



## **Increase EU Support for Data Collection, Monitoring, Control and Enforcement PECH vote on 7 March 2019 on the post-2020 European Maritime and Fisheries Fund**

**Rapporteur: Gabriel Mato (EPP) C8-0270/2018 – 2018/0210(COD)**

Dear Member of the Fisheries Committee of the European Parliament,

Your vote on the post-2020 European Maritime and Fisheries fund (EMFF) on 7 March 2019 should help Member States to comply with their data collection, monitoring, control and enforcement obligations under the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), the Data Collection Regulation and the Control Regulation. Birdlife, ClientEarth, Seas At Risk and WWF **would like to ask you to expand EU support for data collection, monitoring, control and enforcement by increasing the ring-fencing dedicated to these activities from 15% to at least 25% of the budgetary allocation of Member States.**

The amount of money currently invested in monitoring, control and enforcement is not sufficient enough to guarantee that the control system of EU Member States is effective or that it is robust enough to prevent illegal operators to have access to EU funds. This has been reflected in several reports published by national competent authorities and civil society organisations.<sup>1</sup> The revision of the EU Fisheries Control System will strengthen the control, monitoring and enforcement framework throughout the fisheries sector. In order to ensure compliance with CFP rules and the new monitoring and reporting requirements, substantial financial support is needed, such as to establish control observer programmes, to train inspectors, to supply inspectors and fishers with the right equipment and to ensure that the European Fisheries Control Agency has the resources to coordinate all EU data and information. Financial support is also particularly needed for small-scale fisheries to make their data collection electronically based.

The CFP also requires Member States to collect the relevant data in the common interest of better fisheries management as set out in the Data Collection Regulation. This includes implementing scientific observer programmes for which the EMFF should provide substantive assistance. Moreover, it is important that the EU's fishing fleet regularly report data in accordance with their legal obligations, including on current missing data for deep-sea stocks<sup>2</sup> as well as on the environmental impact of fishing activities on the marine environment.

Sustainable fisheries management can only take place if there is sufficient funding for fisheries and environmental research, data collection, monitoring, control and enforcement. These expenditures are in the collective interest of the fishing sector and the wider public. Furthermore, timely and open source data can contribute to building trust among scientists, decision-makers and other stakeholders, which is a vital precondition for effective fisheries management.

We therefore ask you to **support amendments 51, 52, 53, 436, 437, 439 and 920 and reject amendments 199, 200, 775, 776 and 998.**

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<sup>1</sup> ClientEarth, "Slipping through the net - The control and enforcement of fisheries in France, Ireland, the Netherlands, Poland, Spain and the UK (England)," published in September 2017, available at <https://www.documents.clientearth.org/library/download-info/slipping-through-the-net-the-control-and-enforcement-of-fisheries-in-france-ireland-the-netherlands-poland-spain-and-the-uk-england/>. See also extract from Rigsrevisionen's report submitted to the Public Accounts Committee on support to the fisheries sector from the EMFF, published in October 2018, available at <http://uk.rigsrevisionen.dk/media/2104934/1-2018.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> Communication from the Commission on the State of Play of the Common Fisheries Policy and Consultation on the Fishing Opportunities for 2018, COM(2017) 368, page 4.