



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES
FISHERIES POLICY MEDITERRANEAN AND BLACK SEA
FISHERIES CONTROL AND INSPECTIONS

SUMMARY REPORT
OF THE RESULTS OF THE
PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON
EVALUATION OF
REGULATION (EC) 1224/2009 ON FISHERIES
CONTROL

Evaluation of Regulation (EC) 1224/2009 on Fisheries Control

Public Consultation from 18.12.2015 to 13.03.2016

This public consultation is designed to support the evaluation of the Fisheries Control Regulation, for assessing its impacts on the Common Fisheries Policy five years after the entry into force.

The evaluation will address a range of different themes, including whether the objectives of the Control Regulation are being delivered, and whether the requirements of the Control Regulation are effective and suitable to achieve the objectives of the Common Fisheries Policy.

This public consultation is an important part of the evaluation process to gather the views of the citizens and stakeholders on the themes addressed by the evaluation and will be complemented by targeted consultation of key stakeholders.

The Commission would like to gather views on the following themes:

- Promotion of the level playing field
- Development of a culture of compliance and respect of the Common Fisheries Policy rules
- New instruments of the Commission to ensure the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy by Member States
- Simplification and reduction of administrative burden
- Others

Depending on the interest and background of those completing the questionnaire, not all of the questions need to be answered. However, you are encouraged to answer as many questions as possible and so support the evaluation of the Control Regulation.

All citizens, companies, organisations and public authorities are welcome to contribute to this consultation.

Contributions are particularly sought from fishers (fishermen, fish farmers, fishery organisations/associations), retailers (individual companies and organisations/associations), consumers organisations/associations) public authorities (national and regionals), as well as competition researchers and scientists.

Comments from other stakeholders who have experience or knowledge of the enforcement of the EU Fisheries Control System are also welcome.

The contributions to the consultation and summary of the results can be found here:
http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/maritimeaffairs_fisheries/consultations/control-regulation-evaluation/index_en.htm

The consultation is available in all languages.

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SYNOPSIS REPORT OF THE RESULTS OF THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE

EVALUATION OF REGULATION (EC) 1224/2009 ON FISHERIES CONTROL

1. THE CONSULTATION

On 18 December 2015, the European Commission launched a public consultation on the evaluation of Regulation (EC) 1224/2009 on Fisheries Control. The purpose of this consultation was to gather input from all stakeholders, private and public, as well as international governmental and non-governmental organisations on implementation and impacts of the Fisheries Control Regulation five years after entry into force. The consultation process ended on 13 March 2016.

A total of 462 contributions were received: 441 replies to the online questionnaire, 16 of which from registered organisations, plus 21 contributions sent by individual stakeholders.

Different types of stakeholders have answered to the consultation: Advisory Councils, EU organisations, environmental and industrial NGOs, business representatives, national fishery organisations and national control authorities.

The views summarised in this document are those of stakeholders and do not represent the views of the Commission.

2. PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS

As illustrated by the table below, most of the responses to the online questionnaire came from citizens (84%), followed by businesses (8%) NGOs (3%), public authorities (2%) and scientists (1%). 16 of the 441 responses were from organisations registered in the Transparency Register, a list of those is reported in Annex I.

Type of group	Number of answers	Ratio (%)
Individual	371	84
Fisher/Fish Farmer	16	4
Fishing/Aquaculture association/organisation	17	4
Retailer	0	0
Retailer association/organisation	2	<1
Consumer association/organisation	1	<1
National authority	8	2
Local/Regional authority	2	<1
Academic/Scientist/Researcher	6	1
Non-governmental organisation	12	3

(NGO)		
European Institution	0	0
International body	0	0
Other	6	1
TOTAL	441	

Most of the replies to the online questionnaire came from Ireland (68%), followed by United Kingdom (14%). France contributed with 4%, Spain 3%, Germany and Italy 2% each, Belgium, Denmark, Portugal 1% each. Netherlands, Sweden, Cyprus, Finland, Austria, Estonia, Latvia, Slovenia, Slovakia contributed with less than 1% each. No contributions were received from the other EU countries.

Country	Number of answers	Ratio (%)
AT – Austria	1	0.23
BE – Belgium	6	1.36
BG – Bulgaria	0	0
CY – Cyprus	2	0.45
CZ - Czech Republic	0	0
DE – Germany	7	1.59
DK – Denmark	5	1.13
EE – Estonia	1	0.23
EL – Greece	0	0
ES – Spain	12	2.72
FI – Finland	2	0.45
FR – France	16	3.63
HR – Croatia	0	0
HU – Hungary	0	0
IE – Ireland	301	68.25
IT – Italy	7	1.59
LT – Lithuania	0	0
LU – Luxembourg	0	0
LV – Latvia	1	0.23
MT – Malta	0	0
NL – Netherlands	3	0.68
PL – Poland	0	0
PT – Portugal	5	1.13
RO – Romania	0	0
SE – Sweden	3	0.68
SL – Slovenia	1	0.23
SK – Slovakia	1	0.23
UK - United Kingdom	61	13.83
Other	6	1.36
TOTAL	441	

21 individual stakeholders submitted a position paper among them 4 Advisory Councils, 4 EU industrial organisations, 4 Environmental NGOs, plus 5 National Organisations, and 4 National Authorities. A detailed list is provided in Annex I.

3. SUMMARY OF RESPONSES

A summary of the contribution received is provided below according to the five different sections investigated.

- Promotion of the level playing field
- Development of a culture of compliance and respect of the Common Fisheries Policy rules
- New instruments of the Commission to ensure the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy by Member States
- Simplification and reduction of administrative burden
- Others

For each section a general statement is provided summarising the common position of the stakeholders, followed by the position of specific stakeholders (if this was not included or differed from the above). Tools and instruments of common interest that received particular attention in the position papers submitted by relevant stakeholders are also highlighted in the sub-section 'on specific tools or issues'.

All the original contributions received are published on http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/maritimeaffairs_fisheries/consultations/control-regulation-evaluation/index_en.htm.

A summary of the responses to the online questionnaire is provided in Annex II.

3.1. Promotion of the level playing field

3.1.1 General

Stakeholders state that having a uniform, harmonised and global fisheries control system at European level shall be a priority of the Union. Assuring level playing field among Member States, among fisheries, among EU fleets fishing in or outside EU waters and for both EU and non-EU fleets fishing in EU waters is one of the pillars for an effectively functioning CFP. While a lot has been achieved thanks to the new system in force since 2010, there is still room for improvement and further commitment is required from Member States and from the European Commission for a coherent application. Implementation of provisions on sanctions, inspections, traceability, vessel monitoring and catch reporting tools needs particular attention. Development of EU standards, harmonise approaches for control activities and

shared IT platform for data exchange are essential tools for achieving a uniform level playing field and the Commission and EFCA should continue the work initiated in this fields.

According to 50% of all responses to the online questionnaire, the level playing field among Member States did not improve with the new system, while 34% of the responses are positive (among them 12 of the registered organisations). According to 49% of the responses the level playing field did not improve for fisheries and fishermen, while it did for 38% of the responses (among which 10 of the registered organisations).

Position of specific stakeholders

Advisory Councils

- The Commission needs to ensure level playing field in relation to control in international waters of all RFMOs.
- Need to establish a level-playing field between EU vessels and between EU and third countries vessels fishing in EU waters.
- Improve implementation for achieving level playing field.

Member States

- Better enforcement of the current system: An assessment for a better monitoring implementation of the Control Regulation should be done.
- Assurance of level playing field in all EU MS particularly as regards small vessels.
- Further steps would need to be taken to create a level playing field between Member States.

NGOs

- To promote harmonisation and a level playing field, better use must be made of the common tools at the disposal of the competent authorities of the Member States and the Commission. For example, the role of the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA), coordinating inspections efforts between EU Member States and providing common training to inspectors could be reinforced.
- As Guardian of the Treaties, the Commission has a duty to monitor implementation by Member States and take the required action when they fail to ensure a level playing field in terms of control, enforcement and sanctions towards their vessels and nationals.

3.1.2 On specific tools or issues

Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)

According to 66% of responses to the online questionnaire, among them 13 registered organisations, Vessel Monitoring System (VMS), Automated Identification System (AIS), Vessel Detection System (VDS) improved monitoring of vessel operations.

Advisory Councils

- Harmonize/simplify electronic tools (AIS, VMS, ERS, etc).

- Administrative requirements & transmission of position data must be applied and compulsory also for third country fishing vessels as for EU fishing vessels.

NGOs

- The harmonized use of technology in the control system (such as VMS on vessels above 12 metres) is a welcome step towards better controls. Use of electronic systems has the potential to greatly facilitate the exchange of data and information among relevant authorities. This potential is yet to be fully realised for all vessels.

AIS

Advisory Councils

- Regulate access of the use of AIS to guarantee confidentiality rights & improve the exchange of information on control implementation between MS and operators.

National organizations

- Concerning AIS data security: regulate access to and use of these data, encrypt data.

NGOs

- It is paramount to improve the monitoring of potential abuses or misuse of the technologies (e.g. turning off AIS without proper justification) and to sanction abuses, if confirmed.

Certification and verification of engine power

40% of respondent to the online questionnaire, among them 7 of the registered organisations, consider that certification and verification of engine power is not an effective tool to significantly reduce fishing efforts. 26% answered positively, among them 6 registered organisations.

Industrial operators

- Article 40: A more nuanced approach would be desirable on the question of interpretation as to how de-rated engines should be treated.
- The issue of safety should be taken into consideration.

NGOs

- It is essential to improve the accuracy of data used for management and control of fishing activities by EU fishing vessels. This is most needed when it comes to certification and verification of engine power: in this case, a revision of Regulation No 2930/86 could be envisaged, or the adoption of new rules to more

precisely measure engine power or the use of new proxies to measure fishing capacity.

- There is repeatedly noted circumstantial evidence, from the field and from data analysis that fishermen and member states are continuing to under-declare engine power on national vessel registers and the EU fleet register.

Electronic Reporting System (ERS)

The use of an electronic system for data recording and data exchange has been positively assessed by the majority of the respondent to the online questionnaire. The use of ERS increased the general quality of data collected (55%), the crosscheck of reported fishing activities with VMS data improved reliability of data collected (65%) and thanks to the validation system catch data is more reliable, complete and consistent (46%). The prompt submission of catch data also allows for more efficient and effective planning of inspections (65%), and cost effective management of the control policy (43%). The electronic system for data recording and data exchange supports cooperation and coordination of activities among Member States (48%), and facilitates the communication among Member States (55%) and Member States and the Commission (57%).

Advisory Councils

- Harmonize/simplify electronic tools (AIS, VMS, ERS, etc).
- Transmission of fishing logbook data must be applied and compulsory also for third country fishing vessels as for EU fishing vessels.
- No derogations ERS for vessels 12-15m

Member States

- Need to introduce common commencement dates for the requirements on the electronic registration system.
- The EU should avoid changing the rules of the complicated IT systems. The required IT systems are now running quite well but still have to improve the functionality of IT systems and data sharing.

National organizations

- On dependence on electronics: work on emergency systems and the possibilities for ships to come out at sea with those in place. Mutualize software for harmonization to reduce maintenance costs.

NGOs

- EMFF funding should be made available to incentivise the installing of electronic equipment and to train operators in the use of such systems.
- Means to facilitate the exchange of the results of these successful practices should be made available in a common EU database.

Transparency

37% of the respondents to the online questionnaire (among which 7 registered organisations) do not consider the current system of data sharing sufficiently transparent, while 30% (among which 5 registered organisations) consider it transparent enough.

Advisory Councils

- Transparency is an issue. Excessive confidentiality of measures applicable in Member States hinders level playing field. Absence of official and centralised publications of inspection or survey plan is an example.

Member States

- The impact on level playing field of certain provisions which are discretionary to MS is an issue (e.g. "points system") . More transparency is also desirable, so that the Member States can better align effects of their decisions.

NGOs

- Improvements in transparency regarding the sanctioning schemes of EU Member States will help promote the establishment of a level playing field.
- Urge the Commission to establish rules or guidance to improve the transparency of data on compliance and enforcement, at all levels (i.e. at the level of the EU, member states and the level of fishermen/fisheries).
- The Commission has the responsibility to ensure the full implementation of the control regulation by the member states. It should promote transparency and tools to make information available more easily accessible in a centralised location.
- The Commission should operate transparently and co-operate with all stakeholders in holding member states and, with the help of member states, fishermen to account. Repeat offenders should be named.
- Transparency is key to ascertain whether a level playing field exists. Information on whether and how member states are sanctioning different types of infringements, and whether sanctions are applied uniformly regardless of a vessel's flag, must be made available to stakeholders and the public. Transparency will also allow an assessment of whether sanctions have a sufficient deterrent effect, for instance by bringing levels of recidivism to the fore.

Control and monitoring efforts

Industrial operators

- Controls are essential but should never make fishing operations less efficient or move costs from the control authorities to the industry.

Member States

- One single control regulation: If there is a real need for new control provisions these should be included in the Control Regulation to keep this regulation as the single one.
- Considers that it should be well assessed whether the regulatory framework be adapted in a way to ensure sufficient flexibility to allow the adaptation of the control legislation to the activities of the operators.
- Further initiatives shall be taken to regionalise the application of the Control Regulation provided that a sufficient basic set of rules is maintained at the general level.
- Attention should be put on simplifying and improving the functionality and the conditions of the control systems at national/regional level.
- Procedures and Monitoring, Control and Surveillance tools across Member States should be more standardized.
- Benchmarks for inspections: The Control Regulation should not include any benchmarks. Benchmarks should be set in the risk management and should be flexible.

NGOs

- Exemptions and margins of tolerance will undermine the effectiveness of the Control Regulation. As of today, it is clearly not a priority to look at these issues, as the focus should be on the full implementation of the existing provisions, but this will certainly be an area of discussion in the future.
- It is necessary to carry out sufficient controls at sea, since a number of infringements can more easily be uncovered in situ, such as illegal discarding or the use of inappropriate nets and meshes. Such controls should remain a complement to (and not be a substitute for) controls on land.
- The Control Regulation should complement the Council Regulation 1005/2008 establishing a Community system to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (“the IUU Regulation”) and the Council Regulation 1006/2008 concerning authorizations for fishing activities of Community fishing vessels outside Community waters and the access of third country vessels to Community waters (“the fishing authorizations Regulation”); together these form the three pillars of the EU control system.
- The EMFF provides substantial amounts of funding for member states to invest in control measures. The Commission should avail itself of every opportunity to enforce this conditionality as a means to incentivise member states to adequately implement the CFP, including provisions relating to control.
- The European Commission should play a much stronger role in ensuring that information on control and enforcement is available in a centralised location, in a comparable format. Preferably, this information should be made public.

- Greater political will is required from Member States and EU institutions in order to deliver effective implementation of, and compliance with the new CFP requirements.

Small Scale Fisheries

6% of respondent to the online questionnaire consider the provisions of the Control Regulation adequate for the specificities of small scale fisheries, among them none registered organisation. 22% of the respondents (3 registered organisations) claim that the provisions are hardly enforceable, and 25% (6 registered organisations) claim that some of the provisions are not applicable.

According to 48% of the respondents and 8 registered organisations the flexibilities and derogations undermine the level playing field among fisheries and Member States, for half of them to a great extent. 28% of the respondents (among which 5 registered organisations) do not consider the derogation a problem.

On the question if current measures for small scale fisheries are adequate for reaching the Common Fisheries Policy objectives, the responses were split in half with 41% positive answers (8 registered organisations) and 41% negative (with 6 registered organisations).

Advisory Councils

- Positive discrimination of 'small scale fisheries' is detrimental to other sectors, recreational fisheries in particular, when the two sectors fish for the same species and/or the waters.

Member States

- Provisions for small-scale fisheries in line with the provisions applicable to other fisheries.

NGOs

- Application of a risk assessment is essential for the small scale fleet to identify those vessels, fisheries and/or fleets which carry the highest risk for infringements.
- To treat all fleet segments and vessels equally, using equally effective monitoring and control methods throughout all fleet segments according to the fisheries operations and their characteristics. This needs to change and Member States need to alter their attitude towards chronic non-compliance.

Recreational Fisheries

According to 50% of the respondents to the online questionnaire (among which 10 registered organisations) the measures for controlling recreational fisheries are not adequate for reaching

the Common Fisheries Policy objectives and shall be regulated at European level. 27% of the respondents (among which 1 registered organisation) consider the provisions adequate.

Advisory Councils

- Small-scale fisheries should be distinguished from recreational fisheries.
- Recreational fisheries should be addressed at EU level.
- Make a distinction in the control activities between the various type of recreational fisheries segments.
- Assess the impact of recreational fisheries on the stocks

Industrial operators

- Flaws in the definition of commercial and recreational fishing. Also, the term "Recreational Fisheries" covers various kinds of fishing which should be dealt with separately as they impact stocks and the environment differently. Finally, more recreational fishing data is needed both catch and socio-economic data.
- Article 55: The difficulties attached to controlling such activities should be addressed and national authorities should report back on this as a matter of urgency.

NGOs

- Recreational fishing licensing should be a solid process that ensures that recreational fishermen are well aware of the legislation (as well as the scientific rationale behind it). This should take place in parallel with effective MCS schemes. More research and regular monitoring should be undertaken to better understand this fast-growing activity new regulations may be needed for minimum landing sizes, gears and catch limitations, restricted areas and times, and these should be effectively enforced. Consequently, recreational fishing effort needs to be included in all fisheries resource management schemes.

Traceability

In the current fisheries control regime the whole chain of production and marketing is covered, allowing a coherent and comprehensive control and traceability system of the products, from the catching to retail stage (from the net to the plate). According to 77% of the respondents to the online questionnaire the holistic approach of inspection at sea and on land (at port, in transport, process factories and markets) increases the enforcement of the Common Fisheries Policy, for 61% of the respondents to the online questionnaire the integrated system (logbooks, landing declaration, sales notes, transport documents) facilitates the interoperability of national systems (e.g. when a product is landed in one country and first sold in another). According to 65% the system allows a better quality (completeness, reliability and consistency) of catch data collected by Member States' authorities, and for 45% it helps in minimising fraud between the catching stage and the retail stage. For the great

majority, 87%, however inspections at sea are still of great importance as they allow to detect possible infringements otherwise not detectable.

Advisory Councils

- The provisions of the Regulation should be better harmonized with the general EU rules on food safety and traceability based on the "one step back – one step forward" principle.

Industrial operators

- In order to simplify, recommends to implement the traceability system provided in Regulation 178/2002 based on the principle of "one step back – one step forward" that has proven to be effective and efficient.
- The requirements for traceability could be met if they were properly aligned with existing food safety traceability systems. Increasing control on the illegality of fish may well be possible within existing systems and not by setting requirements that can only be met by creating highly advanced electronic systems. All measures have to guarantee a level playing field with imported products.
- Article 60: The provisions on weighing should be more flexible. The re-weighing of catches which have already been weighed and packed should be avoided since this has a huge impact on the quality of the fish. The weight from sales notes should therefore be used as the final figure.

Member States

- There is a need for a clearer indication whether the traceability system is foreseen to be an electronic system. The legal base should be clarified if an electronic system is the political objective.
- The traceability system may be better aligned with the principles applying to food safety. The General Food Law is aware of the principle 'one step forward, one step back'.

National organizations

- Within the scope of product traceability: Reg. 1379/2013; art. 35 on the provision of information to the consumer and, in particular, the indication of the catch area; hot topic that concerns all retailers selling fish.
- The Reg. 1224/2009; art. 58 which provides for the obligation to ensure the traceability of each lot in each stage of the production / processing / distribution (like the reg. 178/2002, which is invoked specifically) and sets out the mandatory information in the labelling of consignments of products. They will include those to be supplied later to the consumer in accordance with art. 35 Reg. 1379/2013, but the precise list of these is art. 35 in 1379 and not in 1224. 58 Even the identification of trapping areas is in reg. 1379/2013 (art. 38).
- Article 58 should be drafted more clearly and establish precisely that only sequential traceability is mandatory.
- Market-related issues: Transmission deadlines for sales notes should be extended to 48 hours and Direct selling practices should be more framed.

NGOs

- Legally binding inspection standards such as the specific inspection benchmarks for Multi-Annual Plans contained in Annex I of the Control Regulation are helpful in achieving a level playing field, but need to be strengthened.
- Effective risk management is dependent on a monitoring system that provides information on and detects changes in fishing operations.
- Fish labelling and traceability enforcement, inspections at restaurants, good practice among buyers, and consumer awareness should be encouraged at different levels to help undermine a key driver of lack of compliance in recreational fisheries.

EFCA

38% of responses to the online questionnaire, among them 12 of the registered organisations, recognise a positive role of EFCA in increasing the degree of uniformity of fisheries control among Member States by developing methodologies and training material for fisheries inspections.

The role of EFCA in organizing operational coordination of control activities by Member States for the implementation of SCIPs is considered to effectively contribute to the uniform implementation of the control system by 35 % of the respondent to the online questionnaire, (among which 8 registered organisation).

Advisory Councils

- Increased mandate and resources of EFCA (within and outside EU waters) in particular in the field of operational coordination in the fight against IUU fishing.
- EFCA should play a central role in discussions forums between regional control experts groups and the ACs & EFCA's role to be strengthened in international waters.
- Appreciation of the work done, central role in support to implementation of Landing obligation. Role could be strengthening.

Member States

- It is important that the EFCA is given more space in the form of Specific Control and Inspection Programs (SCIPs) and joint deployment plans (JDPs) regional support.

Fishing gear

Industrial operators

- Article 47: It should be up to regional bodies to decide on gears and should not be an issue for the control regulation.
- Effort limitations in terms of days at sea acting as a driver towards maximising efficiency may counteract other drivers like energy efficiency or gear selectivity.

3.2. Development of a culture of compliance and respect of the Common Fisheries Policy rules

3.2.1 General

According to stakeholders an important cornerstone of the Control Policy is to cover and raise awareness among all players involved in the full range of fishing activities (catching, processing, distribution and marketing) of the importance of compliance with the CFP rules. The current framework favourably influenced the responsibility of operators and Member States, however it is still necessary to strongly enforce compliance with the policies and regulations of the CFP through a comprehensive monitoring and control system. The Specific Control and Inspection Programmes are highly appreciated by all stakeholders and the Joint Deployment Plans coordinated by EFCA for their implementations are seen as an excellent tool for improving cooperation and exchange of information among Member States. The educational activities and training carried out by EFCA have been valuable and important in explaining the new applicable rules and raise awareness among operators on conservation issues. Some specific sectors of the EU fleet, in particular the so called small scale fisheries, strongly suffered from the recent economic crisis and feel the new rules imposed (especially on the landing obligation) are an unjustified burden. If the situation is not handled carefully there is the concrete risk that the trust built between fishermen and control authorities in the last years will be irremediably undermined. Culture of compliance strongly relies on a fair level playing field, uniform application of the control rules across fisheries and countries, included third country vessels fishing in EU waters, and above all on a transparent system. The current system of serious infringements and sanctions is not applied by Member States with even criteria, and harmonisation is absolutely necessary for building trust in the rules and their respect by fishermen. Incentives for operators that behave correctly should be seek. It is believed that a more participatory approach and sense of ownership by fishers to the management of the fisheries they operate would improve levels of compliance. For pursuing this goal exchange of information on control implementation between Member States and operators shall be also improved and encouraged.

According to 62% of the responses to the online questionnaire the behaviour in the fisheries changed towards better compliance with the Common Fisheries Policy rules since the Control Regulation has entered into force (among them 15 of the registered organisations).

The opinion is divided on half on the question whether the new integrated approach to fisheries control contributed to a positive impact on the status of the EU fisheries stocks, with 46% positive answers (among them 14 of the registered organisations) and 46% negative (2 registered organisations).

Position of specific stakeholders

Advisory Councils

- Encourage a more regionalized approach for better compliance.
- Increased mandate and resources of EFCA (within and outside EU waters) in the field of IUU fishing & develop simpler and better understandable rules and inclusion of the fisheries stakeholders.
- Ensuring a culture of compliance requires a regulation to be enforceable, doable and understandable.

Industrial operators

- As the Landing Obligation is extended to cover all quota species, the culture of compliance is likely to come under pressure. The perceived legitimacy of the Control Regulation will be called into question.
- Suggest providing incentives to fishermen to take on more responsibilities in fisheries management and be then more accountable to the general public. This approach is perceived to lower regulatory burden for the government and increase compliance.

Member States

- Risk management: Definition of risk should be revised as it only includes livelihoods. Impact should also be included in the definition.
- The standard of inspections may differ between States.

National organizations

- As regards the development of a culture of respect for rules and a strengthening of the transparency of the rules of control: Improve the sharing of experience by including professionals.
- It would be advisable, for practical purposes and if the non-compliance is not serious, that the inspector issues a notice of non-compliance to the person concerned, acting strictly only in case the action or behaviour has not changed, verified later inspection.

NGOs

- Fulfilling the objective of creating a culture of compliance across the EU will be attained only if the sanctions imposed by EU MS are a sufficient deterrent.
- The Commission and member states should now focus on achieving full compliance with the existing provisions of the control regulation, before considering a revision of the Regulation.
- Call for the publication of information on the point system and the register of infringements, and urge the Commission to publish a compliance score board to provide an overview of member state compliance. Moreover, urge the Commission to revise the mandate/rules of procedures of the expert group on compliance (Art. 37 CFP Regulation) to enable it to formally receive information on substantiated concerns in relation to lack of or weak compliance from stakeholders.
- The full implementation of the eligibility conditions of the European maritime and fisheries fund (EMFF) can also contribute to the development of a culture of

compliance by refusing access to financial aid to operators who have infringed the rules.

- The conditionality of funding from EMFF must be applied with Member States held accountable with penalties including lack of access to EMFF. EMFF should not be available to Member States with poor compliance records.
- The Commission should thoroughly investigate cases of non-compliance, establish strong action plans with Member States and monitor closely the implementation of those action plans. If an action plan is not adequately implemented, the Commission should start an infringement procedure against the concerned Member State. The implementation of Article 17 of the CFP could contribute to the development of a culture of compliance, by providing preferential access to fishing opportunities to those operators that have a history of complying with the rules and go beyond the rules in terms of the documentation and transparency of their operations).
- Achieving a level playing field is important to promote a culture of compliance. Nevertheless, the absence of a complete level playing field should not serve as an excuse not to fully enforce and comply with existing regulations.
- An effective sanctioning system that is sufficiently dissuasive due to the likelihood of infringements both being detected and adequately sanctioned is required to create a culture of compliance.
- Transparency is key to achieving a culture of compliance and dissuading operators from infringing the rules of the CFP.
- A more participatory approach and sense of ownership by fishers to the management of the fisheries they operate would improve levels of compliance.
- Encourages an integrated, more holistic and inclusive approach to fisheries governance through projects such as MINOW - Science, Technology and Society initiative to minimize unwanted catches in European Fisheries⁸ (Horizon2020 project), in Southern EU.

3.2.1 On specific tools or issues

Specific Control and Inspection Programmes (SCIPs)

While most of the respondent expressed no opinion on SCIPs, the one giving a positive feedback are on average double respect to the ones that rated them negatively. According to 36% of the respondents SCIPs/JDPs help improving the collaboration between Member States, the Commission and the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) and for 32% they are effective instruments to promote standardisation and level playing field among Member States. According to 25% of the respondents fisheries covered by the current SCIPs/JDPs are relevant and they are conducted on the basis of a consistent risk management for 28% of the respondent.

Advisory Councils

- The collection of gramme sized should be considered as a new control and enforcement tool.

Industrial operators

- Science and Control: Novel technologies like CCTV and drones could be deployed for monitoring and control purposes. In future, more smart on board real time technology could be developed to allow a 100% coverage of commercial fish catches on board vessels. Also, cost effective methods for smart sampling of catches could be developed. Crucial that the development of science and knowledge for control is coordinated at the international level.

Member States

- Automatic link between multiannual plans and control measures: A cost efficient use of control means should reflect this and not just the regulatory framework.
- There should be more room for new, innovative methods and instruments: it promotes an equal application of the implementation, on the other hand, there should be space for innovative and promising new methods, if a Member State can justify that this can lead to an equivalent or even better control.

Serious infringements, points and sanctions

According to 11% of the respondents to the online questionnaire (among which 4 registered organisations) the point system associated to serious infringements that could potentially lead to withdrawal of the fishing licence have a sufficient deterrent effect in all Member States, while for 41% (among which 4 registered organisations) the deterrent effect is valid only in some Member States. For 22% of the respondents (3 registered organisations) there is no deterrent effect.

Regarding the sanctioning systems of the Member States, they do have a sufficient dissuasive effect, leading to fewer infringements for 18% of the respondent to the online questionnaire (5 registered organisations), for 15% (5 registered organisations) the dissuasive effect is valid only for serious infringements, and for 33% of the respondents (1 registered organisation), they do not have a dissuasive effect.

Advisory Councils

- Harmonize system of sanctions.
- Proposes increased efforts to harmonise the implementation and level of sanctions "serious infringements" at EU level.
- Administrative sanctions should be applied in a uniform way across fisheries and EU countries in order for fishermen to respect the regulations. To be applied uniformly to third countries vessels fishing in EU waters too.

Industrial operators

- Article 92: Need to harmonise sanctions since they vary from one Member State to another.

Member States

- Sanction is a matter of national competence and should remain so.
- Introducing further harmonization is not considered a way forward.

NGOs

- Implementation: Member States and the Commission should continue to fully implement the provisions in the Control Regulation, particularly the provisions on sanctions.
- A combination of inspections at sea and on land is necessary to detect infringements.
- The application of effective and dissuasive sanctions is necessary to develop a culture of compliance. The EU should increase the transparency on the number, size and recipient of sanctions applied, to facilitate analysis and public perception of their deterrent effect. Naming and shaming repeat offenders will also improve the culture of compliance.
- In this context, the point system for serious infringements and register of infringements are important tools for improving the culture of compliance, in combination with a strong surveillance system, provided member states begin to comply with both fully. Currently, a complete lack of transparency on the application of the point system by member states makes it impossible to assess the effectiveness of this tool.
- What constitutes serious infringements must be clarified by the Commission since its interpretation is now at the mercy of individual Member States and creates an unbalanced level playing field.
- The definition of serious infringement must be clear and interpreted equally across the Union, and sanctions applied in a uniform way across Member States and third parties.

National organizations

- To deprive a boat of its activity by means of the point assignment system is, in practice, to paralyze the fishing company to allocate its crew to unemployment. It would be useful to reflect on whether the implementation of this measure is extremely dramatic for business and crew.
- Concerning the point license: Review the permit system to make it a tool centred on really serious infringements by ensuring the uniform application of the system since the main argument of its creation was the harmonization of sanctions. The transferability of points.

3.3. New instruments of the Commission to ensure the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy by Member States

The new instruments set in place in the control Regulation to ensure implementation of the CFP by Member States are in general very much appreciated by stakeholders.

According to 58% of the respondents to the online questionnaire (11 registered organisations) the increased powers of the European Commission in verifying Member States' control activities, performing audits and carrying out autonomous inspections increased the compliance attitude of Member States with the Common Fisheries Policy rules.

The action plans established by the Commission to address identified shortcomings in the control system of the Member States are also considered an effective cooperative tool to end situations of systemic deficiencies by 52% of the respondents to the online questionnaire (9 registered organisations).

3.4. Simplification and reduction of administrative burden

According to stakeholders the single legal framework for the CFP control measures simplified and rationalised the system. The Control regulation however is still very complex, and there is the need for clarification of some provisions. Because some obligations are interpreted or applied very differently from Member States there is also the necessity of interpretation and or guidance from the European Commission. The use of modern technologies and the development of an electronic information system and data sharing were also supposed, on a long term, to reduce the administrative burden of the whole system. This still didn't fully concretise as the development of those systems took time and in some cases they are still under development. The role of EFCA and of the European Commission in assuring a harmonised and coherent approach, with compatible systems for reporting, exchange of data, and for traceability of fishery products is fundamental.

According to 38% of the respondents to the online questionnaire (among which 10 registered organisations) the reform of the control system in 2009 simplified the overall regulatory system, while 23% (among which 5 registered organisations) is of negative opinion.

The administrative burden is going to be reduced in the long term thanks to the use of electronic exchange of data and information for 61% of the respondents (among which 10 registered organisations) while 13% (among which 2 registered organisations) is of negative opinion.

The development of common standards and templates for data exchange has been appreciated by 59% of the respondents (among which 2 registered organisations) for simplifying data collection and exchange.

Advisory Councils

- Need for more specific actions as well as a policy coherence between Control and IUU Regulation.

- The Control Regulation simplified the control structure in EU but the system is still very prescriptive and rigid. The new CPP with the landing obligation, and regionalisation, the Marine Strategy framework Directive, and Coast Guard activities ask for changes in the EU fisheries management system and a more flexible control framework.
- Administrative burden has increased by the introduction of the landing obligation with its mandatory documentation and registration provisions.
- Administrative burden “one step back – one step forward”.
- The fishermen's representatives also wish to point out that the Regulation, as regards the declaration of their catches (LBE), has in general led to a transfer of responsibilities and of costs, as well as a complexification.
- When new provisions relating to inspection must be implemented on a European scale, the sharing of experience/solutions developed could facilitate this implementation significantly. The electronic logbook is considered to be a perfect example.
- For the system to be efficient and effective, it shall be implemented as uniform as possible across the EU, while respecting the singularities of the different fisheries. Result oriented approach needed.
- For certain provisions (prior notification periods, margin for error in the declaration of catches) should be adapted better to the reality of their fisheries.
- Simplify the inspection requirements & manage EU resources in order to attain the results objectives.

Industrial operators

- Exchange of data between players is very complex.
- Suggest providing incentives to fishermen to take on more responsibilities in fisheries management and be then more accountable to the general public. This approach is perceived to lower regulatory burden for the government and increase compliance.
- Harmonization of Better Rules, Regulations, Control and Knowledge.
- Rules should be simplified to make them workable and understandable to fishermen and authorities.

Member States

- Recording of species in logbook when keeping fish on board in bulk: A revision of this rule is considered necessary. A proposal was already forwarded to the Commission for consideration.
- Simplification and cost efficiency for all stakeholders and the authorities should be given proper attention during the revision process.

3.5. Other

Landing obligation

According to 48% of the respondents to the online questionnaire (among which 8 registered organisations) the Control Regulation allows sufficient control of the landing obligation, while are of a negative opinion 30% of the respondents (among which 7 registered organisations).

Industrial operators

- Related to Article 24 (landing declaration data): this article should be deleted.
- Articles 74-79 (on inspections): The advent of the Landing Obligation will require closer monitoring at sea to ensure that discards are not continuing to take place.

Member States

- Reducing the obligation only to apply in cases where the information is not provided in connection with the landing by the first receivers/buyers will be conceived as a major contribution to simplification.
- Adapting the control Regulation following the reform of the common fisheries policy, in particular the landing obligation and regionalisation.

NGOs

- In addition to the legal alignment, more resources should be dedicated to control at sea since this is where infringements against the landing obligation are most likely to occur.
- Increased control at sea is required to ensure compliance with the landing obligation.
- In light of the landing obligation, increased monitoring of activities at sea is needed.
- Track data is already in place but could be adapted in line with the new Landing Obligation for the enforcement of discards plans.
- The Commission must monitor the implementation of the landing obligation closely and be ready to act where Member States are not meeting compliance commitments effectively.

Stakeholders involvement

Advisory Councils

- Involve Advisory Councils in the decision-making process.
- Any changes to the regulation to be carried out on the basis of a shared observation by stakeholders.

Transport documents

Member States

- The rules on transport documents are not clear and difficult to enforce.
- Information should be available to both landing state and marketing state.
- Given the difficulties with this document, it should be assessed whether it would not be better to remove this obligation from the Control Regulation.

Technical provisions

Advisory Councils

- To be soon and quickly amended, even in case the Control Regulation is revised.
- Some provisions need to be adapted to better reflect fisheries reality and inspection needs (prior notification, margin of tolerances in the estimation of catches, errors in the declaration of catches, transshipping of catches). These questions could also be discussed and dealt with during the work undertaken to prepare the regionalised long-term management plans.
- Modification of standards is needed.

Member States

- Masters of vessels cannot follow the margin of tolerance-rule (10%). This problem has not been solved and the masters of vessels will likely get and has already got administrative sanctions without any objective reason. It is crucial that this would be solved in the new legislation.

National Organisations

- The COM should reflect on the practical limitation of the margin of tolerance of the current 10% of Article 14 of the Control Regulation, which should be increased to at least 15% in order to facilitate their activity and keep them quiet.

Industrial operators

- Related to Article 14 of the Control regulation: when catches are small or when data has to be submitted quickly, this article poses problems. The figure should be raised from 10% to 20%.
- Articles 17 and 18: Prior notification of 2 hours should only be applied for larger quantities of catch. An amendment could be made to Article 17 where this article should only apply to "vessels over 12m catching more than one tonne shall notify authorities 2 hours before the estimated arrival at port".

ANNEX I

LIST OF STAKEHOLDERS WHO SUBMITTED AN OPINION

List of organisations registered in the Transparency Register who answered the online questionnaire

Fishing/Aquaculture association/organisation
Cooperativa de Armadores de Pesca del Puerto de Vigo – ARVI (ES)
OPP-07-LUGO (ES)
AGCIAGRITAL (IT)
European Anglers Alliance, EAA (BE)
Plateforme de la Petite Pêche Artisanale Française (FR)
Federation of Finnish Fisheries Associations
Non-governmental organisation (NGO)
Associazione Nazionale Alleanza Pescatori Ricreativi (IT)
FUNDACION RENDEMENTO ECONOMICO MINIMO SOSTIBLE E SOCIAL, FREMSS (ES)
European Bureau for Conservation And Development
Greenpeace
Sitchting BirdLife Europe
SEO/BirdLife (ES)
Retailer association/organisation
FEDEPESCA (ES)
European Fishing Tackle Trade Association, EFFTA
Organisation représentant les mareyeurs
Union du Mareyage Français (FR)
Maritime consultancy
Stratégies Mer et Littoral (FR)

List of relevant stakeholders who contributed with a position paper

Advisory Councils
Mediterranean Sea AC
Pelagic stocks AC
Long Distance AC
South Western Waters AC
EU industrial organisations
Association of National Organisations of Fishing Enterprises in the EU (EUROPÊCHE)
European Fisheries and Aquaculture research Organisation (EFARO)
European Anglers Alliance (EEA) and European Fishing Tackle Trade Association (EFTTA)
EU Fish Processors and Traders Association(AIPCE-CEP)
Environmental NGOs
Pew Charitable Trusts
Client Earth
WWF
Greenpeace
National Organisations
Union du Mareyage Français (FR)
ARVI Cooperativa de Armadores Pesca (ES)
Comité national des pêches et des Elevages marins CNPMM (FR)
L'Organisation de Producteurs COBRENORD (FR)
Conf-commercio (IT)
National Authorities
Finland, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Natural Resources Department
Malta, through the Permanent Representation of Malta to the EU
Netherlands, Ministerie van Economische Zaken
Denmark, Ministry of Environment and Food

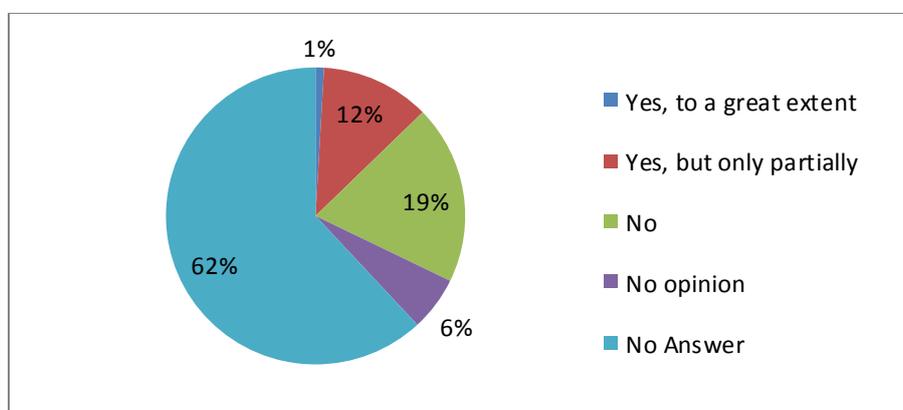
ANNEX II

SUMMARY ANSWERS ONLINE QUESTIONNAIRE

The results are below presented for all the contributions; the answers from registered organisations are also separately provided.

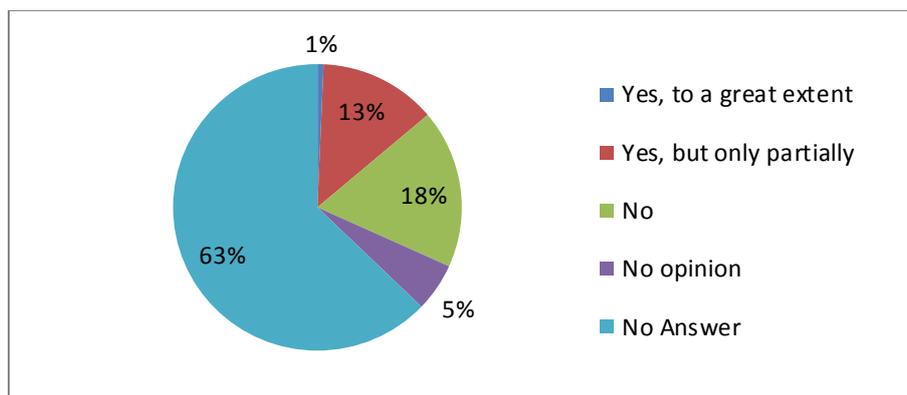
Promotion of the level playing field

Q7. Has the implementation of a global and integrated approach of the fisheries control ("from the net to the plate") increased the degree of level playing field among Member States?



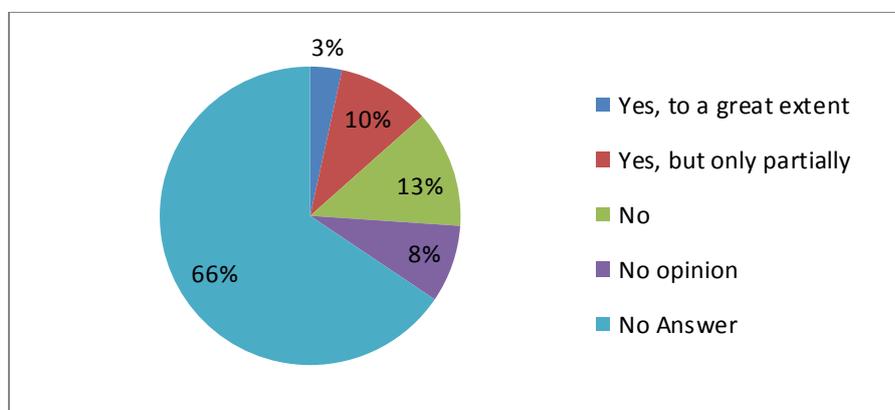
Answers from registered organisations	
NO	2
NO OPINION	2
YES, but only partially	11
YES, to a great extent	1
Total:	16

Q8. Has the implementation of standardised fisheries control procedures allowed to put Member States on an equal footing for the control of their fishermen?



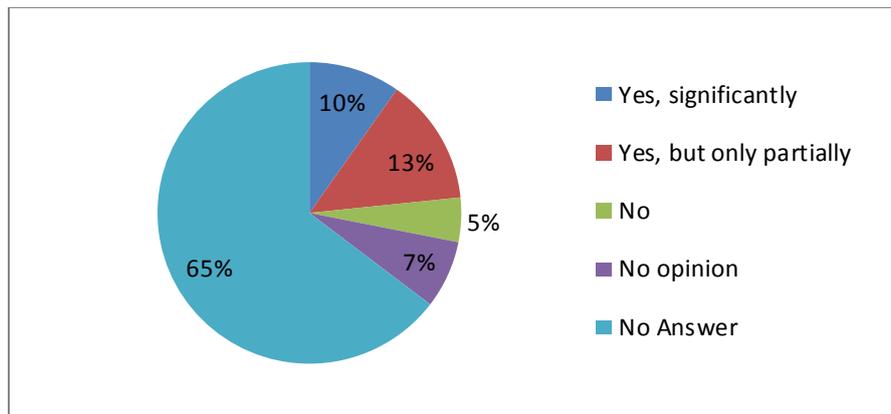
Answers from registered organisations	
NO OPINION	4
YES, but only partially	9
YES, to a great extent	3
Total:	16

Q9. Has the role of the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) in developing methodologies and training material for fisheries inspections increased the degree of uniformity of fisheries control among Member States?



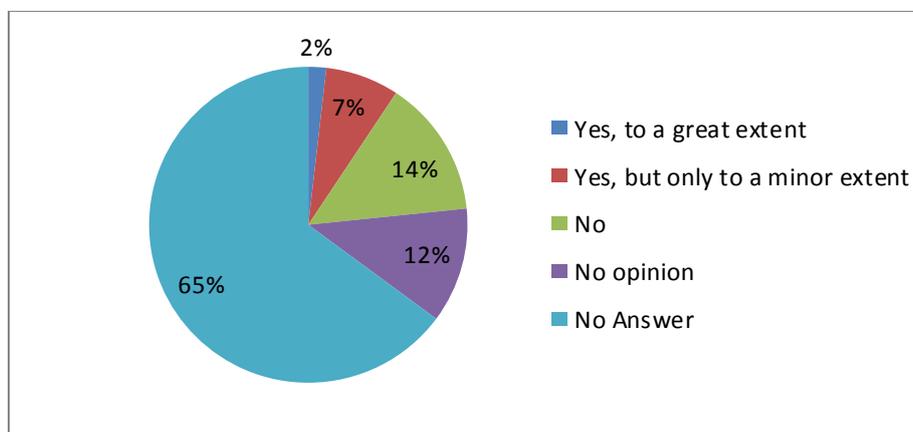
Answers from registered organisations	
NO	2
NO OPINION	2
YES, but only partially	11
YES, to a great extent	1
Total:	16

Q10. Has the use of Vessel Monitoring System (VMS), Automated Identification System (AIS), Vessel Detection System (VDS) improved monitoring of vessel operations?



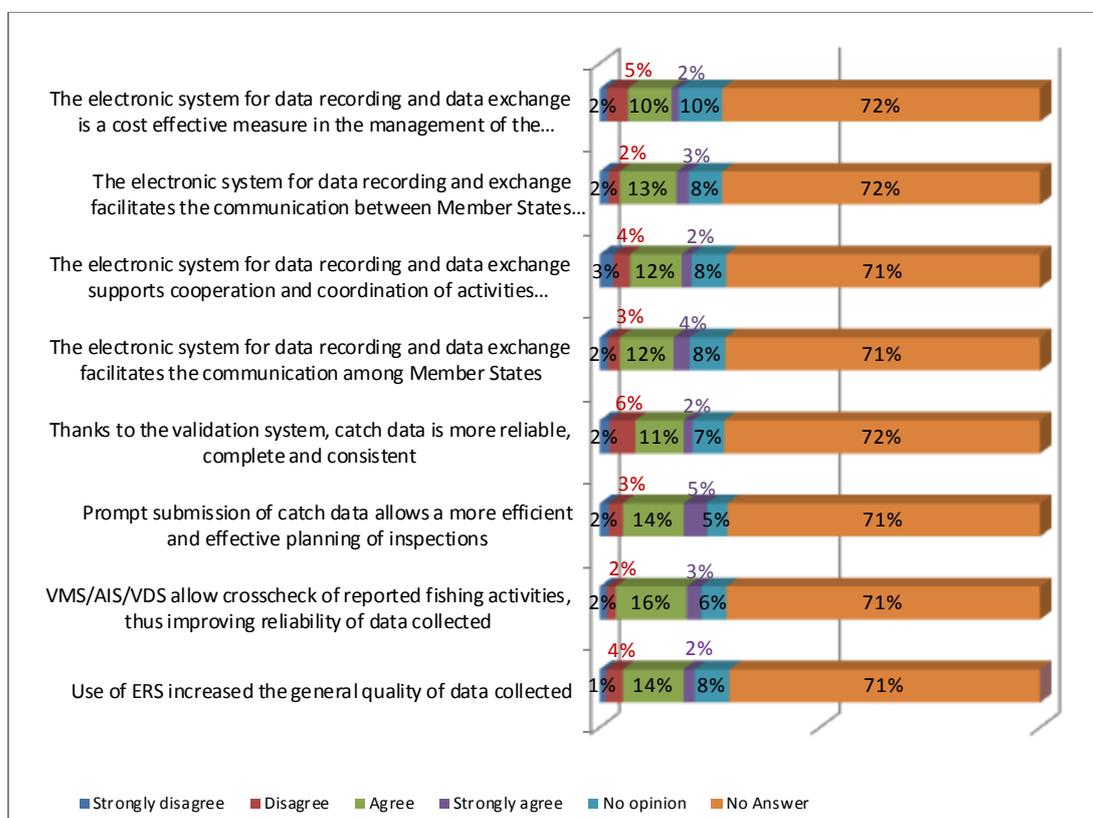
Answers from registered organisations	
NO	1
NO OPINION	2
YES, but only partially	6
YES, to a great extent	7
Total:	16

Q11. Have certification and verification of engine power allowed to significantly reduce fishing efforts?



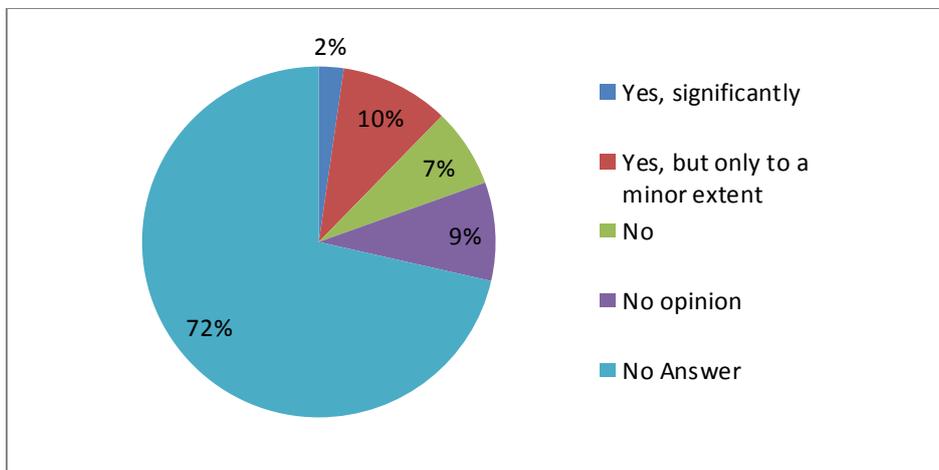
Answers from registered organisations	
NO	7
NO OPINION	3
YES, but only partially	4
YES, significantly	2
Total:	16

Q12. The Control Regulation forced the implementation of modern technologies. What is your opinion on the impacts of using an electronic system for data recording and data exchange? Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statements:



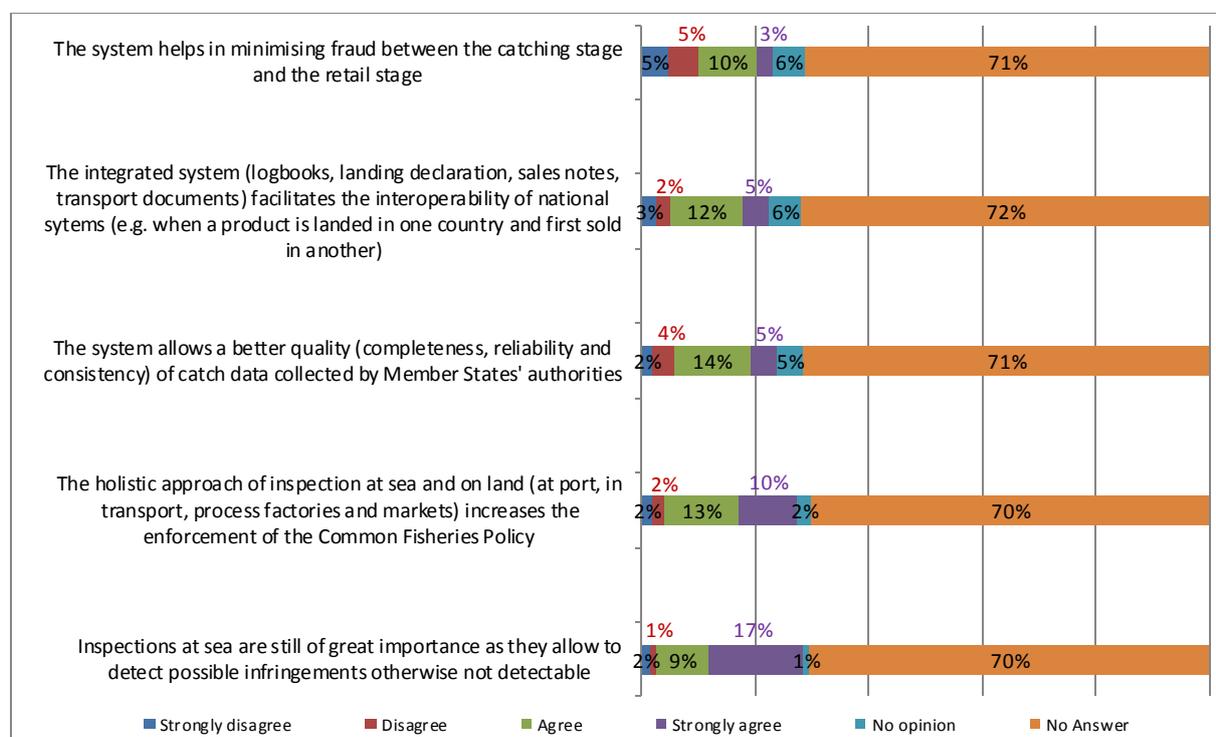
Answers from registered organisations				
	Agree	Disagree	No Opinion	Strongly agree
The use of Electronic Reporting System (ERS) increased the general quality of data collected (especially in terms of completeness, and consistency)	10		4	2
VMS/AIS/VDS allow crosscheck of reported fishing activities, thus improving reliability of data collected	13		2	1
Prompt submission of catch data allows a more efficient and effective planning of inspections	8	1	1	6
Thanks to the validation system, catch data is more reliable, complete and consistent	10	1	4	1
The electronic system for data recording and data exchange facilitates the communication among Member States	8		5	3
The electronic system for data recording and data exchange supports cooperation and coordination of activities	12		3	1
The electronic system for data recording and data exchange facilitates the communication between Member States and the Commission	11		3	2
The electronic system for data recording and data exchange is a cost effective measures in the management of the control policy	9	1	3	3

Q13. With regards to implementation of multiannual plans, do national control action programmes allow effective prioritisation of control measures?



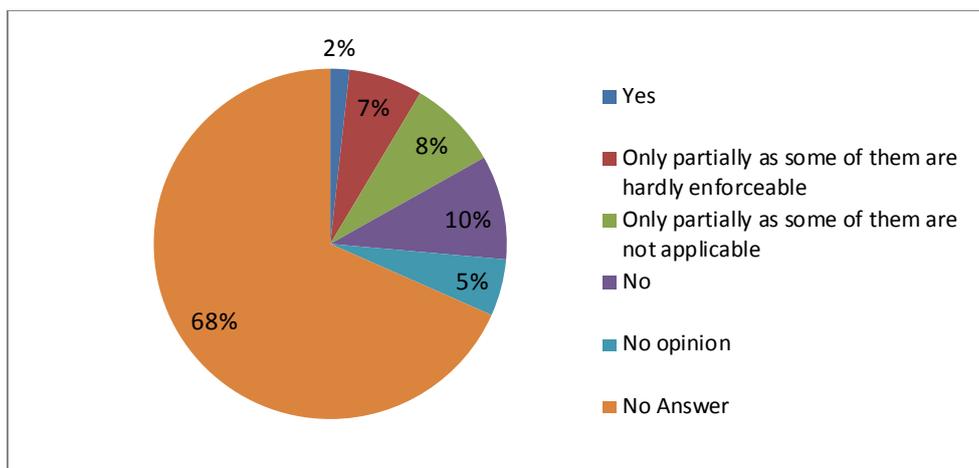
Answers from registered organisations	
NO	1
NO OPINION	9
YES, but only to a minor extent	5
YES, significantly	1
Total:	16

Q14. In the current fisheries control regime, the whole chain of production and marketing is covered, allowing a coherent and comprehensive control and traceability system of the products from the catching to the retail stage (from the net to the plate). What is your opinion on the current implemented system? Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statements:



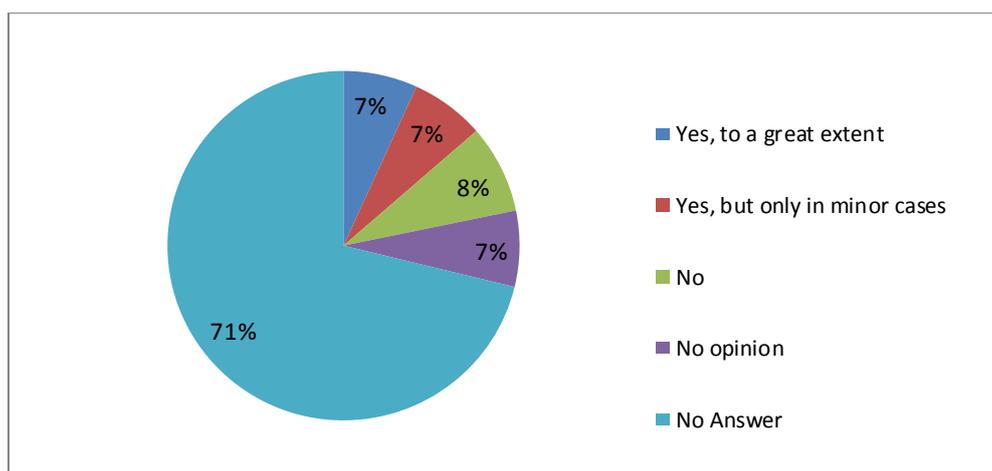
Answers from registered organisations					
	Agree	Disagree	No opinion	Strongly Agree	Strongly disagree
Inspections at sea are still of great importance as they allow to detect possible infringements otherwise not detectable	2	2	1	11	
The holistic approach of inspection at sea and on land (at port, in transport, process factories and markets) increases the enforcement of the Common Fisheries Policy	7	1		8	
The system allows a better quality (completeness, reliability and consistency) of catch data collected by Member States' authorities	8	2	1	4	1
The integrated system (logbooks, landing declaration, sales notes, transport documents) facilitates the interoperability of national systems (e.g. when a product is landed in one country and first sold in another)	10		1	4	1
The system helps in minimising fraud between the catching stage and the retail stage	12		1	1	2

Q15. Are the provisions of the Control Regulation adequate for the specificities of small scale fisheries? (Multiple choice)



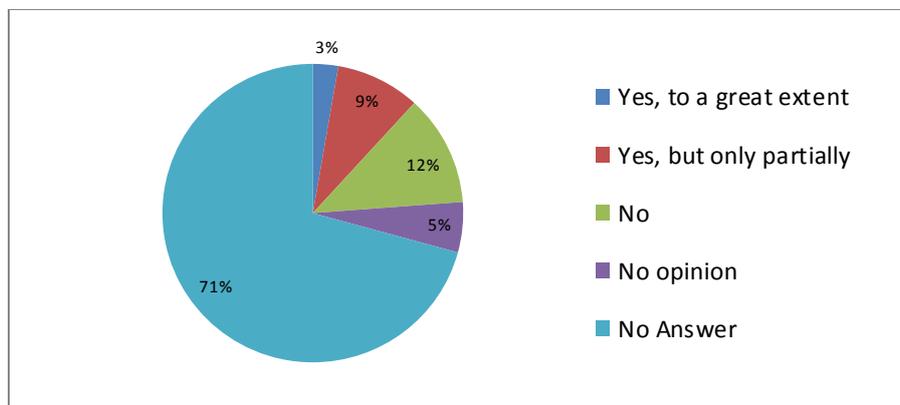
Answers from registered organisations	
NO	5
NO OPINION	2
Only partially as some of them are hardly enforceable	3
Only partially as some of them are not applicable	6
Total:	16

Q16. Do flexibilities and derogations for the small scale fisheries segment of the EU fleet provided for in the Control Regulation undermine the level playing field among fisheries/Member States?



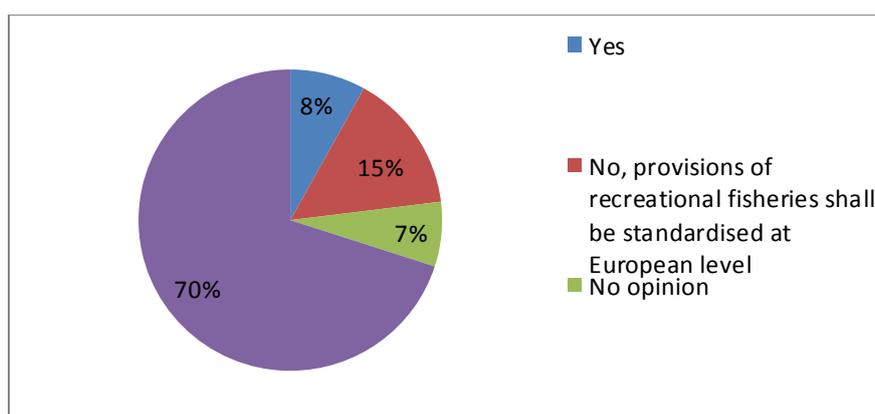
Answers from registered organisations	
NO	5
NO OPINION	3
YES, but only in minor cases	4
YES, to a great extent	4
Total:	16

Q17. Small scale fisheries can have a significant impact on fish resources. Do you think the current measures are adequate for reaching the Common Fisheries Policy objectives?



Answers from registered organisations	
NO	6
NO OPINION	2
YES, but only partially	6
YES, to a great extent	2
Total:	16

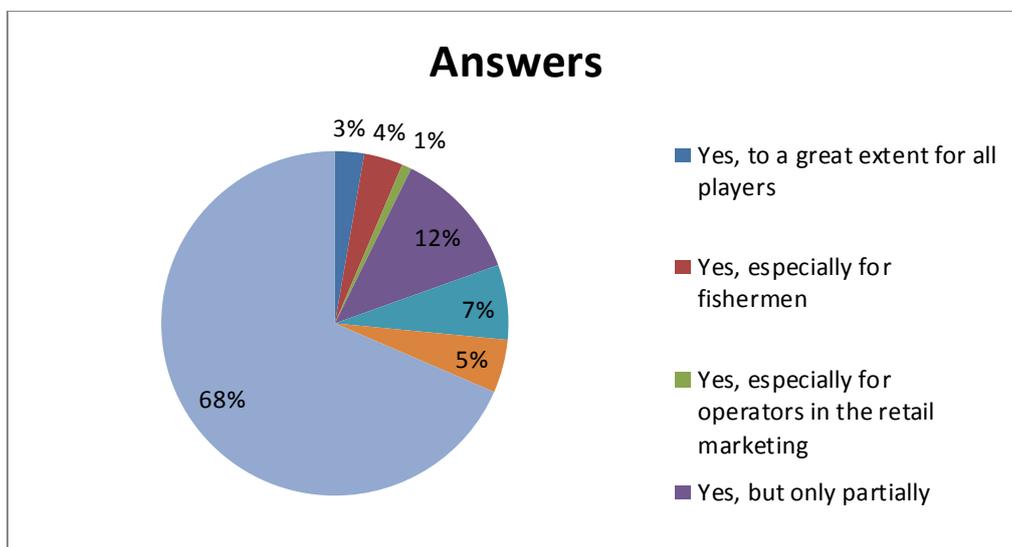
Q18. Recreational fisheries can have a significant impact on fish resources. Currently, specific provisions on recreational fisheries are in the remit of Member States with the obligation to collect and to report catch data of stocks covered by a recovery plan. Do you think the current measures are adequate for reaching the Common Fisheries Policy objectives?



Answers from registered organisations	
NO OPINION	5
NO, provisions of recreational fisheries shall be standardised at European level	10
YES	1
Total:	16

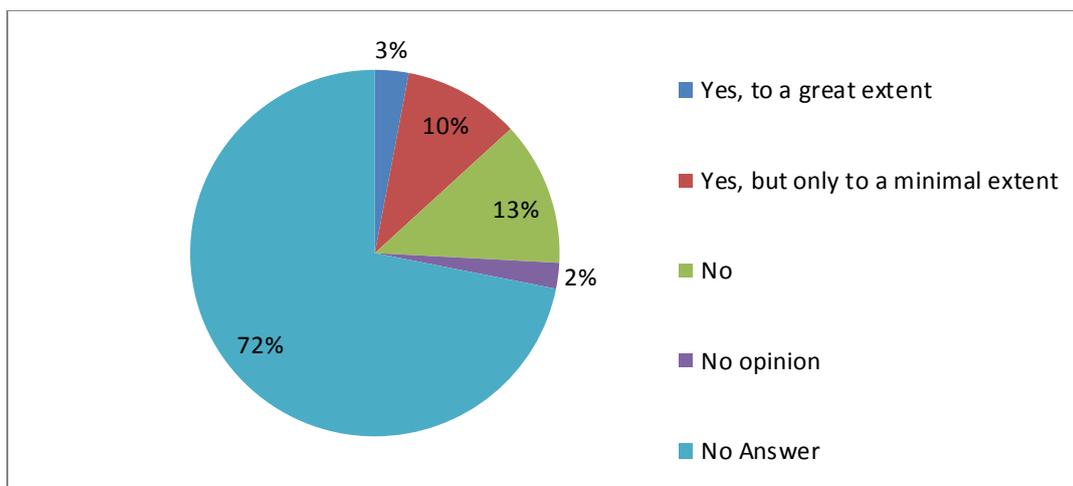
Development of a culture of compliance and respect of the Common Fisheries Policy rules

Q19. Do you think there has been a change of behaviour in the fisheries towards better compliance with the Common Fisheries Policy rules since the Control Regulation has entered into force? (Multiple choice)



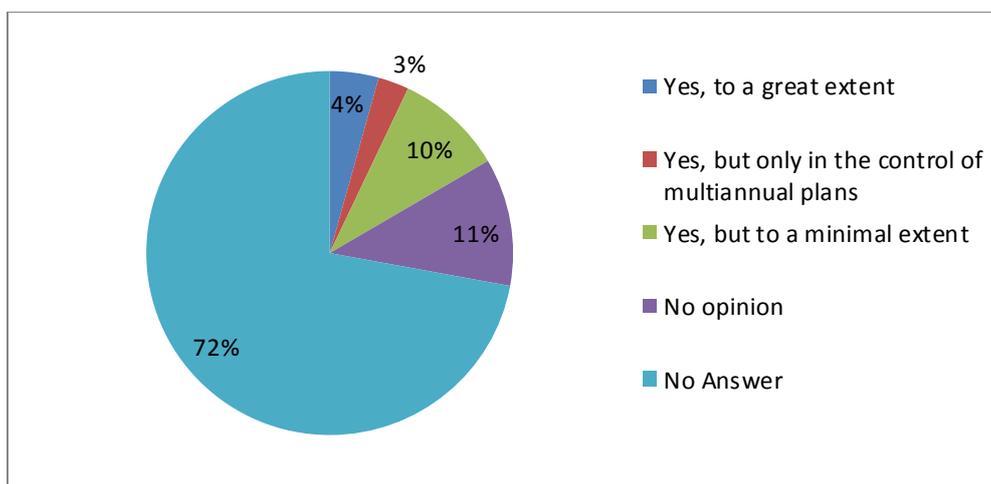
Answers from registered organisations	
NO	1
NO OPINION	1
YES, but only partially	11
YES, especially for fishermen	1
YES, especially for operators in the retail marketing	1
YES, to a great extent for all players	2
Total:	17

Q20. In your opinion, has the new integrated approach to fisheries control contributed to a positive impact on the status of the EU fisheries stocks?



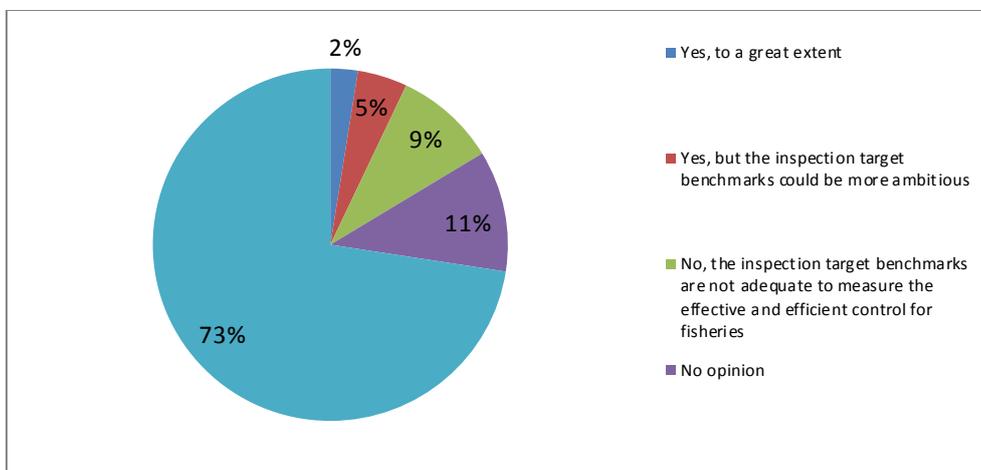
Answers from registered organisations	
NO	2
YES, but only to a minimal extent	12
YES, to a great extent	2
Total:	16

Q21. Do you think risk management improves the effectiveness of fisheries control?



Answers from registered organisations	
NO OPINION	7
YES, but only in the control of multiannual plans	1
YES, but to a minimal extent	3
YES, to a great extent	5
Total:	16

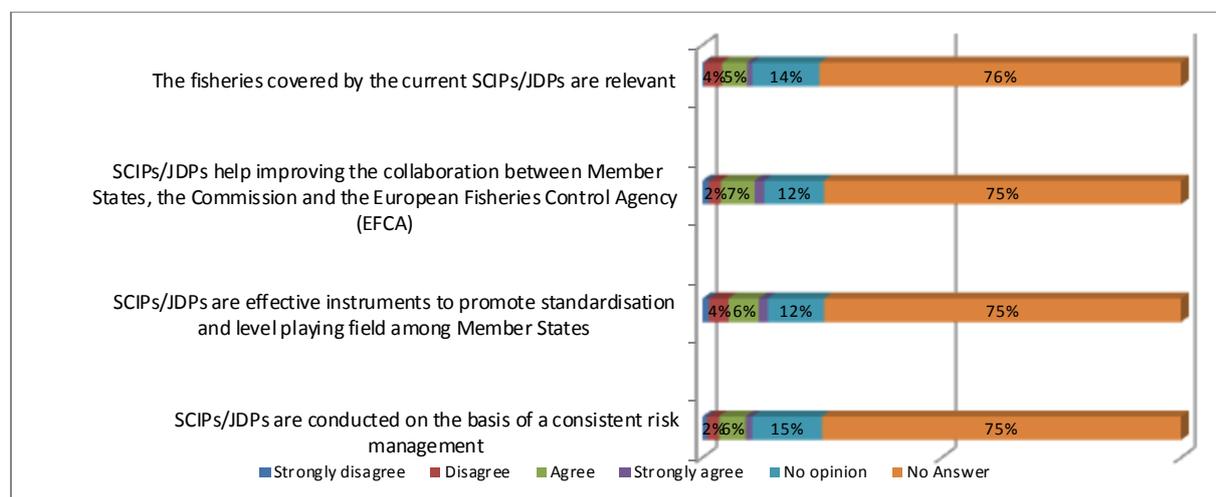
Q22. Do you think the inspection target benchmarks for multiannual plans (listed in Annex I of the Control Regulation) are adequate for an efficient and effective control of fisheries?



Answers from registered organisations	
NO	8
NO, inspection target benchmarks not adequate to measure the effective and efficient control for fisheries	1
YES, but the inspection target benchmarks could be more ambitious	4
YES, to a great extent	3
Total:	16

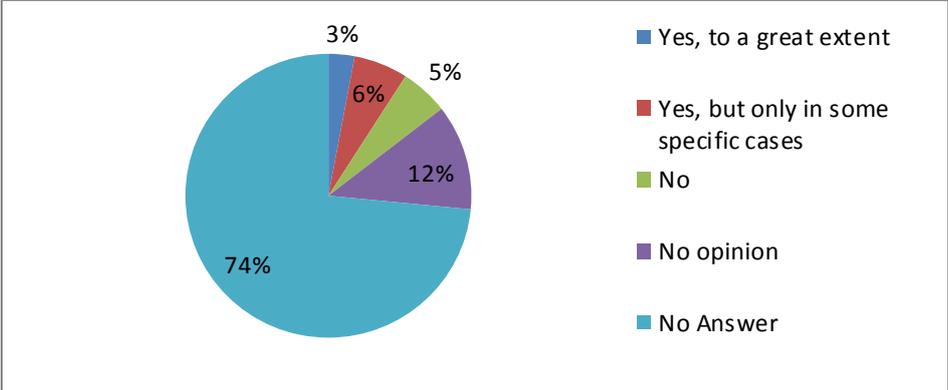
Q23. Specific Control and Inspection Programmes (SCIPs) provided for in the Control Regulation are adopted by the Commission in concert with Member States, and are coordinated by the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) through Joint Deployment Plans (JDPs). What is your opinion on the effectiveness of the SCIPs/JDPs?

Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statements:



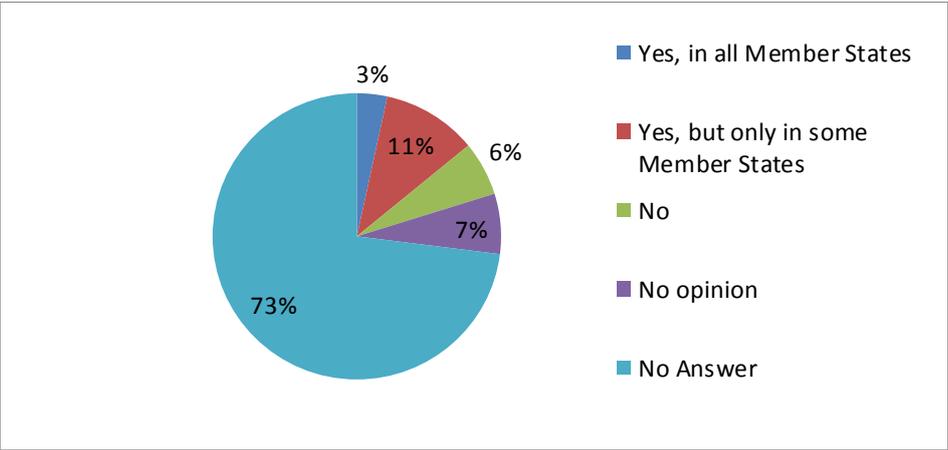
Answers from registered organisations				
	Agree	No Opinion	Strongly Agree	Disagree
SCIPs/JDPs are conducted on the basis of a consistent risk management	6	10		
SCIPs/JDPs are effective instruments to promote standardisation and level playing field among Member States	7	8	1	
SCIPs/JDPs help improving the collaboration between Member States, the Commission and the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA)	8	7	1	
The fisheries covered by the current SCIPs/JDPs are relevant	4	11		1

Q24. Does the role of the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) in organising operational coordination of control activities by Member States for the implementation of SCIPs contribute effectively to the uniform implementation of the control system?



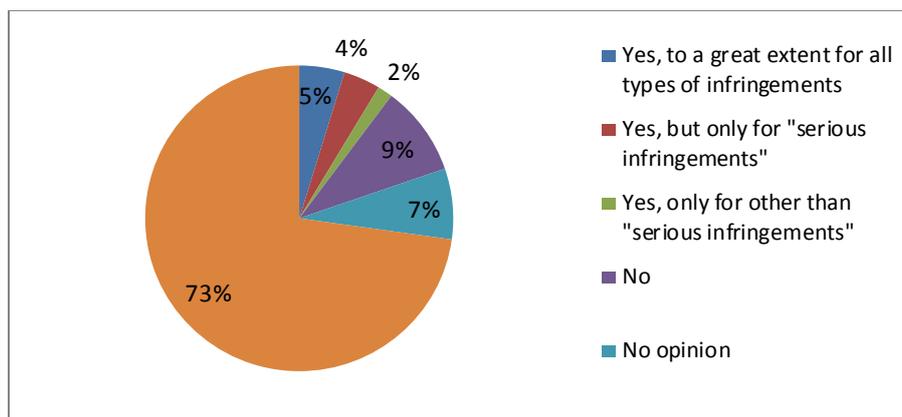
Answers from registered organisations	
NO opinion	8
YES, but only in some specific cases	6
YES, to a great extent	2
Total:	16

Q25. The Control Regulation defines certain infringements of the rules of the Common Fisheries Policy as "serious infringements". Does the point system that could potentially lead to withdrawal of a licence in case of serious infringements have a sufficient deterrent effect?



Answers from registered organisations	
NO	3
NO OPINION	5
YES, but only in some Member States	4
YES, in all Member States	4
Total:	16

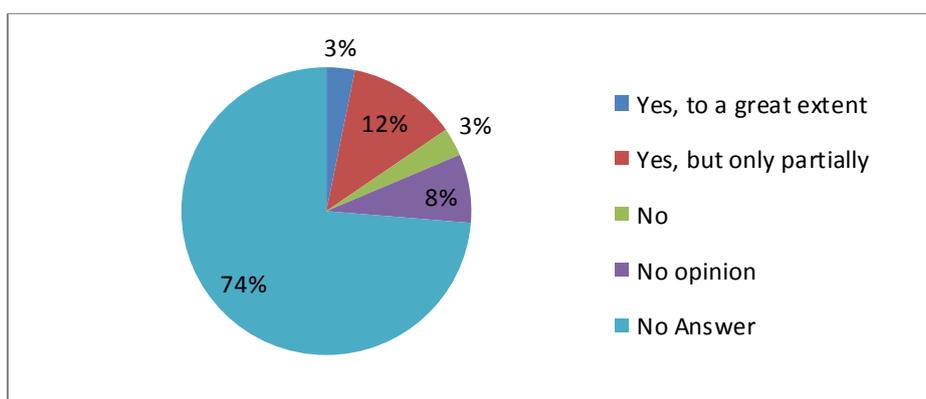
Q26. Do the sanctioning systems of the Member States have a sufficient dissuasive effect, leading to fewer infringements?



Answers from registered organisations	
NO	1
NO OPINION	5
YES, but only for "serious infringements"	5
YES, to a great extent for all types of infringements	5
Total:	16

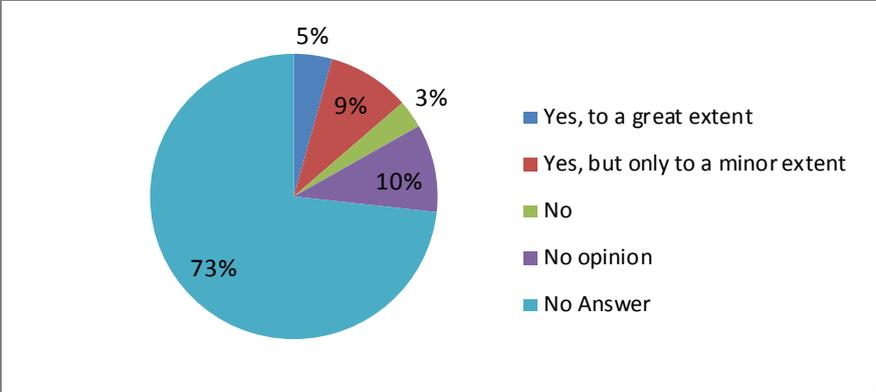
New instruments of the Commission to ensure the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy by Member States (Q27-Q28)

Q27. Do the increased powers of the European Commission in verifying Member States' control activities, performing audits and carrying out autonomous inspections increase the compliance attitude of Member States with the Common Fisheries Policy rules?



Answers from registered organisations	
NO OPINION	10
YES, to a great extent	6
Total:	16

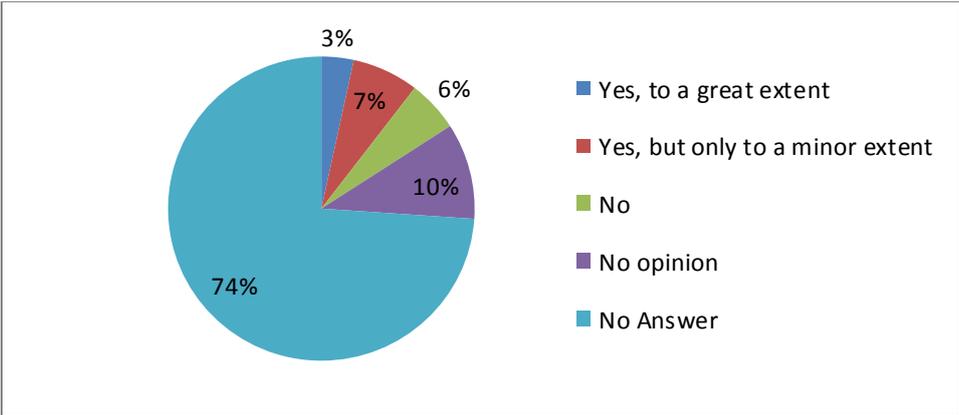
Q28. In case of identification from the Commission of systematic shortcomings in the control system of a Member State, action plans are established to address the deficiencies identified. Are those action plans an effective cooperative tool to end situations of systemic deficiencies in the control system of the Member States?



Answers from registered organisations	
NO	1
NO OPINION	6
YES, but only to a minor extent	6
YES, to a great extent	3
Total:	16

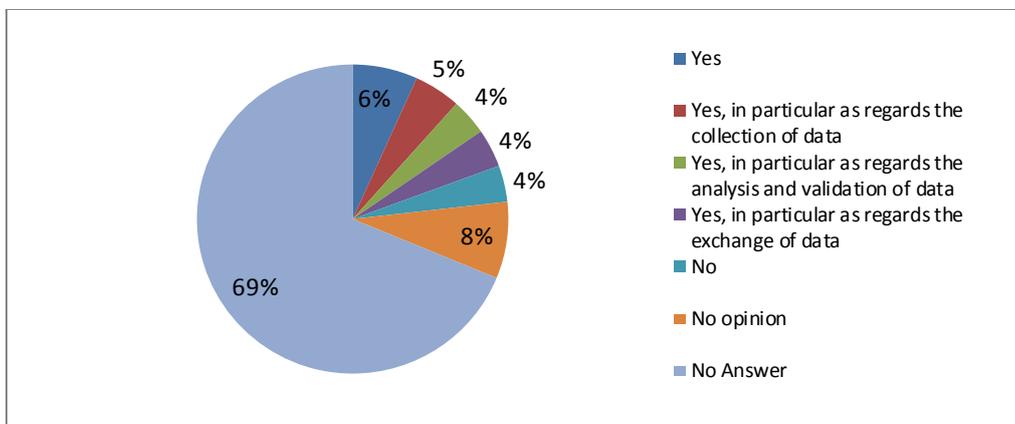
Simplification and reduction of administrative burden

Q29. The reform of the Control Regulation system in 2009, allowed the merge of several different pieces of legislation covering different aspects of fishery activities. Do you think this has simplified the overall regulatory system?



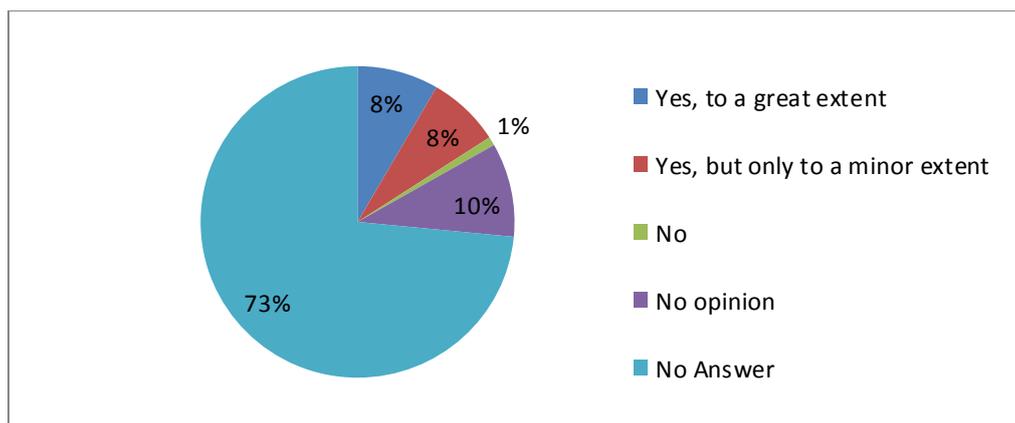
Answers from registered organisations	
NO	5
NO OPINION	1
YES, but only to a minor extent	4
YES, to a great extent	6
Total:	16

Q30. The current control system relies on an intense collection, transmission, validation and exchange of data among different players. Do you think that in the long term, this system leads to less administrative burden than the previous "paper based one"? (Multiple choice)



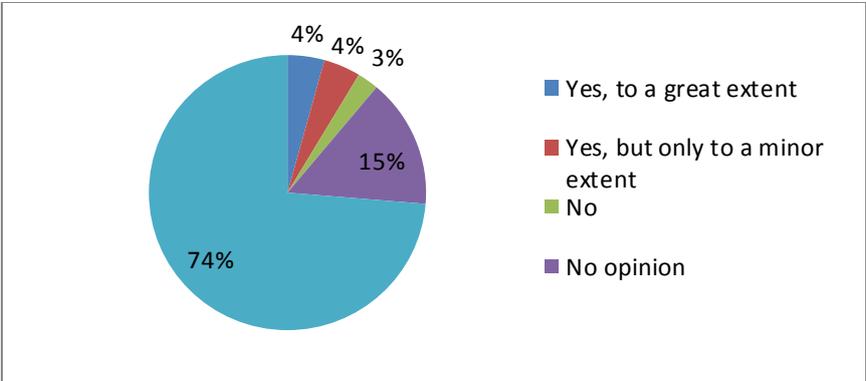
Answers from registered organisations	
NO	2
NO OPINION	1
YES	10
YES, in particular as regards the analysis and validation of data	7
YES, in particular as regards the collection of data	4
YES, in particular as regards the exchange of data	5
Total:	29

Q31. Do you think the development of common standards and templates for data exchange simplified the data collection and exchange for authorities?



Answers from registered organisations	
NO	1
NO OPINION	1
YES, but only to a minor extent	3
YES, to a great extent	11
Total:	16

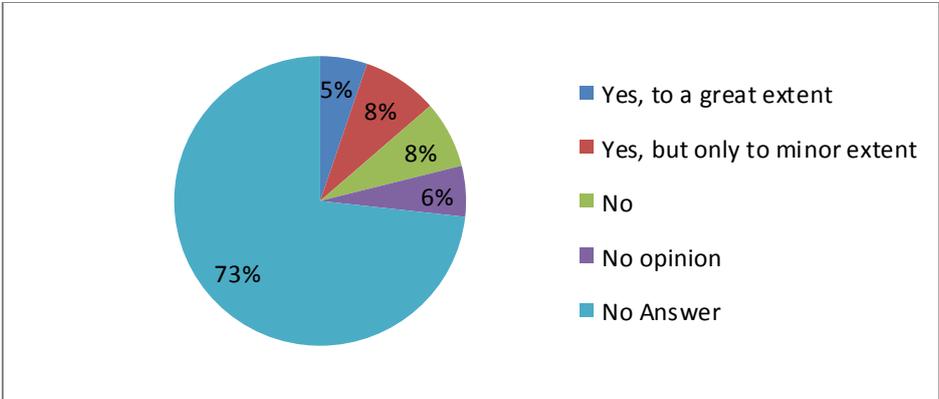
Q32. Compared to the previous system of fisheries control, do the harmonised procedures for communication among Member States, between Member States and the Commission, and Member States and the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) reduce the administrative burden associated to it?



Answers from registered organisations	
NO OPINION	10
YES, to a great extent	6
Total:	16

Others

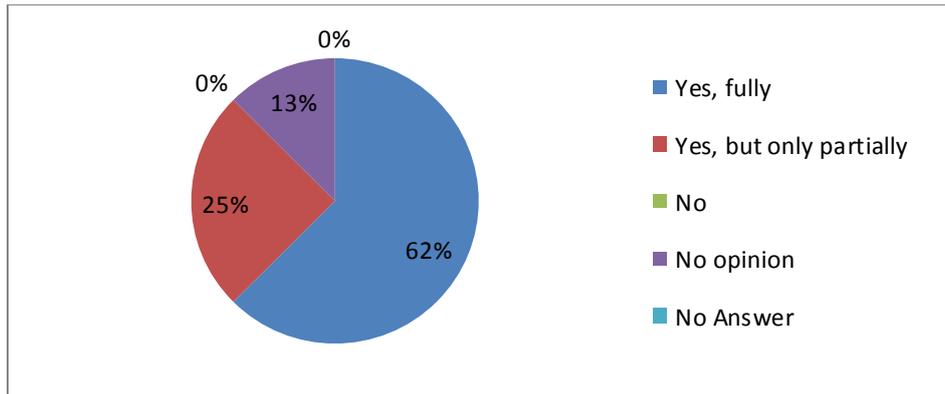
Q33. A central objective of the new Common Fisheries Policy, which entered into force in 2014, is the progressive elimination of discards in all EU fisheries through the introduction of an obligation to land all catches. This is designed to make better use of the available resources, and responds to public pressure to end the practice of throwing marketable fish back into the sea. The Control Regulation was amended in 2015 to allow for the control of the new provision on landing obligation. Do you think the Control Regulation allow sufficient control of the landing obligation?



Answers from registered organisations	
NO	6
NO OPINION	2

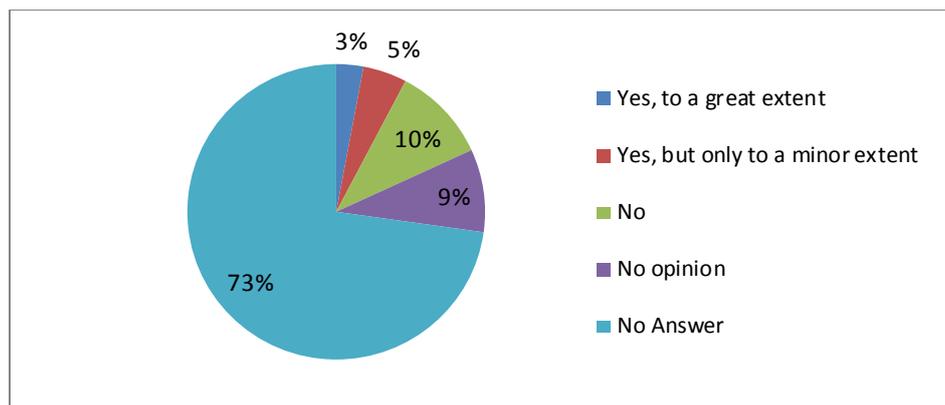
YES, but only to minor extent	3
YES, to a great extent	5
Total:	16

Q34. (NATIONAL AUTHORITIES ONLY) Does the Control Regulation allow Member States to comply with international obligations rising from the Convention on the Law of the Sea, Food and Agriculture Organisation Compliance Agreement and Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs)? (To be answered by national authorities only)



Answers from registered organisations	
NO OPINION	2
YES, fully	3
Total:	5

Q35. Do you consider the current system of data sharing sufficiently transparent?



Answers from registered organisations	
NO	7
NO OPINION	4
YES, but only to a minor extent	2
YES, to a great extent	3
Total:	16

Q36. In your view, what are the main strengths of the fisheries control regime?

- Compulsory and harmonized data exchange (electronically) & collection of all fisheries-related information (leading to the reduction of administrative costs)
- Better control (and management) with IT Technologies like VMS, ERS, AIS, DEA, logbooks.
- Better coordination/communication between MS, COM and EFCA
- Control/monitoring stock levels (bycatch cut down excessive fishing). Risk-based approach also positive (for conducting control and inspections).
- Better monitoring from catch to retail/traceability system = strength of an EU common fisheries control regime across MS.

Q37. In your view, what are the main weaknesses of the fisheries control regime?

- Not enough external control (VMS/AIS)
- Landing obligations lacking (need tools)
- Control regime (under the reformed CFP) is over-complicated/the system cannot ensure the control effectiveness in MS + high costs
- Rise of administrative burden (inadequate to the different fisheries activities – too generalist). Not enough staff/lack of resources for controls at sea, then difficult/ lack of implementation (as well as inspections).
- Sanctions system disproportionate. Critics to the tacs points and quotas system (too large)
- Traceability provisions improvement
- Lack of transparency and accuracy in the transmission of data
- Current system is not sufficiently adapted to the characteristics of small-scale fishing in favour of recreational fisheries (need more control/surveillance on those ones).
- The Control Regulation allows super trawlers to fish in the Irish coast (decline of fish stocks and impact on marine ecosystems and biodiversity like dolphins = super trawlers should be banned (331 responses)).

Q38. In your view, how could the above identified weaknesses being address?

- Apply control actions and sanctions mandatory to all MS related to non-compliance (like traceability rules) + better equipment /training for inspectors
- Increase control on commercial and recreational and distributional entities (even public companies)
- Improve scientific advice / IT technologies (central data collection for improved traceability control – also for local fisheries)
- Training/education investments for fishermen
- Simplification of existing legislation, more implementable regulations & regionalization of management regime of fishing (division of control measures / scale of fishing, *etc*)
- Need of a quota allocation to MS (which would have an impact on sanctions)
- Better/more control towards local/small-scale fisheries + better traceability & control system in general (very complicated)
- More level playing field
- Limit/ban super trawlers (325 queries).