the Commission, to the parties in this agreement, when is needed, and could also be used under data transmission procedures/commitments to the end-users.

11. The parties should coordinate and cooperate in the relevant international scientific bodies. Also, priority should be given to ensure the attendance of experts in the expert groups conducting the scientific evaluation needed to achieve the objectives of the CFP.

12. Recommendations made at the Regional Coordination Group shall be applied when drafting and amending the National Work Plans during the programming period.

13. All the expenses for specialists (surveys, data analyses, data managements, working meetings, etc.) shall be supported through NWPs under EU Funds.

14. Each year, both countries shall have at least one meeting aiming to exchange data, best practices and knowledge and analyzing data and results of the implementation of the agreement for the previous year. On the meeting/s could be coordinated also the activities for the submission of the national work plans and annual reports.

#### Art. 6. Period of the agreement

This agreement is applicable for the period 2021-2027.

### SIGNATORY PARTIES,

**NATIONAL AGENCY FOR FISHERIES  
AND AQUACULTURE OF ROMANIA  
PRESIDENT**

Eng. Ioan DOBROTCI



**EXECUTIVE AGENCY FOR FISHERIES  
AND AQUACULTURE OF BULGARIA  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,**

Assoc. Prof. Galin NIKOLOV, PhD

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Nikolov

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